

2nd February 2025

What child is this?

Doesn't Christmas already seem a long time ago? Events throughout the word have unfolded, as they always seem to do, at an unrelenting pace. Change is all around us, some good and some not so good and we long for the day of the Lord's coming when all the good in us is affirmed and all the bad consigned to the fire. This is what Malachi foresaw, but I wonder if he was as uncomfortable about it as we may be. His is an all-action prophecy with God acting with overwhelming and immediate agency – a rush of events and calling to account that is fraught with difficulty for us all. But wait, around the corner there is hope. A hope of getting things right with God that advances at an altogether slower pace. Our gospel story tells us about the presentation of Jesus in the temple, the last we hear about His infancy and a traditional close to Christmas and Epiphany. Our Christmas carol asks: "What child is this?" Luke's account here provides an answer. Faithful Jews, like Mary and Joseph, followed the law and brought their first-born son to the temple in Jerusalem to be consecrated to the Lord. They meet two older devout worshippers, Simeon and Anna, who have distinctive insight about who Jesus is. Simeon reveals Jesus as the salvation of Israel and a light who shines for everyone. Now Simeon can come to the end of his life at peace, secure in the knowledge that God has intervened decisively in His world. In a tender, pastoral note, Anna follows on from Simeon and, like the shepherds before her, speaks about Jesus to all who live in hope of redemption. Anna's insight should be the guide for our way in life. We can follow Jesus, love him as He loves us and let that love flow out of us to everyone we meet. When we commit to that way of life – and 'The Way' was a very early name for Christian living – we, like Simeon and Anna, can live confident that, with Jesus within and beside us, we can face whatever calling to account there is when He returns to reign.

Lindsay



Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade and Nita's grandson, Ben. We also pray for those recently bereaved: the families and friends of Alan James, Susan Hendley, Hazel Rosier, June Roberts and Sheila Roper. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

2025 Church Directory

The new Church Directory is available to collect from the welcome desk during services or from the church office.

We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to help our church and services run smoothly. There are lots of roles: welcoming, the audio/ visual desk, bookshop, refreshments etc. Please pray about how you can serve St Mary's and contact Helen in the church office to volunteer. Many Thanks

Confirmation Service

Our Deanery is holding a Confirmation Service on **Sunday 23rd February at 4.00pm at Christ Church, Little Drayton.** Everyone is welcome to come along and support those involved. Please pray for our candidates as they prepare for their confirmation:
Tracey Stretch
Stephen Huyton
Ellie Carr
Matthew (Harry) Allee



Bring and Share Lunches 2025.

These will resume in February when we are invited to Kath McClellan's, 3 Victoria Road on Sunday 16th Feb. A list is now available in the Welcome area for offers to host these very popular events.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: **Malachi 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40**

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>

Churches Together

A summary from the Churches Together meeting held on the 14th January: The meeting endorsed the recommendation that the Market Drayton Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre and its other services be closed down, due to a lack of clients. This recommendation will go to the St Mary's PCC for ratification on 3rd February. Hopes for a new ministry to support our local community were welcomed and this will be explored further. There was agreement that Churches Together in Market Drayton should continue and currently Mark Lawrence from Freedom Church will act at Chair.

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



We will meet as usual at Festival Drayton on 21st Feb at 10:30

We are having a speaker from the Market Drayton museum.

Children's Society Boxes



Calling all box holders and cheque writers! It's time for me to collect this year's donations. Please could you bring your box etc to church or

deliver to No. 60 Rowan Road where a cuppa and warm welcome is waiting for you. You can contact me on 07846 715620 if you would prefer me to collect from you. Thank you in advance for all your generous gifts.

Much love Elaine Mason.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

Men's Razors and Deodorant; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Spaghetti; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Biscuits; Full Fat (blue) UHT Milk.

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans.

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.



Messy Church

Tuesday 4th February 3.30pm in the Parish Rooms



Romania Link Fund Raiser Lunch



Saturday 8th February 6pm see poster on the noticeboard for further details. Please contact John Corney (653137) if interested.

Swap Shop

Saturday 8th February, from 10.30 am in the Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received (men's clothing particularly welcome), as well as helpers please.



Severn Hospice Collection

Thanks to everyone who gave generously to the Severn Hospice collection at the Christmas Carol Service. £180.13 was raised in total.

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

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

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