

19<sup>th</sup> January 2025



It's estimated that 90% of an iceberg lies beneath the sea's surface. Similarly, when reading John's Gospel, we find depths of meaning beneath the words on the page. This isn't about uncovering hidden secrets or mysteries that only a few can understand. Instead, it's a gospel meant for reflection and meditation. As we spend time with it, we discover more about God's love shown in Jesus.

In today's Gospel reading, many are captivated by the sheer quantity of wine involved—potentially as much as 800 standard bottles. Wow! What a party! Our human eyes are often drawn to quantity. It fuels our ambitions and desires—the big salary, the big house. How often do we arrive at the airport, hoping the check-in clerk will say, "You've been chosen for an upgrade"? The big seat, extra legroom—happy days! But does it actually happen in real life?

On the surface, this miracle can seem like it's all about changing a huge quantity of water into wine. And, of course, that is there. When God gives, He gives generously. This is what captures many people's imaginations and influences the prayers of some Christians. Please give us more, more, more of whatever we want.

However, it's worth noticing the words spoken by the master of the banquet to the bridegroom: "You have saved the best till now." It's the quality of the wine that's commented on, not the quantity. This is worth reflecting on. Many of us hold dear the promise that "the gift of God is eternal life." We often interpret this as meaning "everlasting" life, focusing on the quantity of time.

But another dimension is the quality of that life—it's simply the best. Jesus doesn't just promise us a *good* life, but the **best** life. He can do this because, on the cross, he paid the price for sin. With Jesus, we can know the best life, holding both quantity and quality. May we show it in our lives and share it with those who don't yet know the **Best Life** with Jesus.

*Rod*



## Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith. We also pray for those recently bereaved: the families and friends of

Alan James and Hazel Rosier.

Some of you will have known Hazel very well. Her husband, Bert, was Churchwarden at St Mary's some time ago. Her funeral will be at St Mary's on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 1.00pm.

*Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*



We are very much in need of new people to help in various roles that make our church and services run smoothly. These include

welcoming, intercession, the audio/ visual desk, bookshop, refreshments etc. Please pray about how you can serve St Mary's then let Helen in the church office know if you are able to help and in what role. Many Thanks

## Confirmation Service

Our Deanery is holding a Confirmation Service on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 4.00pm**. If you are interested in being confirmed and want to find out more about what's involved, please speak to Catherine soon.



## BRING AND SHARE LUNCHES 2025.

These will resume in February when we are invited to Kath

McClellan's, 3 Victoria Road on Sunday 16th Feb. A list is now available in the Welcome area for offers to host these very popular events.

## Services

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

### 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

### 10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11

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

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>



## IONA Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm

## Soul Food Prayer Course

This course explores different ways of praying. There are 6 sessions online, starting on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 3 Saturdays in Eccleshall, full details [here](#), or go straight to [application form](#), with dates and online form. There is a charge for the course, but help may be available with this.

## The Bells!

On Sunday morning as you walk into Church you will hear the Bells of St Mary's ringing out to the Community, have you ever wondered how the bells are rung? Would you like to visit the tower and see the Bellringers in action? Would you like to try your hand at ringing a church bell?

A New Year, a new opportunity. If you would like to see the Bellringers of St Mary's in action or try your hand on a bell rope, please contact David Beckwith (Tower Captain) by email [beckwithda@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beckwithda@yahoo.co.uk) to arrange a mutually convenient time to visit the tower



## Songs of Praise

3.30pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at

Market Drayton Methodist Church

All are welcome to this informal gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are

served as you sing your favourite hymns

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Toilet Rolls; Men's Razors and

Deodorant; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Spaghetti; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Biscuits; Full Fat (blue) UHT Milk.

**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.

## Romania Link Fund Raiser Lunch



**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 6pm** see poster on the noticeboard for further details. Please contact John Corney (653137) if interested.

## Word for Today



The UCB Bible notes covering February-March are available on the desk at the entrance to the Church.



## The Filling Station

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January** at Rodington

Village Hall 7.30pm with speaker Andy Ackroyd. All welcome

## Swap Shop

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.30 am in the Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received (men's clothing particularly welcome), as well as helpers please.



## 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

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**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

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