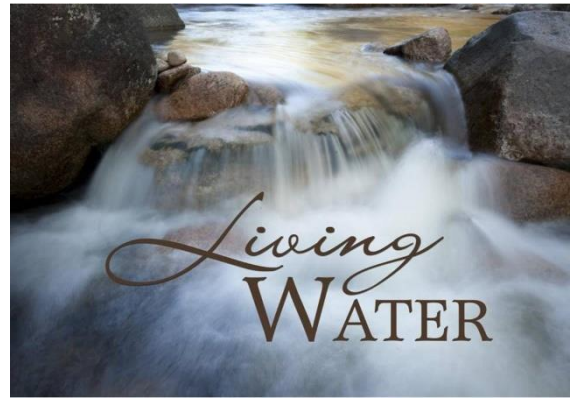


22nd September 2024



Water, water, everywhere..."

I love the quotation from the Rime of the Ancient Mariner – "Water, water, everywhere, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink." It speaks both of the abundance of water, the ship is out in the ocean, but also of its quality. There had been many, many sunny days and the drinking water was running out. Despite being surrounded by water, the ship was becoming an inhospitable desert.

Water is wonderful stuff – two hydrogen atoms bound to a single oxygen atom – which on earth is largely a liquid that freezes when cold and vapourises when hot. Without water there would be no life on earth. There is now no life on Mars because nearly all the water there has evaporated and escaped into space. All the amazing chemistry needed to make our bodies work well depends on the particular properties of water.

Like the rest of the materials on earth, water is created when stars explode and the chemical elements are formed. I like to think of this as a cauldron of creation and all those elements can subsequently coalesce under gravity to form planets. Earth has always had plenty of water and just the right conditions for life to thrive.

Jesus' comments about living water were made on the last day of the Festival of Booths in Jerusalem – the day of the water festival where water gathered from the spring was poured out in the temple in memory of God's provision to the Israelites as they journeyed through the desert.

Typically, Jesus takes us a step further. Of course we need fresh, clean, clear water to stay alive and we go to great lengths to make sure that we have it – a gift from the creation. But there is more, Jesus announces he is the source of living water – John makes it clear that this living water is the Holy Spirit available to us all following Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into glory. Physical water for our bodies, living water (Holy Spirit) for our souls – how gracious of God to give us both.

Lindsay

Please pray for...



David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter and Debra Deeley's Son-in-law, Andy Morton, recovering from a stem-cell transplant
Also, Debra's daughter Sam - for continued strength, courage and patience, as she and baby son Arthur wait to be reunited with Andy.

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



Ginger & Spice Festival 2024
28th September

Heritage Trail 10.00am – 4.30pm

We will restrict our input into this year's festival to just being involved with the Heritage Trail – although it would be lovely to be able to offer some famous St Mary's hospitality as part of that and a chance for people to sit, have a cuppa and a chat and a listening ear if needed. Thank you to those who have already volunteered, the more the merrier – the sign-up sheet is at the back of church.

Thank you

Thank you so much for your generosity. You know I love a bit of tech so instead of buying physical books your gift allowed me to buy an electronic notepad that transcribes my handwritten scrawl into typed notes and allows me to read the many (many) books and journals that are required and still make notes in them. Genius!! My link church has been confirmed as Hadley Holy Trinity & Wellington Christ Church so a shorter journey. Please continue to pray for me as I will for you.

Laurina

Let There Be Heat!

There is now heating in the Parish Rooms. The programming of the system of our regular activities will be set shortly and the system will be able to be controlled remotely, as well as via thermostats in the building. I'm sure there will instructions! Many thanks to Elaine Cook and the Parish Rooms Team for their work on this project.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Psalm 65 John 12. 20-26

These services will also be on Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888



Iona Communion Service

6.30pm Reading: Psalm 139

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

Sunday Sermons

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

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

Church Clock

Repairs to the clock are underway. Many people have asked if they can make donations towards the cost of repairs. This can be done by scanning this QR code or clicking here



<https://givealittle.co/c/4LCgzleOjgqN78gn05FSA>

Songs of Praise

Sunday 23rd June 3.30pm – 4.45pm

at the Methodist Church Hall.

Choose and sing your favourite hymns and enjoy fellowship, coffee, tea and cake!



Coffee Rota

Being able to socialise with some refreshments after a service is an important part of being a church family here at St Mary's and making newcomers and visitors feel welcome. We need some more people to join this important ministry, so please talk to Pat Fox if you can Help.

The Filling Station



Monday 23 September 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at Roddington Village Hall, SY4 4QS.
With speaker Suzan Williams.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Jam; Cartons of UHT Milk; Cartons of Long-life Fruit Juice; Tins of Ham; Antibacterial Wipes.

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.

The Times of our Lives! or is it still 12 o'clock?



Come and enjoy a concert (*and raise funds for St Mary's Clock and St John Ambulance*) at **7.00pm on Saturday, 5th October** in church. Elaine Cook's community choir, A Choired Taste, will be performing a mix of songs from across the years with guests Voicebox, the Grove school choir. Sit back and listen, but you will also have the opportunity to join in for a sing-a-long, returning by popular demand. Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle too, so bring some cash! Tickets, at £10 each, are available from Elaine, choir members, The Fields Kitchen and on the door (cash, please). Entry is free for under 11s. Elaine would be grateful for a few volunteers to help on the door or with the raffle, please let her know if you would like to help.

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.