

10th August 2025



What is Faith?

The first Reading for this Sunday is Hebrews 11: 1 - 3, 8 - 16. Hebrews chapter 11 in the New Living Translation starts like this: *"What is Faith?"* and then answers the question: *"It is the confident assurance that what we hope for will happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see."* The rest of the chapter gives examples of what faith is with reference to incidents in the lives of many of the Old Testament 'heroes'. Our reading itself illustrates what faith is with specific reference to incidents in the life of Abraham. It tells us that although Abraham and his wife were passed child-bearing age Abraham believed that God would keep His promise that he would have a son and become the father of a great nation. Abraham was indeed 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old when their son, Isaac, was born! Later on, when Isaac was a young boy, God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. (By the way, this was not so extraordinary in those days when children were commonly offered as sacrifices to the various gods). Abraham's faith was such that he believed that, even if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life. You will no doubt, however, remember the story of how God provided Abraham with a ram to sacrifice in place of Isaac at the very last minute. In a way, faith is the practical outworking of what we believe. To understand faith, perhaps this little story will help. A little boy had gone climbing with his father, however the little boy had somehow got himself into a position whereby he could neither go up further or back down, and he became very frightened. His father was just a short way below him and said to the boy: "I can catch you if you jump down into my arms. Do you believe I will do that?" The little boy said: "Yes, daddy I trust you", and with that he let himself drop into his daddy's arms. This was faith, the little boy acting on his belief that his father would catch him. The evidence of our faith is in our behaviour - acting out our lives in a way that demonstrates that Jesus truly is our Lord and Saviour.

David

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Please pray for...



Sue Norman, Brian McClellan, John Panter, Mary Senior, Joe McPhee, Cherian George, Nita's grandson, Ben, Debra Deeley's son-in-law, Andy and Jude Niklas-Carter who is in intensive care at Shrewsbury hospital and her husband Charles Nicklas-Carter.

Jenny Wade's funeral will be here at St Mary's on **Wednesday 13th August at 12.00.**

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list. The list will be routinely reviewed every few months.

A Message from Helen Sweet

On behalf of my daughter Clare and both grandchildren, I would like to thank all those who supported us in prayer during my son-in-law Alan Dean's lengthy illness and to all at St Mary's who have given and sent comforting messages of sympathy.

Shifnal & District Male Voice Choir Concert in aid of our organ fund

Saturday 23rd August at 7.00pm in church.



I am really looking forward to this concert and performing for you as a guest with the choir. Only 11 tickets have been sold to date, so please see me for yours or just pay at the door. If you are available to help with welcoming or serving refreshments at this event, please sign the sheet at the Welcome desk. Thank you, Elaine

Refreshments

If you enjoy a coffee and nibbles on a Sunday morning after the 10.30 service, please consider joining our group of volunteers. Contact Pat Fox if you are interested.



Bring and Share

Sunday 17th August at 38 Prospect Road, the home of Liz Barnes. This is to be a BBQ so please pray for good weather! Burgers, sausages and bread provided, please bring anything else you would like to eat both savoury (salads) and sweet.



Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12.32-40

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>

Charity Auction



The local community are organising a charity auction to raise funds to help towards: a) the cost of the fire damage; and b) improvements to

security. Nick Allsopp, a local auctioneer, together with Nicola, the licensee of The Crown in the town centre, have arranged for the auction to take place on

Thursday 14th August at 7.30pm in the Crown.

Everyone is welcome. They are also organising a draw and if anyone would like to donate a draw prize or an item to sell at auction, Kath Slater has put a box at the back of church. Kath will also have draw tickets available to buy.

The deadline for all donations for auction is Sunday 10th August at the latest

Swap Shop

The next Swap Shop will be on **Saturday 6th September** from 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received as well as helpers please.



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

We will meet as usual at Festival Drayton on **Friday 15th August** at 10.30am for coffee, cake and a chat.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Tinned Fruit; Long-life Fruit Juice; Jam; Men's / Ladies Deodorant; Anti-bac spray/wipes; Shampoo / Conditioner.

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.

Quiz Night St John's Ightfield



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

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