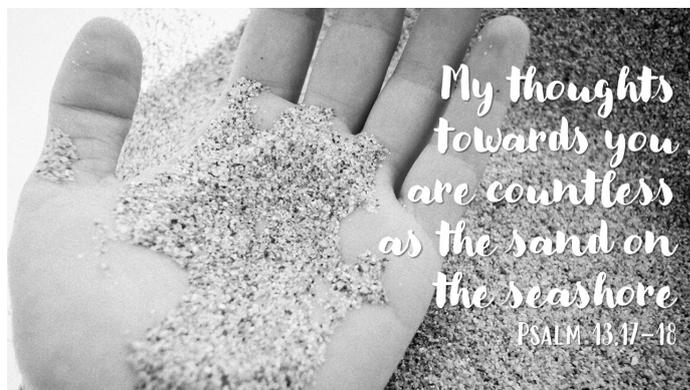


7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Dementia**  
friendly church



**“Look up at the heavens and count the stars...”** (Genesis 15.5), said God to Abraham. *“...So shall your offspring be.”*

How many would that be? Our instinct is to say – countless, the number must be ‘astronomical’. But, of course, some clever clogs have tried to work it out. In an urban setting, the result is around 200 individual stars. Which feels somewhat underwhelming. But on a dark, clear night it is estimated to be closer to 2,000. Perhaps the maximum number of stars visible with the naked eye from earth is only 10,000. A large number but... disappointing(?).

But with the help of modern science, as David reminded us last week after his visit to Jodrell Bank, and the new discoveries of the James Allen Space Telescope, we know just how limited our human vision is. The scale of the universe is beyond anything our minds can comprehend. The number of galaxies alone is mind-blowing!

On another occasion God spoke to Abraham saying: *“I will... make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky AND as the sand on the seashore.”* You guessed it – they’ve tried to work that out, too! Yes, another colossal number.

While writing this, Ali and I are preparing for the Messy Church Garden Party. Probably the all-time favourite song at Messy Church is: **Our God is a Great Big God**, in which we sing: *he’s higher than a skyscraper and he’s deeper than a submarine, he’s wider than the universe and beyond my wildest dreams.* It reflects on God as the Creator, his power, his magnificence and his awesomeness. And yet, at the same time: *he’s known me... he’s loved me since before the world began... he holds us in his hands.*

What a wonderful truth to share with the families who come to Messy Church, that the God of the universe knows, loves, and cares for each individual person.

With my own eyes I can’t see every star in the universe. I don’t have the years to count every grain of sand. I can’t work it out; how can God possibly know and love every person, individually and personally.

God promised Abraham something that, humanly, was impossible; Abraham believed God. To my feeble mind it seems impossible, but I do believe God loves me. This is what I believe Jesus came to show us. I pray you know for yourself, that the God of the universe is not distant; he’s close, he loves and cares about you. He holds **you** in his hands.

## Licensing Ian Macfarlane as Assistant Minister

Some of you will recall that we were to have licensed Ian as our new Assistant Minister back in June; however, he was unwell and unable to make it to the service. Through the wonders of modern technology, Bishop Sarah will now license Ian, by Zoom after our Thursday Morning Communion next week, **Thursday 11th August at 11.15am.** It would be lovely to see as many of you there as can come.

The Communion service starts at 10.00am, refreshments will be served at 10.45am and the Bishop will ‘join’ us at 11.15am. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate this new season of Ian’s ministry at St Mary’s.

## (Free!) Concert Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 7.00pm

Christ Church Little Drayton are hosting a concert by Pastor Roger Thomas and his orchestra from one of our link Dioceses, Nordkirche in Germany. The concert is free, but there will be a retiring collection.



## Tunstall Hall Summer Fayre

The staff and residents would love to see members of the Market Drayton community at their Summer Fayre on Saturday 13th August 11.00am to 4.00pm. Any offers of help would also be greatly appreciated. Contact Catherine McBride in the first instance if you can offer any help.

## Regular Services

Sunday 7th August 2022

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Genesis 15.1-6; Luke 12.32-40

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFDmTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdzO9)

[pwd=NFDmTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdzO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFDmTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdzO9)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

### Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

### Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion (CHURCH)

You can also join our Zoom services on your 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

**Thanks so much** for all your loving concern and prayers. My problem is something called myasthenia which makes it difficult for the brain to communicate with the muscles, which then cannot work properly. They say I am progressing well with the brilliant care that I am getting. It is very moving to see how God is at work in the efforts of all the staff, right through from porters to consultants - They are all very caring and really interested in you as a fellow human being. By the time you read this Barry and I will have celebrated our birthdays on August 4th. I am now 89. He is just a youngster.

All my love. God bless, Ray Thomas

### Please pray for...



Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan, David Smith, John Panter, Rod Hardacre, Liz Barnes, David Jones, Guy Skipwith, Mary Burt. Jayne Stonehold's mother Irene, Catherine Smith (now recovering at home), Ray Thomas. Also for Emma Reay who is recovering at home from a mini stroke and Sherrie Howlett also recovering at home from a recent hospital stay..

### Christ Church Monthly Film Club



Monthly on a Monday afternoon at 1.30pm.

Admission and all refreshments are free.

Showings are as follows

15<sup>th</sup> Aug Second Hand Lions

19<sup>th</sup> Sep Wuthering Heights

17<sup>th</sup> Oct Meet The Fockers

21<sup>st</sup> Nov Winter In Wartime

19<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Vacation 2

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required

**NO STOCK** —Dry & Wet Dog Food; Dry Cat Food; Long-Life Cartons of Fruit Juice; Size 6 Nappies/Pull-Ups; Jars/Tins of Cooking/ Pasta Sauces

**LOW STOCK**—Sponge Pudding/Slab Cakes; UHT Milk (Semi & Full)

**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. Any donations for the Foodbank are gratefully received

## Spiritual Listening Course St Peter's Stoke on Tern

This is a practical course for those wanting to be more able to make space for God in conversation with others.

Participants need to be praying people with a (possibly emerging) gift for listening and some awareness of how others pray. They also need to be in receipt of spiritual direction themselves (which can be arranged if needed). The course forms one module of the diocesan training in spiritual direction but can be taken as a stand-alone course.

It will run over six Tuesdays in the autumn, from 10am -4pm, starting on 13 September at St Peter's. For details of dates, cost and an application form see the [diocesan website](#) or email [Charles Ruxton](mailto:Charles.Ruxton@dioceseofstasaph.org), Diocesan Spirituality Adviser.

### Staying in Touch

The office is now open Mon-Fri 11.00am—1.00pm.

Helen will be in the office from 9.00am.

**Phone:** 01630 653505

**E-mail:** [stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Vicar:** Catherine McBride

**E-mail:** [vicarofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstmarys@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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

**Please note the office BT email address no longer works.**

**Please use [stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)**