

9th March 2025



Living in hope. Perfection

When I worked as a Social Worker, I had the privilege of seeing newly born babies some just a few hours old. I always marvelled at how perfect they were!

In Romans 7, Paul delves into the struggle of the human condition, acknowledging our deep imperfection. He speaks of the inner conflict between the desire to do good and the pull of sin, revealing the frustrating reality that even with the knowledge of what is right, we are often unable to do it. This "hole" in humanity, our inability to live perfectly reflects our fallen nature. We are not whole, but fractured, constantly battling between what we want to do and what we end up doing. The law highlights our imperfection, but it also points us toward the need for grace.

In the passage from John, Jesus offers a radical invitation to partake in Him, stating that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we have no life in us. This challenging teaching is not just about the physical act of eating but about being fully united with Christ, receiving life from Him to fill the emptiness, the hole, in our hearts. We read that many found this teaching difficult and some turned away, unable to grasp that, true life comes from Christ, the perfect One who fills our imperfections.

The "hole" is an inherent part of being human, a gap between our desires and our actions, our imperfection and God's perfection. Yet, in the sufficiency of Christ, this hole can be filled. His grace transforms our brokenness into wholeness, inviting us into a relationship where our imperfections are covered, and our lives are made complete in Him.

Peter

Open Church

Due to the Lent course in church during Lent, the church will be open from **12.00pm – 2.00pm on Wednesdays**. Normal time will resume after Easter.



@6

Sunday 9th March at MDMC



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Nita's grandson, Ben, Elaine Cook's mother, Jose Wright and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean. Laurina Rushworth's father, Jeff Murison's funeral will be here at St Mary's at 11.00am on Monday 24th March and we continue to pray for all the family. John Hill, a friend and neighbour of Barry Salter, was also a regular member of St Mary's before he was moved to Woodcroft some years ago. Some of you will remember him by the way he would greet you: "Merry Christmas" he would say instead of "Hello". Sadly, he passed away peacefully in the early hours of Sunday morning (2nd March), aged 96. Our prayers and thoughts are with John's family. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

Archbishop of Canterbury

There is an opportunity to contribute to the consultation about the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Submit your comments **by 31 March**, online at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/ABC106Consult> or by post to: Canon Stephen Knott, Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU.



There are a few places left on the Living Hope Lent Courses, running on **Wednesdays at 10.30am (in church) or 7.30pm (at the Vicarage) starting on the 12th March, through until the 16th April**. Sign up sheets are at the back of church.

Mothers' Union



Meeting on Monday, 10th March at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms. The speaker will be from the 'Blood Bikes' organisation. All are welcome.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: **Romans 7. 15-19, 24-25 John 6. 53-69**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

[TzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

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

[3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

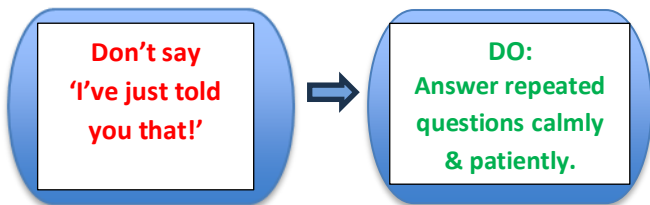
These are available on our website:

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



What not to say to someone with dementia

This is the second in the series of articles where we are sharing some words and questions to try and avoid using when talking with a person with Dementia.



Why? Try to remember that the person cannot help repeating themselves.

It can be difficult answering the same question several times. Try to remember that for them it can feel like they are asking for the first time. Answer the repeated question calmly with an even tone of voice. If you feel the need, take a break, and remove yourself from the conversation for a while.

There is plenty of information available in the bookshop area of the church. Please feel free to take some leaflets.

Moving House...again!

Helen Hughes will need to move house again, but finding a home to rent in Market Drayton is proving to be very difficult. Please pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen and if you know of any 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice.

We have plenty of Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans

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

MARKET DRAYTON FOODBANK IS SEEKING A NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES. COULD THIS BE YOU?

The Board of Trustees are looking for a new Chair to continue to take the important work of the Foodbank forward. If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, please contact our current Chair of Trustees (Revd Catherine McBride chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk 01630 656943) for more information, a role description and application form.

How can you help? There are lots of opportunities to join our great teams at St Mary's, including: welcoming, the audio/ visual desk, refreshments, 'Brass Band,' open church, Messy Church, reading, leading intercessions and prayer ministry. Please pray about how God might be calling you to join us. Contact Helen in the church office to volunteer. Elaine would particularly love to hear from singers and musicians, whatever instrument you play, but especially pianists!!

Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday, 16th March at Lindsay & Barbara's, 3 The Mount TFO 1NG



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

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