

3rd August 2025

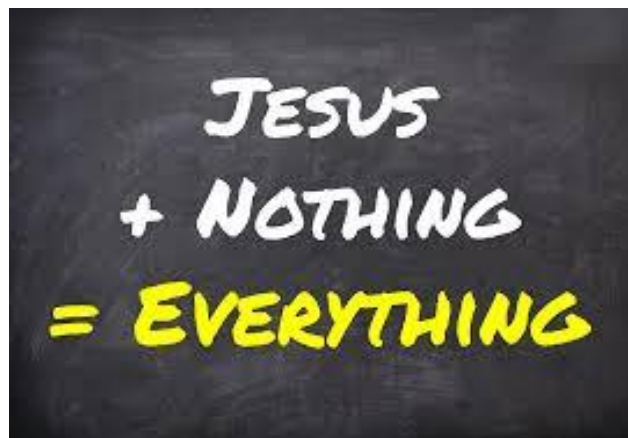


Rich Towards God?

'You won't find life in an abundance of possessions', said Jesus (Luke 12.15); although judging by the aspirational glossy magazines, the popularity of online influencers and the lifestyles of the super-rich, that seems to be a message that's largely fallen on deaf ear. In contrast, Jesus tells a story about being rich towards God and that means giving Him something. It means giving him the credit, for starters; realising that it's not all our own doing. The man in the parable decides he needs increasingly bigger barns to store his surplus grain. We can admire in his work ethic and business plan. But nowhere does he acknowledge God's provision. No, this is all his own work. God doesn't even get a mention. But being rich towards God is about recognising that it's *not* all our own work, we're not masters of our own destiny. We mustn't become so self-reliant that we forget we are God-reliant. Being rich towards God means giving him 'first dibs'; humbly realising it's not 'all mine' – it all belongs to Him and out of His great goodness He lets me keep so much of it.

Being rich towards God is about giving Him our trust: trusting that He is at work in our lives and knows what we need; trusting in His provision. That kind of trust enables us not just to be generous to others, but *sacrificially* generous to others. And we're rich towards God when we realise there is an eternal perspective to all this; it's not all about the here and now. No matter how wealthy we are, we are only here for the briefest moment compared with eternity. So, we need to be those who invest our time, our talents and our treasure in things that will last into eternity; the things that reflect God's heart: His desire for justice, mercy, peace; those things which demonstrate His love and transformative power; the things which ultimately save souls and introduce others to the salvation we've found in Jesus. Those things are real treasure - in the abundance of those things we find true life.

Catherine



Please pray for...



Sue Norman, Brian McClellan, John Panter, Mary Senior, Joe McPhee, Cherian George, Nita's grandson, Ben and Debra Deeley's son-in-law, Andy

We also remember in our prayers the families of Jenny Wade and Alan Dean (Helen Sweet's son-in-law), who have recently died. Jenny's funeral will be here at St Mary's on **Wednesday 13th August at 12.00.**

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list. The list will be routinely reviewed every few months.

Messy Church Summer BBQ



Tuesday 5th August at the Vicarage
This is a ticketed event for all regular Messy Church families. If you usually attend but have not received an invitation, please contact the office and Helen will forward your details to the Messy Church team.

Concert in aid of our organ fund



Saturday 23rd August at 7.00pm in church. Enjoy the sound of the Shifnal Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund

If you are available to help with welcoming or serving refreshments at this event, please speak to Elaine.

Refreshments

Everyone enjoys the social time after our 10.30 service on Sundays, but it often slips our minds that the refreshments are made and served by an unsung group of volunteers. We are in need of extra people to help provide these refreshments. So, if you enjoy a coffee and nibbles on a Sunday morning, please consider joining our group of volunteers. Contact Pat Fox if you are interested.



Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **Colossians 3.1 - 11; Luke 12.13 - 21**

Unfortunately, this week the 10.30am service will NOT be on Zoom.

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Charity Auction



The local community are organising a charity auction to raise funds to help towards:

- a) the cost of the fire damage; and
- b) improvements to security.

Nick Allsopp, a local auctioneer, together with Nicola, the licensee of The Crown in the town centre, have arranged for the auction to take place on **Thursday 14th August at 7.30pm in the Crown**. Everyone is welcome.

They are also organising a draw and if anyone would like to donate a draw prize or an item to sell at auction, Kath Slater has put a box at the back of church. Kath will also have draw tickets available to buy.



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Tinned Fruit; Long-life Fruit Juice; Jam; Men's Deodorant; Anti-bac spray/wipes.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Quiz Night St John's Ightfield



Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.