

1st June 2025



God's transforming power

It's wonderful to think that no one, whatever they have done in their life is beyond God's love.

Both the passages we have for the readings this week, speak of the transformative power of God's presence in human lives, especially through unity and radical grace. In Acts, Paul and Silas are unjustly imprisoned, yet their response is not bitterness but worship. Their singing shakes the prison, literally and spiritually, leading to a miraculous jailbreak. But the true miracle is not just the opened doors, but the opened heart of the jailer. Expecting death, he finds salvation. Their refusal to flee and their message of Jesus turn an enemy into a brother. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Here, salvation is not private but communal, echoing the unity Jesus prays for in John 17.

In John 17:20–26, Jesus prays not only for His disciples but for all future believers. His greatest desire is unity: "that they may all be one." This unity isn't mere agreement, but a reflection of the perfect love between the Father and the Son, a divine, relational oneness. Jesus longs for His followers to experience the same glory and love that He shares with the Father. This unity becomes the most powerful witness to the world: "that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Together, we are challenged to live in radical faith and love. Whether in suffering or joy, worship and unity are acts of witness. The church, when truly united in love, becomes a living testimony of Christ's presence, capable of transforming even the darkest places into sites of salvation.

Peter

Please pray for...



John Panter, Colin Smith, 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.

Christians Against Poverty Celebration

Despite the closure of our CAP Debt Centre earlier this year, we really want to celebrate and give thanks to God for everything that he has done through the work of the Centre and our other CAP services (Job Club, Fresh Start, Money Course and Life Skills) over the years. A celebration service will be held here at St Mary's **this Sunday 1st June at 6.30pm.** Everyone is welcome – we hope you can join us.



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.**

Bring and Share Lunch.



The next lunch will be on Sunday 15th June, hosted by Margaret Law. All welcome.



Messy Church

Tuesday 3rd June
3.30pm – 5.15pm
in the Parish Rooms

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **Acts 16.16-34 John 17.20-end**

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



CAP Celebration Service

Sunday 1st June 6.30pm. All welcome.

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

APCM update

Many thanks to all those who came to our Vestry Meeting and APCM the other week.

We were delighted that Margaret Deaville and Peter Fox were elected as our Churchwardens and our thanks were expressed to Maggie Everett, as she stepped down as Churchwarden.

Your elected PCC members are: Geoff Oakes, Janet Gilliand, Steve Glover, Hilary Talbot, Kath Slater (who is also PCC Secretary), Justin Frankfort and Richard Priestley. Carol Corney is an ex officio member and Richard Betham and Geoff Oakes serve as our Deanery Synod representatives. Val Creasey stepped down after many years on PCC in one capacity or another and we are so grateful for all that she has done for us. There are a number of casual vacancies on PCC. If you would be interested in joining us, please speak to Catherine McBride.

Our Electoral Roll now stands at 118, which is down considerably from the previous Roll. If you think you may have inadvertently dropped off the Electoral Roll when it was recently renewed, or you've never been on the Roll and would like to join it, forms are available at the back of church or speak to someone in the Church Office who can provide you with one.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Sponge Pudding; Biscuits; Toilet

Rolls; Sanitary Towels; Shampoo; Cleaning Products

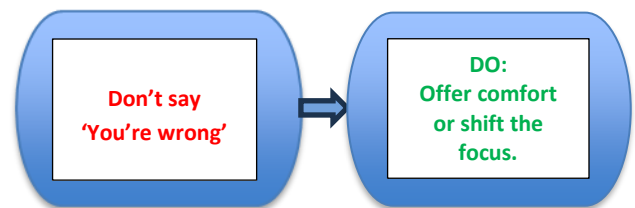
We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

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



What not to say to someone with dementia



When a person says something you know is not true, your first impulse may be to correct their belief. This can be distressing for the person, as they are likely to be as convinced of their belief as you are in yours.

As dementia progresses, the person will find it hard to accept logic and so it may not be possible to convince them that their belief is incorrect. This can lead to confusion, bad feeling, or arguments.

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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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