

24<sup>th</sup> November 2024



## The perfect present?

It is about this time of year that we start to think about what we are going to give to our friends and families as Christmas presents. I guess for most of us it will entail quite a lot of thinking about since we will want our present to be something that will be acceptable and appreciated. So what does a present need in order to have these qualities. Perhaps I can make three suggestions as to what makes a "perfect present".

1. If possible the present should have a surprise element to it. It brings such delight when a present is opened and inside the wrapping is something that is totally unexpected.
2. It should be of value. Here I don't necessarily mean something of monetary value. We all know how much we appreciate that simple something that a child has made for us. Such a present has real value and meaning.
3. It should be something that will be useful. A perfect present is something that is needed, perhaps not necessarily in a practical way but say, for instance, a picture that each day will bring us real pleasure and joy. As Christmas approaches we will be concentrating on God's gift to us in Jesus. How does God's present to us in Jesus fulfil these qualities?

Does it have a surprise element? Well, I don't think there can be any doubt about that. Who would have thought that God, the creator and ruler of the universe would reveal Himself to the world by coming to the world as a tiny helpless baby?

Is it of value? Well God's gift to the world could not have been more costly to God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). For us it is the most valuable gift we will ever be offered.

Is it needed? From the verse above it is obvious that it is the essential gift that everybody needs. For it is through this wonderful gift of Jesus that our relationship with God is restored and that we have life everlasting with Him. What a perfect gift to receive and accept from God!

*David*

## Please pray for...



John Panter and Diana Picton-Robinson, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law) and Gordon Robinson (Nita Heath's son-in-law). Catherine Smith would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers for Colin.

We pray for Margaret Law, following the death of her son, Norman and we continue to pray for David Costelloe, following the sudden death of his wife Cynthia, known to many here at St Mary's. Cynthia's funeral will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

**WOMEN'S  
ADVENT RETREAT**  
FREE EVENT

30:11:2024  
**TRENTHAM**  
PARISH CHURCH SHARING  
THE LOVE  
OF JESUS

12-3pm

Peaceful prayerful spaces  
Cream Tea Room & Mocktail Bar  
register attendance at: trentthamparishoffice@gmail.com

## Carol Singing



We will be carol singing again this year at Woodcroft and Tunstall Hall. These are truly special occasions and very much appreciated by the residents. It would be lovely to have others from St Mary's come and join our regular teams. All welcome – Christmas jumpers essential!

Woodcroft 11.00am Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Tunstall Hall 2.00pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
We will also be carol-singing at Mercian Court 7.00pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, so if you haven't lost your voice by then, please join us. We are hoping to arrange some carolling at Joules Place – so watch this space.

## Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated

### 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

### 10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Revelation 1. 4b-8; John 18.33-37

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Welcome to Lola Mae Keown and her family as she is baptised today



### IONA Communion

6.30pm Reading: Psalm 72

### 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

## Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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



### Songs of Praise

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm at the Methodist Church

## Gift Service

We shall be accepting gifts for the Women's Refuge on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are able to donate items such as toiletries, chocolates, hats, scarves and gloves for women, and any toys or treats for children, these would be very gratefully received. Please bring them along to the services on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Good News Stories

We'd love to share some stories of what God has been doing in our lives. If you have an encouraging story you'd be willing to share on a Sunday morning please let Catherine know.

## Angels on Songs of Praise



Some of you may remember one of our past vicars, Geoff Price and his wife Hope. Hope is being interviewed on Songs of Praise on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, talking to Rev Kate Bottley about angels.

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

**Sponge Pudding / Slab Cakes; Cleaning products and Anti-bac wipes.**

**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.



## Carol Service Choir - Now All Voices!

This week it's the turn of Sopranos and tune singers joining the practice at 7.30pm on Thursday evening. All welcome.

## Prayer Link

If you need prayer for yourself or a loved one, we have a dedicated 'Prayer Link' team, who link up to pray for any situation/ request that is put to us. All requests are strictly confidential. There is a list at the back of the church of the whole group and you can contact anyone of us to start the prayer chain, although the usual first contact is either through: Elaine Mason 07846715620 [nickjgmason@gmail.com](mailto:nickjgmason@gmail.com) Or Carol Corney 01630 653137 or 07932 642246 [candicorney@gmail.com](mailto:candicorney@gmail.com) - or speak to us in person. If you love to pray for others, please join us. Contact Elaine or Carol.



## Singing For the Brain

For people living with dementia, friends, family & carers. We meet every **Thursday 1.45pm** at the Beacon Centre. £2.50 pp includes tea and biscuits. For further details please contact Avril 01630 656264

## 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

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