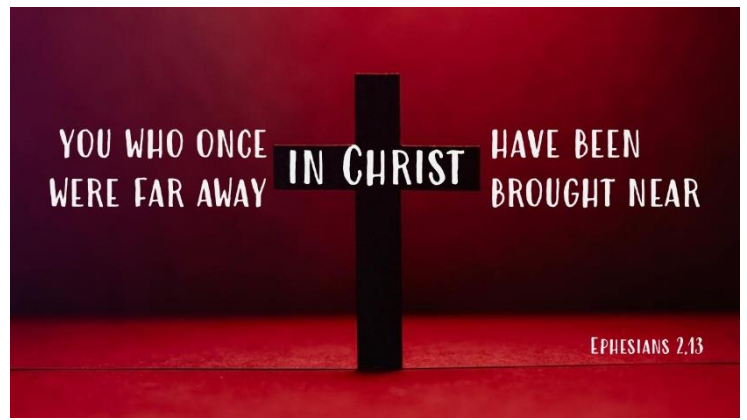


21st July 2024



Citizenship

When I was working in Japan in the 1980s I had to go to the local immigration offices to renew my work permit. Whilst waiting in the waiting room a man came and sat beside me. He said that I held a very precious and valuable document in my hand. He was referring to my British passport and said that he envied me since my passport gave me access to very nearly every country in the world, whereas his passport gave him access to only a limited number of countries. It made me appreciate how fortunate I was to have British citizenship.

Today's reading from Ephesians talks about citizenship. It points out that without Christ we are excluded from citizenship of God's kingdom and "without hope and without God in the world". However, Paul goes on to say that through Christ "we are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household."

Now interestingly, in neither case of being a British citizen nor a citizen of God's kingdom, is it something that is achieved through any efforts of our own. Citizenship of a country is in a way an accident of birth. It depends on who your parents are and where you were born. I am a British citizen because my parents were British and I was born in Liverpool. Being a citizen of God's kingdom is again dependent on birth, but a different birth, a new birth, a spiritual birth. As Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again". Being born again is believing in Jesus and all He has done for us and accepting the new life He offers – being accepted into His household and receiving citizenship of God's kingdom. For those of us who have a stable earthly citizenship we should value and appreciate what we inherited. Even more so, for those of us who, through the work of Jesus, have been born again into God's family, let us never take for granted the cost paid on the cross for our citizenship of heaven.

David

Word for Today

The new Word for Today, covering August, September and October is now available from the Welcome Desk.



Please pray for...

David Leach, David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter and David Smith. Please also pray for those who have been bereaved, particularly the families and friends of Helen Smith, Pat Currell, Linda Smith and Emmeline Ridgway.

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

Messy Church

We are still looking for one or two more to join our Messy Church catering team. Please talk to Catherine McBride or David Lake if you can help.



Bring and Share 21st July

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our home on Sunday to share lunch and fellowship together at 5 Prospect Road, Market Drayton, TF9 3AP

Directions

It's probably best to park at Morrisons (although there is no formal arrangement in place, and this will be at your own risk, the same applies to Raven House car park); and walk across to Prospect Road.

As you walk up Prospect Road, no 5 is the first of the big old Edwardian semis on the LEFT.

You will walk past Raven House (Shropshire Council) on the right and a bus stop, before noticing number 5. Our house has a duckegg blue painted front door and is the left hand of a pair of semis.

Please come to the back door, so walk up the drive til you see a CREAM painted stable style door.

If you have mobility issues, it's probably best to ask to be dropped off on the roadside.

We are now wheelchair accessible.

Hope to see to you there! Justin and Sue Frankfort
01630-655158 suefrankfort@gmail.com 07740-874611

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Readings: Ephesians 2.11-end Mark 6. 30-34, 53-end

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3Rm OG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion



Iona Communion Service

6.30pm next week, **Sunday 28th July.**

Sunday Sermons

Listen back to Sunday sermons over the last few months on our website:

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

Lindsay Bashford UCB2 Interview

The easiest way to get to Lindsay's UCB 2 "This is my story" interview is via Sharp Stream using this link:

https://timbre-player.sharp-stream.com/embed/feed/4f13965a-a85f-42e7-b363-9b6001e10001?layout=legacy&custom_theme=65

Rather long but it leads to a list of programmes, and you can scroll down to This is my story with Matt Brown on 11th July 2024. Click this and it starts at the beginning. However, if you scroll back to the top you will find a slider! Move this along to 2hours 10minutes and that is when the interview starts...It should be at this site for about a month.

Parish Rooms

Work to replace the heating system in the Parish Rooms has started. Regular users are being accommodated as much as possible and all groups which might be affected have been contacted. There is heating in The Starmer Room but not in the main Hall until completion of the work. We apologise for any inconvenience while the work is ongoing. If you do not have an existing booking, please check with the Church Office before using the Parish Rooms for the time being. Please also avoid parking at the Parish Rooms to allow access for the workmen's vans.

Churchyard – Safety Fence

If you are aware that the protective fence around the fallen boundary has been damaged or knocked over, please let me know so that I can request that the relevant contractors secure the area. Thank you, Elaine Cook

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Jars of cooking / pasta sauces; Tins of Ham

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes; cleaning products, conditioner.

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.

Lichfield Diocese Vision and Strategy Presentation

Bishop Sarah and our Acting Archdeacons, Jo Farnworth and Mary Thomas, will be presenting the Diocese's new Vision and Strategy at a meeting to be held here at **St Mary's on Monday 22nd July, 6.30-9.30pm**, with opportunities for discussion and questions.

Tunstall Hall Summer Fete – 31st August 11am-3pm

We hold a regular monthly Communion service for our friends at Tunstall Hall, so it would be great to support their Summer Fete and have a St Mary's presence there. We are planning to have a book stall, selling books, puzzles, games, etc to raise funds for Tunstall Hall. Donations gratefully received in the box at the back of church. Please contact Carol Corney if you would be prepared to help man the stall for part of the day.

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

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

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