

23rd February 2025



## Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, John Deppner, Nita's grandson, Ben, and Elaine Cook's mother, Jose Wright. Please pray for the recently bereaved: the families and friends of Margaret Hall, Laura Ashton, John Woollacott, Thelma Swire and Michael Isaacs. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

**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!!

## Confirmation Service

This will be this **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 4.00pm at Christ Church, Little Drayton**. Everyone is welcome to come and support those involved. Contributions towards the buffet after the service would be most welcome. **If you can liaise with Jan Stapleton at Christ Church that would be much appreciated (Tel No 01630 653203)** Please continue to pray for our candidates as they prepare for their confirmation: Tracey Stretch, Stephen Huyton, Ellie Carr, Matthew (Harry) Allee.

## Archbishop of Canterbury

The appointment process for the next Archbishop of Canterbury is underway, including a public consultation exercise. Your views matter, particularly on three key questions: What are your hopes for the ministry of the next Archbishop of Canterbury? What gifts, qualities, skills and experience do you believe the next Archbishop of Canterbury should have? Do you have any names that you wish the Crown Nominations Commission, nominating the next Archbishop of Canterbury, to consider? Submit your comments **by 31 March**, by post to: Canon Stephen Knott, Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU or online at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/ABC106Consult>

## Jesus: Human and Divine

It's interesting that often when you read a familiar passage of Scripture each time you read it something hits you in a way that it has not done so before. The short reading from Luke's Gospel (Ch.8: 22 – 25) is one that captures the imagination and lingers in the memory. It is Jesus "Calming the Storm". It is full of superlatives and, to me, full of excitement, but what hit me about it recently is that it helps us understand Jesus as both Human and Divine as much as anywhere else in the Gospels. Here Jesus was in a boat crossing the lake of Galilee with his disciples, some of whom were fishermen and would know the lake well. They would know all about the dangers of sailing on the lake and the sudden squalls that could arise. Yet here they were apparently taken by surprise by a sudden, raging squall and in imminent fear of drowning. Meanwhile, Jesus, a carpenter (not a professional seaman) is asleep, probably enjoying a rest, after a heavy schedule teaching the people, just trusting "the professionals" to take him safely across the lake. He was just a "man". Up to now it is an ordinary story about an ordinary group of men, with their leader, crossing the lake, but suddenly they got into severe difficulties. The disciples, at this point, woke Jesus in panic: "Master, Master we're going to drown!" Amazing! Professional seamen, in a drowning situation, desperately seeking help from a carpenter! However, from past experience they knew that this "ordinary carpenter" was an extraordinary man, who healed the sick, cast out demons and was an authoritative teacher. Then the unimaginable happened. Jesus didn't address the disciples to give them reassurance, rather He addressed creation, rebuking the wind and the raging waters and, wow, creation obeyed Him! "*The storm subsided, and all was calm*" No wonder the disciples, in fear and amazement, asked one another "Who is this?". The answer can only be the Creator of creation, in other words, God, the One whose word created the sea and whose word the sea obeys.

Hopefully this helps, just a little, to demonstrate to us both the Human and Divine nature of Jesus.

*David*

## Services

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

### 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

### 10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: **Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25**

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

### NO IONA COMMUNION THIS MONTH

## Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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



Starting on Ash Wednesday we will be using the Church of England's Living Hope material as a basis for our Lent sermons and group studies.

There is a book of daily reflections to accompany the series, these are available from Catherine for £2.00. This year we will be running a daytime and an evening Lent Course, running on **Wednesdays at 10.30am (in church) or 7.30pm (at the Vicarage) starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, through until the 16<sup>th</sup> April.** Sign up sheets are at the back of church. Since places will be limited, please only sign up if you are confident you can attend all of the sessions and you are not in a homegroup which will also be doing the course.

## Moving House...again!



As Axel and Fiona are happily returning to Market Drayton this year, it means Helen Hughes will unfortunately have to move house...again. God has always provided a home for Helen, Richard and her dog, but trying to find any rental home in the area is very difficult at this time. Please pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen. If you have any knowledge of possible 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.

## Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Tinned Carrots; Tinned Mushrooms; Tinned Fruit; Washing-up Liquid; Bleach; Anti-bac Wipes; Laundry Pods; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice.

**We have plenty of**—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

**Are you interested in serving your local community?**

**Are you passionate about helping those in need?**

**MARKET DRAYTON FOODBANK**

**IS SEEKING A NEW CHAIR OF TRUSTEES.**

**COULD THIS BE YOU?**

Market Drayton Foodbank was started in in 2012 by the churches of the town and became its own Charitable Incorporated Organisation in May 2022. We are committed to helping those facing food poverty, whilst also enabling them to address some of its underlying causes, through our successful signposting strategy. The Board of Trustees are now looking for a new Chair of Trustees to help take this work forward.

If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, please contact our current Chair of Trustees (Revd Catherine McBride [chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk) 01630 656943) for more information, a role description and application form.



## Market Drayton Methodist Church Community Bus

Volunteer drivers are needed. You must be over 21 and able to drive in the afternoon and occasional evenings. More details on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook

**E-mail:** [opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com)

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