

23rd March 2025



A pupil asked me today how old I was.

Not something I was about to divulge, of course! But the question made me pause and reflect on just how much the world has changed since my own childhood. Things that were once commonplace would now seem completely foreign to today's generation.

I wonder—do you remember a time before freezers? If so, you may also recall the old method of preserving homegrown vegetables. In our house, large stone jars



were carefully washed and set aside for storing produce through the winter. My father loved growing vegetables, especially runner beans, which always gave us a

bumper crop. When harvest time came, my mother would dedicate hours—usually at the weekend—to preparing them. As children, we were expected to help: washing the jars, slicing and blanching the beans, plunging them into an ice bath, drying them, and finally layering them in jars with salt.

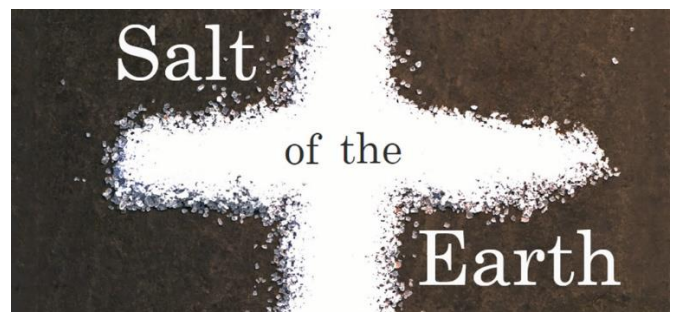
Even now, I remember exactly how to do it! Salt was an essential preservative, keeping food fresh by preventing bacteria and mould from taking hold.

Our Gospel reading this week brings to mind this very practice. Jesus tells His followers that they are to be *the salt of the earth*. We often use this phrase to describe someone who is good-natured, reliable, and kind—someone you can depend on. But could Jesus have meant something even deeper?

In Biblical times, salt wasn't just a preservative; it was also used as a fertiliser, enriching the soil and encouraging growth. Some biblical scholars suggest that this is what Jesus had in mind. He wasn't only calling His disciples to be good and trustworthy but to actively nurture growth, bring transformation, and change the world.

What might that look like for us today? How can we, as followers of Jesus, not only live good lives but also help others flourish?

Maggie



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 in the box also on the welcome table. If you have any queries, please talk to Pat Fox.

Ops Manager Absence

Elaine Cook will be working remotely until Easter while she cares for her mother. If you need to get in touch with Elaine, please email or phone her on her work mobile, details overleaf

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship + Baptism

Readings **Matthew 5. 13-16 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7**

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

Today, Sunday 23rd March 6.30pm

Reading: **John 15. 9-17**

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.



Songs of Praise

3.30pm on Sunday 23rd March 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.

Cartons of UHT blue full fat Milk; Tins/Cartons of Custard; Men's Deodorant; Dry Dog Food; 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 especially need volunteers for Open Church on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Please speak to Barry Salter or Helen Hughes if you would like to join the team.

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

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

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.