

8th June 2025



Life Changing

"Life changing" when I hear those words on the news, nearly every time they are followed by a harrowing story – life changing injuries following some natural or man-made disaster normally mean something pretty grim for the recipient. There are, however, plenty of good news "life changing" stories – better exam results than expected or meeting the love of one's life unexpectedly open doors full of promise and hope. A consistent thread in the Old Testament is the association between God's presence and fire. God met Moses in a burning bush and spoke to him in his own language. As the people of Israel moved from Egypt to the promised land, God's was always present either as a pillar of cloud/smoke by day or of fire by night. Encountering God so directly was always life changing. Which brings us to Pentecost – the birthday of the Church, when God's Spirit descended on Jesus' apostles as a tongue of fire touching their heads. The apostles were Jews, from Galilee and probably only spoke that language. Touched by God's Spirit they took heart and spoke to the crowd of the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Just to make sure there was no misunderstanding the words the apostles spoke were heard in the native language of the hearers. Those who embraced the preaching of the apostles were baptised and the Spirit rested on them also. Now that's what I call "life changing". Not all of us may have met Jesus in such dramatic circumstances, but for each of us, when we turned to Christ, he breathed his Spirit on us to give us the power to spread the good news he brings. As a lovely old hymn puts it: "Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire..." The Holy Spirit continues to bring us gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder at God's grandeur. The Holy Spirit still moves Christians today, giving strength and hope to all of us whatever our circumstances. Pentecost reminds us that God continues to work in us and through us as we build His Kingdom.

Lindsay

Please pray for...



Brian McClellan, John Panter, Jenny Wade, Mary Senior, Jill Alexander's daughter, Jodie, who is waiting for surgery to remove her gallbladder, Nita's grandson, Ben, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), and Helen Sweet's son-in-law, Alan Dean.

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

Churches Together

The next Churches Together outdoor prayer meeting is on **Saturday 21st June**. For all who want to seek God together for His work in the town, please meet outside the library at **11am for 30 minutes**.

Mothers Union

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be on **Monday, 9th June at 2.30pm** in the Parish Rooms. We will be having an illustrated talk given by Peter Brown taking us on "A Walk along the Canal". Visitors are welcome.



Bring and Share Lunch.



The next lunch will be on **Sunday, 15th June**, hosted by Margaret Law at Emmanuel Lodge, Longslow Rd, TF9 3BP. All welcome.

Archdeacon's Visitation

We have the annual Archdeacons visitation in St Mary's this year on the **16th June starting at 7.00pm**. We will be offering refreshments before and after the service and would like donations of cakes/biscuits. Could you sign the list on the table at the back of the church if you are able to help. For more information please talk to Pat Fox. Help with refreshments would be appreciated.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings Acts 2.1-21 John 14: 15 - 27

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

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>

Pioneering Parishes

Maybe you've heard the term 'pioneering' used of certain church activities, or heard people referred to as 'Pioneer Ministers' ...and maybe you've wondered 'what's that all about?'

As the name suggests, pioneer ministry is predominantly outward focussed, directed towards those not already part of the worshipping community – and one of its key features is that it tends to emerge from something else that is already happening, which God seems to be really using to draw people together. Lichfield Diocese have enlisted the services of an organisation called Pioneering Parishes, who enable churches to become more outward-looking and recognise what God is already doing in their midst and in their communities - things which can become opportunities for engaging people with the Christian faith. They have already begun working with Rugeley Deanery and now Wem & Whitchurch Deanery have asked if Hodnet Deanery would like to join with them to explore how they might help our churches too.

A taster session will be held on **Saturday 28th June, 9.30am-3.30pm at St Mary's Parish Rooms**. Anybody who is interested is welcome. Please let Catherine know if you would like to attend.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Sponge Pudding; Biscuits; Toilet Rolls; Sanitary Towels; Shampoo; Cleaning Products

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.



Baby Bank

Thursday 19th June,

9am-11am at Raven

House. Pop in to choose some free baby clothes and equipment.



From the Parish Rooms Committee:



It would be really appreciated if church members would not park at the Parish Rooms unless attending an event there. Thank you

Save the Date:

Concert in aid of our organ fund



Come to a concert on **Saturday 23rd August** by Shifnal Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund.

Congratulations

To John Panter, who will be 80 on 22nd June.

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.