

25th August 2024

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Those words of Peter in John 6.68 always leap out of the page at me. Not only is his grammar really good (unless the English translators have been super-keen about erasing any traces of Galilean fisherman!!), but I'm always struck by the almost painful honesty of Peter's words. Jesus has been stretching the credulity of the extended group of disciples who have been following him and some are finding his teaching hard to take:

'Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.'

It's all too much for some of them and many start to abandon Jesus from that time, leading to this poignant, heart-felt conversation with Peter. 'You're not leaving too, are you?', says Jesus.

'Lord, who else is there? You're the only one for us. The only one whose words speak truth and hope into our lives and lead us to real life now and for eternity. We may not understand everything, but we believe – we know - you're the one we've been waiting for, the Holy One of God.'

Jesus was the basket Peter had put all his eggs into, the one he'd bet the farm on, gone for broke with... and any other metaphor you could use. Peter may have been as puzzled and challenged as the others, but for him there was no going back now.

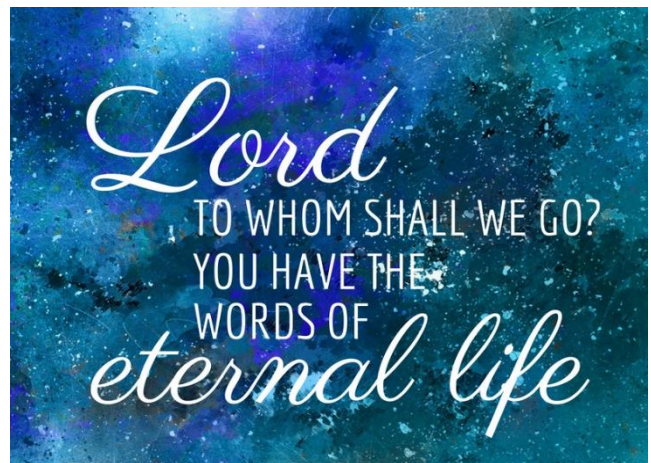
When we're finding some of Jesus teaching really challenging (and there is a lot there that certainly should challenge us), can we hang on in there, like Peter?

When we're struggling to understand what God is doing and what his plans and purposes are, can we still believe like Peter?

When it might be easier to give up, or to go along with any of the myriad of other life-fixes on offer, do we hold out for Jesus, as the only one for us, like Peter?

I hope so.

Catherine



Please pray for...

David Leach, David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter and David Smith. Please also pray for those who have been bereaved, particularly the families and friends of Beryl Allen, Kathleen Corfield and Jane (Carol) Gandy.

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

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>



Tunstall Hall Summer Fete

31st August 11am-3pm

Thank you for all your donations for our book stall. If you would be able to help man the stall for part of the day, please let Carol Corney know by signing the sheet at the back of church.



UCB2 Radio Catherine's Interview

Catherine's interview on UCB2 Radio aired on the 21st August. The easiest way to find it on catchup is via the link below:

https://timbre-player.sharp-stream.com/embed/feed/4f13965a-a85f-42e7-b363-9b6001e10001?layout=legacy&custom_theme=65

Click on 'This is My Story with Matt Brown' 21/08/2024 to start the programme and then you can move the slider along to find the interview. It starts at 29.00 minutes into the programme. You should be able to access it for about a month.

Sunday Sermons

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

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

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

These services 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 Service

Sunday 25th August 6.30pm

Readings: Luke 9: 46 - 48 and 2 Kings 5: 1 - 19.

Save the Date: The Disappearance of Eliza Grey

Tuesday 10th September 2-4pm at St Mary's. This humorous and thought-provoking play tells of Eliza who wants to tell us a story but is stopped from doing so by her friends. Finding herself central to a criminal investigation is the last straw! **Admission Free**, (donations welcome).



Phoenix group (for those bereaved)

Friday 20th September 10.30am
at the Festival Drayton Centre

Visit from the Police who will be talking about keeping safe this Winter

Messy Church

We meet again on Tuesday 3rd

September. We are still looking for

one or two more to join our Messy Church catering team. Please talk to Catherine McBride or David Lake if you can help.



UNITE!

Saturday 14th September 7pm at MDMC

A coming together of Christians to connect and encourage one another PLUS an opportunity for others to get to know JESUS!!

Open Christian Testimony, contemporary praise music, prayer PLUS guest speaker, PETER GLADWIN (badly burned baby turned teenage criminal turned failed suicide attempt, turned to JESUS and given a new life!). See poster at back of church.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

Cartons of UHT Milk (no stock); Cartons of Long-life Fruit Juice (no stock); Tins of Chicken; Laundry Washing Tabs/Pods.

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.

Bingo

Thursday 29th August 7pm-9pm in the Parish Rooms, raising funds for MD Foodbank. £5 a book. Raffle tickets £1 per strip. Refreshments available during interval.

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.

SWAP SHOP

Saturday 14th September, from 10.30 am in the Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received, as well as helpers please.



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.

