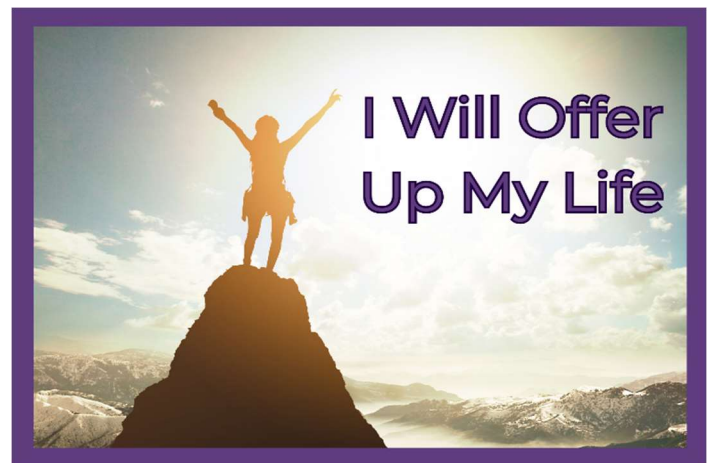


29<sup>th</sup> June 2025



Our Readings today, 2 Kings 2. 1-2, 6-14 and Luke 9. 51-end, from the Old and New Testament give us a major contrast in attitudes. The Old Testament reading is the wonderful story about the succession from God's prophet Elijah to the prophet Elisha. Earlier in the First book of Kings we are told of Elisha's call (1 Kings 19:19-21). Elisha was ploughing with 12 yoke of oxen (he must have been pretty rich!) when Elijah came and found Elisha and through his cloak over him, which was a symbolic invitation to discipleship. Elisha's response was to be allowed to say goodbye to his father and mother and then he would follow Elijah. What Elisha actually did was to slaughter his oxen and burn the ploughing equipment in order to cook the meat for his "farewell party" before becoming Elijah's servant (burning his bridges if you like!). In our Reading we see the commitment of Elisha to his calling and his devotion to Elijah. Although knowing that the Lord was going to take Elijah from him imminently, Elisha was determined to stay with his master to the very end and desired only that he might continue serve as God's prophet, with even greater enthusiasm than Elijah. In our New Testament Reading several people are invited to follow Jesus, but each puts the invitation off with various excuses. For one the excuse is similar to the request made by Elisha - to say goodbye to his family, but the inference is quite different. Here it just shows a lukewarm response, whereas with Elisha it was saying a goodbye completely to his former way of life. I wonder if Jesus had Elisha's call in mind when He made reference to ploughing? If we are to be acceptable in our offer of following Jesus, our full concentration has to be given to serving Him otherwise the furrow we plough will be unacceptable. Jesus points out that following Him comes with the understanding that this is no easy and comfortable life but it is a commitment to a new life where there is a task to be performed of great urgency. It is the most important task of all, that of proclaiming the kingdom of God. The exhortation given to all of us is: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship"* (Romans 12:1).

David



### Please pray for...



Catherine McBride, Brian McClellan, John Panter, Jenny Wade, Mary Senior, Jill Alexander's daughter, Jodie, Nita's grandson, Ben, Debra Deeley's son-in-law, Andy and

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

### Update on Catherine

Catherine is hoping to return to us on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Please continue to contact Peter Fox and Elaine Cook with any matters until then.

### Two-day Church Closure

Please note that the church will be completely closed on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** while the carpets and soft furnishings are cleaned to remove the smoke and any residual dirt and smell caused by the recent fire. There will be no access at all. This Wednesday's open church has been cancelled. The church will be open again from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in time for the 10am service.



### Messy Church

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

3.30pm – 5.15pm

in the Parish Rooms.

### Songs of Praise

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm at Market Drayton Methodist Church.

All are welcome to this informal gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are served as you sing your favourite hymns.



## Services

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

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship**

Readings **2 Kings 2. 1-2, 6-14 Luke 9. 51-end**

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**

## Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

## You're Invited!

Join us for the Whitchurch Churches Together AGM followed by a special talk from Simon Airey, Anglican priest and professional storyteller, as he explores "The Sacred Thread: Weaving Story into Ministry."

**Tuesday 1st July 7:30pm**

at The Watgate Centre, Whitchurch.

Everyone welcome!

## Rural Leaders Retreat

**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> Sep-2025**

9.30am - 4:00pm at

Yarnfield Park Training &

Conference Centre Yarnfield

Stone Staffordshire ST15 0NL



Meet with other Rural leaders in the New Wine family, seeking God in prayer and worship. Please click on the link for a program of events and speakers

<https://nwln.churchsuite.com/events/oadwatvg>

Tickets are £60 and includes a 3-course lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

## Foodbank Items Needed



**Stock Items urgently required:**

**UHT Milk (blue & green); Long-life Fruit Juice;**

**Tinned Fruit; Tinned Wet Dog Food; Cleaning**

**Products; Men's and Women's Deodorant; Shower Gel.**

**We have plenty of:**

**Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.**

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

## Concert in aid of our organ fund

Come to a concert on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August** by Shifnal



Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund.



Schoolreaders is a charity that finds local people who

are able to visit a local primary school to listen to children read individually and help to improve their reading and comprehension skills. Volunteers visit their school weekly for an hour or two in term time (holidays can be taken during the school year). They need to have good written and spoken English, but they do not need any other skills or prior experience. They will also need to have a DBS check carried out, but this is done by the school and is at no cost to the volunteer. The charity is currently in need of extra volunteers in the Market Drayton area. More information can be found on their website

<https://www.schoolreaders.org/>

## 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)

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