

6th April 2025



Living Hope: Courage

In our Lent course, **Living hope**, the theme for this week is **courage**. However, in the reading for today from 2 Corinthians chapter 4, Paul lists many things through which he and the early church might well be discouraged. In the passage Paul says that *"the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers"*; and he goes on to say *"we were hard pressed on every side; we were perplexed; we were persecuted; we were struck down; we faced death"*. But for all this he was able to say: *"WE DO NOT LOSE HEART"*. We might well ask what was it that kept them going; what was the **"Living Hope"** that gave them the courage to persevere? Paul lists several things: he says that their ministry was from God and He supplied the strength necessary for them to persevere. They were not concerned by what people thought of them, because their one aim was to present Jesus as Lord and bring glory to Him. They were convinced that, to quote verse 6: *"God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness', made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"*. In other words, they knew that in serving Christ, for all the opposition and hardship, God was able to bring light to people's darkened souls and reveal His glory to them. Today we might find witnessing to Jesus difficult and hard going. The apparent irrelevance of God in many people's lives today may be disheartening. People's unwillingness to understand and accept the great love that God has for them shown in the giving of His Son, we might find most discouraging. But let us have the same understanding that Paul had, that the light of Christ is able to break through the darkness of this world, bringing a knowledge of the love of God and life through His Son to a needy world and, through this, glory to God. This is our **living hope**, so therefore LET US NOT LOSE HEART.

David

Open Church



Due to the Lent course in church during Lent, the church will be open from **12.00pm – 2.00pm on Wednesdays**. Normal time will resume after Easter.



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Christine Fish, Nita's grandson, Ben and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean. Elaine Cook would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her mother, Jose who is recovering very well from her operation. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

New Electoral Roll.

A new Electoral Roll is being prepared this year. If you wish to be on the new Roll, **you must** submit an application form **by 20th April** (Easter Day!), even if you are on the current Electoral Roll. New Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of the church on the welcome table. Completed forms should be put in the box also on the welcome table. If you have any queries, please talk to Pat Fox.



Mothers' Union Cake and Preserves Stall...

Sunday 6th April after both the 9.00 and 10.30 services, to raise money for the MU appeal, "Gift of Peace". It is focusing on providing training for Parenting Programmes in the Solomon Islands and four African states. If you don't eat cake, we are happy to receive donations to help further this important work.



Easter Canal Towpath Outreach

We will be on the canal towpath near Newcastle Road, Bridge 62 again this year, giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs, inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. This year's event will be the **weekend before Easter**, running from 12th-14th April. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. Donations of hot cross buns (well inside their best before date, please) and/or contribute to the costs gratefully received. Please bring buns to St Mary's on Wednesday 9th April between 12.00pm and 2.00pm or contact us to arrange collection at another time. More details from Jan and John Halford. 07478 337188 Thank you.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **2 Corinthians 4; Luke 9. 23-27**

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>

Easter at St Mary's

Palm Sunday 13th April

Meet at War Memorial Cheshire Street at 10.00am if you want to process up to church.

Maundy Thursday 17th April

Holy Communion 7.00pm

Good Friday 18th April

Walk of Witness: meet at St Mary's at 10.00am TBC

Last Hour at the Cross 2.00pm

Tenebrae Service 7.00pm

Easter Day 20th April

Sunrise Service 5.45am

BCP Holy Communion 9.00am

CW Holy Communion 10.30am



Good Friday Service,

18th April, 2pm "Hour at the Cross"

If you will be attending the above Service and would be willing to read a passage of Scripture at that Service, will you please contact David Jones (01630 657152 or 07923 525211).

Ops Manager Absence

Elaine Cook will be working remotely until Easter while she cares for her mother. If you need to get in touch with Elaine, please email or phone her on her work mobile.

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.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.;

Tins/Cartons of Custard; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Dry Dog Food; Women's Shampoo; Women's Conditioner; Shower Gel.

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.



Children's Society Boxes

Dear box holders, each Sunday we pray "

Lord we give generously because we want to become more like you" Well you certainly have been exceedingly generous this year as we have raised £1616.19. Wonderful! I can't thank you enough alongside the thanks we have received from Andrew Moran our Head of Support. Please do continue to support this valuable charity. If you would like to join us please speak to me or contact me via phone or email (see the church directory) Thank you once again. Much love in Christ Elaine X

Church Organ Fundraising Event

We are raising funds for a new electronic church organ and want to draw your attention to a Social Evening in the Parish Rooms at 6:30pm on Saturday 3rd May 2025. This will consist of a quality evening dinner followed by entertainment which will include music, song, humour and conversation. We are charging £10.00 per person and all monies obtained will go to an organ fund. We are using our own talent and believe we can provide an entertaining and different evening to your usual activities. Please come; tickets will be available from mid-April.

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

Phone: 07454 441943

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.