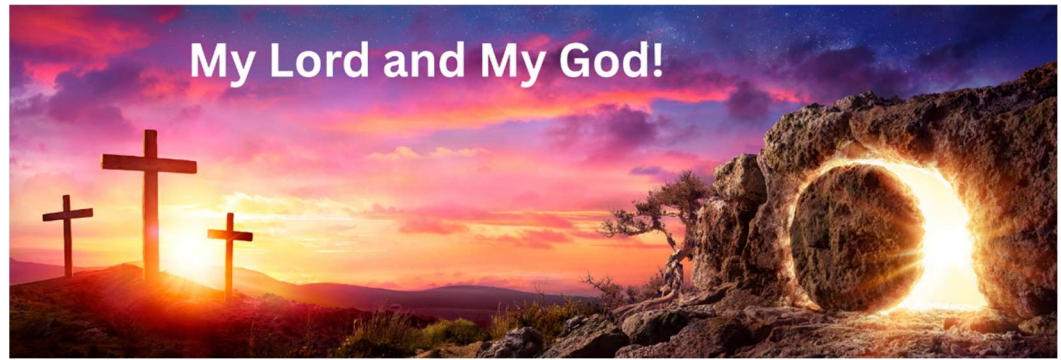


27<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## Hearing, seeing, touching and believing

I don't know about you, but I think the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's gospel is the most moving of the whole bible. It starts with the empty tomb and then the risen Lord meeting first Mary Magdalene, then the disciples and then Thomas. All of them started out in the very depths of despair – the hopes and dreams that Jesus had stirred in them all seemed destroyed in the cruel and ruthless manner so typical of their Roman conquerors. But God (thank you Catherine) had other, much better ideas. In each case a personal encounter with a completely alive, but significantly different, Jesus transformed his followers' lives. This pattern has continued ever since and will do so until the last day – whatever that may be. What I find so reassuring is that, despite all the teaching of Jesus, Mary, the disciples and Thomas don't really seem to consider that Jesus could be alive – I am sure we can all empathise with them about that. In each encounter it is Jesus who takes the initiative. When he appears to Mary, she assumes, quite naturally, that he is a gardener but when she hears that so familiar voice everything changes. He is different and now so is she. With the disciples, locked away and fearful about their futures, their despair turns to joy when they see (and hear) Jesus in their midst. Jesus is so gentle with poor old Thomas, "I won't believe that until I have seen him myself". Thomas not only sees Jesus but is invited to touch him and feel his wounds – "yes, Thomas, it really is me."

How are we to respond to this? The truth is that God bore suffering and turned it to love and mercy, and powerlessness was glory not shame. What would our world look like if suffering and injustice produced love and forgiveness and not bitterness and hatred, and where power was trivial compared with love and sacrifice? We may not be able to hear, see and touch Jesus but we can believe, like Thomas, that he is our Lord and our God and be blessed.

*Lindsay*

## Please pray for...



Barry Salter, John Panter, Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Christine Fish, Nita's grandson, Ben, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean.

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

## Church Organ Fundraising Social Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 6.30pm



Join us at a Social Evening in the Parish Rooms and help support our organ fund. Home cooked food along with entertainment provided by talented members of our own congregation: a snip at £10.00 per

person. Entertainment will include music, song, humour and conversation.

Tickets are available from David Lake or Elaine Cook on Sunday (cash or by QR code!) or contact Elaine to have some set aside for you.

## VE Day Celebrations/ MD 10k race – 11<sup>th</sup> May

Advance notice of a change to our morning services on 11<sup>th</sup> May. There will be road closures from 10.30am due to the MD 10k race. **Our two morning services will therefore be a combined service at 9am.** We welcome Elaine's community choir, A Choired Taste, to this service at which we remember the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.



Other VE celebrations are shown on a notice at the back of church.

## Services

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

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship**

Readings **Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-end**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

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

[TzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdM)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

**Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM**

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

[3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ)

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>

## No Iona Service in April

There is no Iona Communion in April.

## Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



Unfortunately, the group will not be meeting in April but will resume next month.

## Moving House...again!

Please continue to 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.

## Songs of Praise

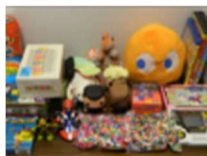


**3.30pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April** at Market Drayton Methodist Church All are welcome to this informal gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are served as you

sing your favourite hymns.

## Swap Shop

SWAP SHOP will be held again on **Saturday 10th May, 10.30am** in the Parish Rooms. We shall be grateful for items to offer 'customers' as well as helpers please.



## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required:

Tins/Cartons of Custard; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Men's Deodorant; Cleaning Products; Shower Gel; Toothpaste.

### 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.

## Word for Today

The new UCB

Bible notes are available on the

desk at the entrance to the Church.



## APCM Advance Notice

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on **Monday 19th May at 7.30pm** in Church. All individual reports need to be sent to the church office by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at the latest.

## Bell Ringing

The church bells will be ringing at 6.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May as part of the VE Day Anniversary Celebrations.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May we also welcome guest ringers from 2pm.

## 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

**Phone:** 07454 441943

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

**Vicar:** Revd Catherine McBride

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

**if you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.**