

7th April 2024



Surely that's Impossible!

The second Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Low Sunday perhaps in contrast to the High festival of Easter. Certainly, the number of worshippers attending churches for the Sunday after Easter is usually lower (often a lot lower) than those who came for Easter. Others think that "Low" is a corruption of the Latin word "Laudes" with which the traditional service for this Sunday starts. Whatever the background there is definitely a sense, nowadays, that the Easter party is largely over by Low Sunday.

That was definitely not the case in Jerusalem for the very first Easter! Then Jesus' disciples were confused and afraid on Easter morning – who had rolled the stone away? Where was Jesus? Would the authorities come looking for them as well? Then the women said they had seen and spoken to Jesus. That took a lot of believing. Now two friends, probably tired, definitely miserable and seeking to console each other on their way back from Jerusalem have an encounter with Jesus whom they don't recognise and who disappears when they do! Resurrection is totally out of line with our everyday understanding of the world – impossible. It is as hard for us today as it was for Jesus' followers then properly to understand: first that nothing is impossible for our God who loves us deeply; and second, that the death and resurrection of God's wholly human (and wholly divine) Son was the only way for us fully to reconnect with our creator God, our Father.

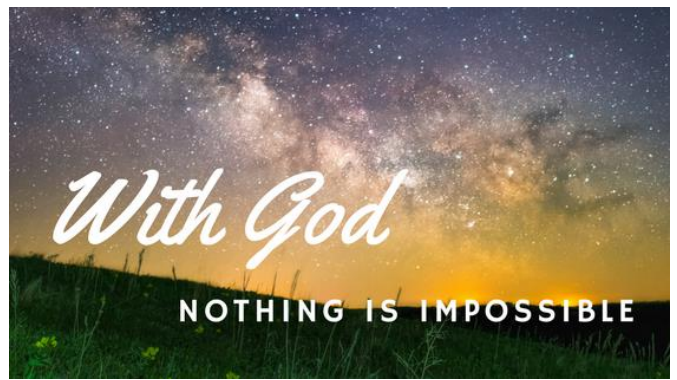
I love this quote from Alice in Wonderland: "Alice laughed. 'There's no use trying,' she said. 'One can't believe impossible things.' 'I daresay you haven't had much practice,' said the Queen. 'When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.'" The Queen was on to something important there. We do need: to rehearse our beliefs; to refresh our faith in God for whom anything is possible; and to follow Jesus and let him into our lives – holding his hand there is no end to the good we can do.

Lindsay

Mothers Union



Our next meeting will be on **Monday 8th April at 2:30pm**. This will be a Holy Communion Service in church, with Rev. Christine Simpson. Visitors very welcome.



Please pray for...



Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith, Sarah Moss, David Lucas, Marilyn Reeves, 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.

Treasurer Needed

Lindsay Bashford will be stepping down as Churchwarden the APCM (20th May). Lindsay has also been covering the role of Treasurer. Since we can't expect a new Churchwarden to assume this additional role it is really important that we appoint a new Treasurer. In fact, without a Treasurer, it will become increasingly difficult to find those willing to take on the role of Churchwarden.

We have now developed a team approach to managing our church finances, so that the burden doesn't fall on one person. In addition, we also now have Elaine as our Operations Manager, who is able to assist in many ways. If you think you may be interested in taking on this important role and would like to find out more (a role description is available), please speak to Catherine McBride (details overleaf) or Lindsay Bashford (01630 652656). Thank you.



The Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting at 10.30am on Friday 19th April in Festival Drayton for coffee, cake and chat.

Children's Society Box Collection



Dear All, Thank you SO much for your wonderful generosity and support of the Society this year. Altogether we raised an amazing £1,465.16. Thank you on behalf of all our young people to whom you are giving so much hope.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Readings: Acts 4:32-35, Luke 24: 13-35

This service 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

Residential Home Services

Monday 8th April 11.00am Woodcroft

Wednesday 10th April 2.00pm Tunstall Hall

UCB visit

A visit to the United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) facilities is being organised for **Tuesday 14th May**. This will include a sandwich lunch. The maximum group size is 20 so places are limited. If you would like to join the visit and learn more about the ministry of UCB, its prayer line and outreach work including the Word for Today, please contact Geoff Oakes as soon as possible (geoffoakes123@btinternet.com or on 01270-811017).

Dementia Friendly Songs of Praise

Tuesday 23rd April, 10.45 – 11.30am at Lichfield Cathedral. An informal service for all those impacted by dementia. With Tony Christie and the Cathedral choristers. The service will be filmed for BBC Songs of Praise. Contact Canon David to register: 07946 222667 david.primrose@lichfield-cathedral.org

RNLI 'Sing to Save Lives' Concert

Elaine's choirs are joining together in St Mary's on



Saturday 27th April to support the RNLI's 200th Anniversary campaign. Please help them support this very worthy cause. Wine and soft drinks are available at the interval. Tickets are £10 each and available from Elaine Cook.

Christ Church Little Drayton

 **Film Club Monday 15th April 1:00pm (films start at 1.30pm) at Christ Church.** This month's film is Brief Encounter. Free entry, coffee, raffle and cake. No money needed, and everyone welcome!

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Jars/tins of cooking/pasta sauces; dry cat food; tinned dog food; laundry powder/pods; washing up liquid; tinned rice pudding; 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 one in the church directory).

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

Dementia Week Coffee Morning

15th May 10.00am-12.00pm- proceeds for a performance of the "Disappearance of Eliza Grey" to be held in church 10th September.



Donations of baked goods appreciated, there are sign up sheets at the back of church.

As a Dementia friendly church we commit to different actions each year. For 2024 our three actions are:-

1. Hold a dementia-focused church service
2. Hold a Forget-Me-Not coffee morning to raise awareness about dementia and to raise funds for a performance of "The Disappearance of Eliza Grey" a dementia focused play.
3. Host an afternoon performance OF "The Disappearance of Eliza Grey" in our church on September 10th.

To do all these we would really be glad of some help! If you can assist in anyway, big or small, we would love to have you join us! Please speak to Val Creasey, Steph or Malcolm Grey-Smart or Avril Innocent for more information. Thank you.



Thank You to all the flower arrangers who decorated our church so beautifully for Easter Day!

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.