

29<sup>th</sup> September 2024



One of the greatest joys of my week is when I take the time to go into the garden of my father's home. Over 40 years of focus, planning, research and continuous hard work by both my father and stepmother, have resulted in a garden which not only brings beauty in every season, but produce which feeds us and those who live nearby! I am constantly amazed at how tiny seeds can produce courgettes which are still giving (hopefully, in spite of the snails!) and runner beans galore from one bean.

There may be some work required to protect the growth of the plants – some thinning out as well as pruning, some protection of more tender plants to ensure little damage is done by pests or inclement weather – but all we do is stand back and wait to see the sprouting seedlings emerge... always a joy for my father and over the past year me too! The Gospel reading for this week is one of my absolute favourites and one to which I have turned so many, many times over the years. I find it both encouraging and challenging! Maybe you do too.

When I am anxious about how I am going to cope, what I can do in what seems an impossible situation or simply not knowing the next step to take, I am often drawn back to these verses:

*“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—  
Luke 12: 27-28*

Similarly, Jesus speaks of how the ravens/birds are cared for by God. So why is that we worry?

Perhaps because we are wired to stay in the pattern of thinking and behaviour we have learned and created: where our nervous system helps us stay safely where we are and sadly often deflects us from changing our perspective. It is SO much easier to focus on the struggle and forget that God has the solution. He is the one who protects us and guards us and who also brings life in the darkest times... it is after all when the seed dies that it produces much fruit...

I pray that this coming week we might be able to let God have our struggles and allow Him to show us His solutions....

*Maggie*



## Please pray for...



David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter, Sheila Lomas' brother John Widows and Debra Deeley's Son-in-law, Andy Morton. A quick update to say Andy came home to Sam & Arthur Friday evening - a little "exhausted, emotional, battered & bruised but at least I'm home with my little fam ... & my own bed!"

Proverbs 3 v 5-6 comes to mind as we hold the Lord's hand and walk each next step as it comes.

There are few words to express the thankfulness & relief we feel at this time... Thank you sounds so not enough

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

## The Times of our Lives! or is it still 12 o'clock?

Come and enjoy a concert (*and raise funds for St Mary's Clock and St John Ambulance*) at **7.00pm on Saturday, 5th October** in church. Elaine Cook's community choir, A Choired Taste, will be performing a mix of songs from across the years with guests Voicebox, the Grove school choir. Sit back and listen, but you will also have the opportunity to join in for a sing-a-long, returning by popular demand. Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle too, so bring some cash! Tickets, at £10 each, are available from Elaine, choir members, The Fields Kitchen and on the door (cash, please). Entry is free for under 11s. Elaine would be grateful for a few more volunteers to help on the door or with the raffle, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you are able to help.



## Messy Church

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3.30pm in the Parish Rooms**

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.



## Services

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

### 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

### 10.30am CW Morning Worship with prayer for healing

Readings: Psalm 103 Luke 12. 22-34

These services will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

### Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3Rm OG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

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>

## Harvest Festival 6<sup>th</sup> October

As usual our gifts this year will be going to the FoodBank.

Gifts that can be used for the Christmas Foodbank Hampers would be much appreciated . e.g. tins of ham; biscuits for cheese; tinned fruit, etc,. If anyone can help move the gifts to the Parish Rooms on the morning of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – please let Elaine in the church office know. Many thanks, Barbara

## Church Clock

Repairs to the clock are underway. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of repairs. This can be done by scanning this QR code or clicking here



<https://givealittle.co/c/4LCcgzleOjgqN78gn05FSA>

## Bring & Share Lunch

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October** hosted by our brass band ladies, Nita, Cynthia and Gillian, in the Parish Rooms.



## Mothers Union

Our next meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Rooms at 2.30 pm.

The speaker will be Barry Salter. All Welcome



## Visually Impaired Club

The leaders are looking for volunteers to work alongside them on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall in support of those with failing or no eyesight. Tea and cake is always served! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Barbara Shingler (tel: 652555) or ask Lyn Turnock or Carol Siddall.

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



**Jam; Cartons of UHT Milk; Cartons of Long-life Fruit Juice; Tins of Ham; Antibacterial Wipes.**

**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.

## Let There Be Heat!

There is now heating in the Parish Rooms. The programming of the system for our regular activities has been set and the system is able to be controlled remotely, as well as via thermostats in the building. I'm sure there will instructions! Many thanks to Elaine Cook and the Parish Rooms Team for their work on this project.

## Church Office

Please note Helen will be on Annual Leave from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and will return to the office on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. If you have anything urgent please contact Elaine by email or leave a message on the answer machine, tel; 653505. Elaine is a valued member of our congregation and volunteers for many things at the Sunday morning services. Please don't discuss work matters with her on Sundays, instead please drop her an email to read for when she's next in the office. Many Thanks.

## Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

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