

14th April 2024



Have you ever seen a ghost?

When I was teaching full-time, one of the units our pupils loved was exploring ideas of the supernatural. Many of them not only had stories of experiences they had had, but also those of family members and many of these included sightings of ghosts.... Nothing held their attention more than these stories!

I wonder what exactly the disciples had expected to happen after the crucifixion of Jesus... they clearly had faith in something, to want to spend time with each other; perhaps they wanted to have each other's support in spite of the obvious dangers of doing so in that highly charged political environment. So, when Jesus appears to them it might have been more logical for them to be overjoyed, rush to talk and greet him and be in awe of the proof that He was alive. Not according to Luke! They were *'startled and afraid'*... I think I might have used the word terrified! Whilst Jesus had told them what was going to happen it certainly seems as if they didn't really believe it... and I guess who can blame them! Yes, they had seen amazing miracles happen, they had heard Jesus teach truth that changed their lives, but He had gone and without His physical presence, so it seems had their faith...

I think I almost hear Jesus sigh.... Yet again the faith of the disciples had not seemed to stand this test... Yet to be honest, I am as guilty of a lack of faith in Jesus as they apparently were. How many times have I asked God to do something and then not really believed He would? How often has God said to me: 'Trust me' and I have gone off and tried to work it all out in my own strength and done it MY way?

Hebrews 11:1 says: *'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen'*.

The Resurrection of Jesus, the number of times He appeared to disciples after He rose from the dead the stories of what happened are all there to fuel our faith: Jesus IS alive – He's no ghost - and if that is true: *'He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power working in us.'*

Maggie

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, David Halford and John Barnes.

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.

Canal Outreach

Thank you to everyone who donated hot cross buns or made financial contributions to the canal towpath Easter outreach. We gave away Easter cards, Christian literature and nearly 200 hot cross buns. Families who took part in quizzes along the towpath were rewarded with Easter eggs and books. Everyone who came past was wished a Happy Easter from the churches in Market Drayton. Thank you too for your prayers and to all who came to join us over the four days. We were very encouraged by all your help and support.
Jan and John Halford

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship CW

Readings: Acts 3: 12-19, Luke 24: 36b-48

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



Worship @ 6

Sunday 14th April at Market Drayton Methodist Church.

Bring and Share Lunch

From 1pm on **Sunday 21st April**, hosted by Hilary Talbot in the Parish Rooms.



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. To book 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 Lichfield Cathedral. An informal service for 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 at



7.30pm on Saturday 27th April to support the RNLI's 200th Anniversary campaign. Please help them support this very worthy cause. Wine and soft drinks provided 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.

Tins/cartons of 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.



The Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

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



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

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