

3rd March 2024



Last Sunday and Monday evening I took some time out to stand on the patio and look up. Clear nights with the stars/planets visible always help me re-gain some perspective, perhaps they help you do that too. I wonder if the Psalmist also took time out to contemplate the skies, for in Psalm 19 it is written:

*'The heavens declare the glory of God,
The skies proclaim the work of his hands'..*

What is interesting, is that in this context, the Psalmist goes on to present an argument for the law and righteousness of God.

If we then turn to the Gospel reading for this week (John 2: 13-22) we can see that here John writes of the 'cleansing of the Temple' straight after Jesus has performed his first miracle (turning water into wine). A demonstration of the righteousness of God after showing His power perhaps? It is clearly an event which had a powerful effect upon the Gospel writers however, as it is the one of the few events in the ministry of Jesus which appears in all four Gospels.

What I find interesting is that John is the only Gospel writer who places this momentous, impactful event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, rather than at the end (and perhaps the final catalyst for Jesus' arrest) as in the other three gospels.

I have often wondered, how I would have reacted to this intensely dramatic event if I had been there. These people were only doing their job after all: Selling animals for sacrifice helped people fulfil their duty to God; money lenders were helping in a role which society needed. Be that as it may, Jesus knew enough about the practice and the Law of God to see the avarice and greed which drove this practice and for him, enough was enough.

I wonder at what point I, driven by the love of God, aware of His power and righteousness, might be willing to say 'enough is enough' to the things in my life which don't reveal God... and in turn take a stand for righteousness, mercy and love in the world in which God has placed me....

Maggie



Please pray for...



Sarah Creasey, Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith and Ray Croucher. Also, for Joe McFee's grandson Jaiden Roberts.

We pray for the family and friends of Jill Hurst, whose funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Hales TF9 2PR, at 11am on Wednesday 6th March, followed by the Committal at Telford Crematorium. Refreshments afterwards at The British Legion in Market Drayton.

We periodically update our prayer section. Please let the Church Office know if you wish names to remain on or be removed from the list.

Lent: Wilderness and Discipleship



Next session Tuesday 5th March, 6.45-8.30pm in St Mary's Church. Please note that this course is now full.

Make a Mother's Day Campaign 2024



The Mothers' Union will be holding a sale of cakes and other baked products and of preserves in church following both morning services today, **Sunday 3rd March**. If you've given up cake for Lent, you can still make a donation. All proceeds to the MU charities in Africa.



*Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in thy sight,
O Lord, my strength,
and my redeemer.*
Psalm 19:14

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Readings: Psalm 19, John 2.13-22

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMOR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

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

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion

Zoom services can be accessed via landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 / 0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874.

Helpers Needed

More helpers are needed for refreshments after the 10.30 Sunday morning services. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Pat Fox.

Children's Society Boxes

Time to collect again! Please could you bring your boxes into church on Sundays, or bring them to 60 Rowan Road. Cheques made payable to the Children's Society. Contact Elaine Mason 07846 715620 if you need more information. Thank you.

Beryl Hinton

Beryl is now home. Many thanks to all those who popped in to see her while she was in hospital.

Shropshire Supports Refugees

Some of you will remember Chris Ashley, who now worships in Wellington. Chris is doing a lot of work with refugees and particularly wanted to share with us the work being done by Shropshire Supports Refugees (Registered Charity No. 1196673) There is a newsletter from Chris on the notice board at the back of church, including information about a clothes appeal and you can find out more about the charity at

<https://www.shropshiresupportsrefugees.org/>

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Male Deodorant

Washing-up Liquid

We have plenty of—Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call

01630 654007 (not the number in the current church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Foodbank Trustee Needed

The Foodbank are looking for someone with a finance background to join the Board of Trustees. For more information please see the poster on the notice board at the back of church or speak to Catherine.

Messy Church

Tuesday 5th March

3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms



Contactless Giving

We now have a contactless giving device on the way into church. This allows visitors and those without cash to easily make a donation with their cards. There are also QR codes in church to enable donations via mobile phones.



Worship @6

Market Drayton Methodist Church, Sunday 10th March 6pm.

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

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

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E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

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