

24th March 2024



Show me your ways, Lord

You might have seen pictures of sat-nav disasters. A lorry stuck fast in a narrow country lane, a car teetering on a cliff edge, a bus trapped under a low bridge. Like me you may wonder, how on earth did that happen? Frequently we hear: 'The sat-nav told me to'! Most times it is just an embarrassing or expensive mistake. But in Death Valley, California, it has cost lives.

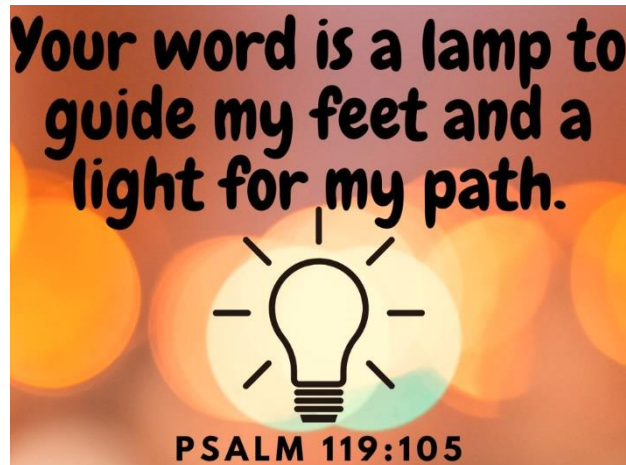
Many of us will use sat-nav on our journeys. Although, on long journeys, Ali and I will also have a road atlas open and ready. We put greater trust in the information the atlas gives us.

During Lent we have been reflecting on Jesus' path and our desire to follow his way. We began with Psalm 25 verse 4, 'Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths'. Today, Jesus approaches his journey's end: Jerusalem. Over the weeks we have reflected on his path of suffering and self-denial; his passion for God and of prayer and worship; and the disciples' desire to bring others to meet Jesus. During the few remaining days of his life this will all be intensified as it leads to the cross on Friday.

As Jesus set out on his journey to Jerusalem, the gospel writers tell us that he did so, 'resolutely'. Despite knowing that suffering and death awaited him, he set out utterly committed to get there, working around obstacles and traps that might put him off. Although Jerusalem was his destination, his goal was to fulfil his Father's will. His love for his Father and his plan of salvation is what guided him and kept him putting one foot in front of the other.

This week as we reflect on Jesus' commitment, may we find time and space to reflect on the purpose and goal of our lives. How far do the goals I might have set for myself align with God's plan and will for my life? Many voices will offer advice and guidance, but like sat-nav, we must question their reliability, and check their advice and our route, with the guidebook God himself has provided: 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' Psalm 119:105

Rod



Please pray for...

Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith, Helen Hughes, Ray Croucher, Helen Smith, Joe McFee's grandson Jaiden Roberts, Adrian & Jenny Corney's friend Becky Turner, John Halford's brother David and Liz Barnes' brother John.

We periodically update our prayer section. Please let the Church Office know if you wish names to remain on or be removed from the list.

Lent: Wilderness and Discipleship



Last session Tuesday 26th March, 6.45-8.30pm in St Mary's Church. Please note that this course is now full.

The Church Directory

The production of the new church directory is underway. If you are currently in the directory, wish to remain in it and have no changes of details, you do not need to take any action. Anyone that wishes to be included or that needs to revise their details and has not yet returned a complete form to the Church Office, please do so as soon as possible. Blank forms are available on the front desk. A reminder that we are planning to include email addresses in the new directory, please get in touch if you would not like your email to be included. If you would like to be in the directory but cannot recall if you gave consent in the past, please complete a fresh form.

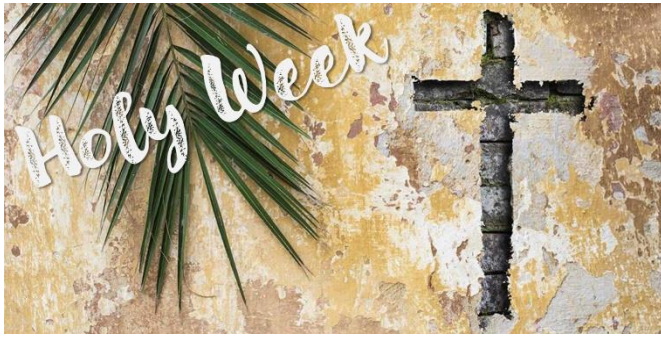
Helpers Needed

More helpers are needed for refreshments after the 10.30 Sunday morning services. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Pat Fox.



Thanks

Sue Frankfort would like to thank members of the St Mary's church family for their kind prayers, thoughts, cards and messages around her Mum's recent operation for a new shoulder.



Services for Holy Week

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

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW (meet at war memorial Cheshire St at 10.00am to process to church)

Readings: John 12:12-16, Psalm 118:19-end

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMOR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

6.30pm Iona Communion

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 10.00am

Good Friday

Walk of Witness: 10.00am at St Mary's,
10.40am at Buttercross

2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross

7.00pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Day (NB Clocks go forward!!!)

6.15am Sunrise Service (*Note this is a bit later than advertised in the Churches Together leaflet*)

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Easter Canal Towpath Outreach

We will be on the canal towpath near Bridge 62, Newcastle Road again this Easter giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs, inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. If you would like to donate hot cross buns and/or contribute to the costs we would be very grateful. Please bring buns to church on Wednesday **27th March** between **11.00am and 1.00pm** or bring to the canal on Thursday **28th March** between **2.30pm and 5.00pm**. More details from Jan and John Halford. Thank you.



Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Jars/tins of cooking/pasta sauces; jam; shampoo, tinned rice pudding, tins/cartons custard

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

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call

01630 654007 (not the number in the current church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Foodbank Trustee Needed

The Foodbank are looking for someone with a finance background to join the Board of Trustees. For more information please see the poster on the notice board at the back of church or speak to Catherine.

Spring Harvest

There are 3 places available at Spring Harvest **8th to 11th April** (Minehead). There is 1 double room and 1 single room available (as part of 3 bedroomed chalet). If anyone would like to know more (cost etc) then contact Laurina ASAP. Please don't let cost be a barrier, support is available.

Messy Church

Tuesday 2nd April

3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms



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.