

16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

We are probably far more familiar with Matthew's version of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5.3-12) than we are with the version that we find in Luke's gospel. Luke's list is shorter and pithier – more focussed on physical, practical realities, than perhaps the lofty moral ideals or spirituality Matthew describes. Luke speaks of physical poverty and hunger, rather than just being poor in spirit or having a hunger for righteousness, for example. He speaks of actually weeping and not just 'mourning'.

But perhaps the biggest difference between the two gospels is in how Luke's blessings are followed by a corresponding list of 'woes'. In Luke there is a sense, not just of blessing, provision and comfort for those who are suffering, but also of judgment for those who sit by, enjoying their plenty and their good fortune, while others are in want or despair. One day, says Jesus, the tables will be turned. Being callous or insensitive to the woes of others, will eventually bring woe on us.

However, the strangest of these woes is the last one: 'woe to you when everyone speaks well of you'. We can see why Jesus would want to highlight the plight of the poor, hungry and grieving and provide them with hope; but why is it wrong if others speak well of us? Luke's contrast here is between those whose very 'name' has been 'rejected as evil' – in other words their very existence has been rejected – and those who crave recognition and admiration and bask in the approval of others. Jesus warns them how quickly the fickle court of public opinion can change.

But, when Jesus calls it a woe to be honoured and recognised and a blessing to be hated and despised, it is not just a paradox, it is a bare-faced challenge to the prevailing worldview of the time, that the rich and comfortable must have deserved God's favour, while the poor, the downtrodden and dispossessed had earned his displeasure. Jesus turns that thinking on its head in no uncertain terms. Somehow, that still feels like a challenge we need to heed today.

*Catherine*



### Please pray for...

John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, John Deppner and Nita's grandson, Ben. Please pray for the recently bereaved: the families and friends of Margaret Hall, Laura Ashton, John Woollacott, Thelma Swire and Michael Isaacs. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

**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!!

### Confirmation Service

This will be on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 4.00pm at Christ Church, Little Drayton**. Everyone is welcome to come and support those involved. Contributions towards the buffet after the service would be most welcome. **If you can liaise with Jan Stapleton at Christ Church that would be much appreciated (Tel No 01630 653203)** Please continue to pray for our candidates as they prepare for their confirmation: Tracey Stretch, Stephen Huyton, Ellie Carr, Matthew (Harry) Allee.

### Bring and Share Lunches 2025.

These resume this Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, at Kath McClellan's, 3 Victoria Road at 1pm.



### Market Drayton Methodist Church Community Bus



More volunteer drivers are needed. If you are interested, you must be over 21 and able to drive in the afternoon and occasional evenings. More details on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## Services

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

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Holy Communion**

Readings: **1 Corinthians 15.12-20 Luke 6.17-26**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<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>

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>



Starting on Ash Wednesday we will be using the Church of England's Living Hope material as a basis for our Lent sermons and group studies. There is a

book of daily reflections to accompany the series. These are £2.50 from Church House Publishing, but cheaper if we buy in bulk. If you would like Catherine to order you a copy, please let her know **by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

This year we will be running a daytime and an evening Lent Course, running on **Wednesdays at 10.30am (in church) or 7.30pm (at the Vicarage) starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, through until the 16<sup>th</sup> April.** Sign up sheets are at the back of church. Since places will be limited, please only sign up if you are confident you can attend all of the sessions and you are not in a homegroup which will also be doing the course.

## Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



We will meet as usual at Festival Drayton on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at 10:30. We are having a speaker from the Market Drayton Museum.

## Moving House...again!



As Axel and Fiona are happily returning to Market Drayton this year, it means Helen Hughes will unfortunately have to move

house...again. God has always provided a home for Helen, Richard and her dog, but trying to find any rental home in the area is very difficult at this time. Please pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen. If you have any knowledge of possible 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

**Tinned Carrots; Tinned Mushrooms; Tinned Fruit; Washing-up Liquid; Bleach; Anti-bac Wipes; Laundry Pods; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Sanitary Towels.**

**We have plenty of**—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call **01630 654007** (not the one in the church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

**Are you interested in serving your local community?**

**Are you passionate about helping those in need?**

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

Market Drayton Foodbank was started in in 2012 by the churches of the town and became its own Charitable Incorporated Organisation in May 2022. We are committed to helping those facing food poverty, whilst also enabling them to address some of its underlying causes, through our successful signposting strategy. The Board of Trustees are now looking for a new Chair of Trustees to help take this work 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](mailto:chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk) 01630 656943) for more information, a role description and application form.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

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

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

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