

Living in Hope – Trusting

It is early spring in Market Drayton, the days are getting longer, spring blossoms are bursting out around us, Nature is waking up from its winter sleep. What we see gives us hope for summer growth and autumn harvest. Underpinning our hope is trust that the rhythms of nature, with us for as long as we can remember, will continue far into the future. Archbishop Rowan Williams wrote: Hope is not simply confidence in the future, but confidence that past, present and future hold together because of their, and our, creator God whom we can trust completely.

Hope springing from absolute trust is at the heart of the story of Martha in our gospel reading. Deep in mourning for her brother, Lazarus, her belief and trust in Jesus remains unshakeable. She knows God will do whatever Jesus asks and, pressed by Jesus, acknowledges him as Christ, the son of God. Jesus restores Lazarus to life because he loved both him and Martha. What was true for Lazarus and Martha is true for us; we, too, are loved by Jesus.

In Ephesus, the new church fought for attention in a city obsessed by magic and curses, gods and goddesses, power and experience. Paul gives thanks for the blessings poured on them made plain by receipt of the Holy Spirit. This energised their daily lives and filled them with hope for the future when Jesus returns to rule in glory. When that happens all of creation will experience his presence and glory fully and completely. Until then the church, for all its imperfections, is the gateway to his power and presence. It is up to us, despite our faults and failings, to bring people to Jesus so that they can know him, love him and live for him. Like Martha, we need complete trust in Jesus to overcome our confusions and uncertainties and to find the right path in a complex world. Today's church must provide a flavour of future heavenly glory and witness Christ's work of reconciliation here and now. Our hope to achieve this is sustained by our trust in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lindsay



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Christine Fish, 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's funeral is here on Tuesday 25th March at 11.00am. He had been a regular member of St Mary's before he was moved to Woodcroft some years ago. 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.

Revision of Electoral Roll.

Every 6 years (i.e. this year) we have to produce a completely new Electoral Roll. If you wish to be on the new Roll **you must** submit an application form **by 20th April** (Easter Day!), even if you are on the current Electoral Roll.

New Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of the church on the welcome table. Completed form should be put it in the box also on the welcome table. If you have any queries, please talk to Pat Fox.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **John 11.17-27 Ephesians 1.15-23**

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



IONA Communion

Sunday 23rd March 6.30pm

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

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.



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting at 10.30am on Friday 21st March in Festival Drayton with speakers Barbara and Brian about Two OAPs in Africa



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.

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!!

We still need a sidesperson to cover the first Sunday of each month.

Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday, 16th March at Lindsay & Barbara's, 3 The Mount TF9 1AG



Moving House...again!

Helen Hughes needs 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.

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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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

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