

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024



## All Saints

Do you know any saints? I clearly remember a Christian friend telling me: "I have no idea what the Apostles' creed means when it talks about believing in the communion of saints. I thought they all died long ago, and they really don't mean much to me now." Well, that was a challenge to answer. My first response was that I was completely confident that there were plenty of saints alive today, just as there always had been and just as there always will be. They may not be easy to recognise and probably none of them think of themselves as saints. However, their actions – of love, care, compassion, kindness and so on – performed with humility, without self-interest and faith-inspired reveal inner qualities we recognise as saintly. Throughout my life, I have always had the privilege to know and relate to people whom I regard as saintly – these are the people I turn to directly or in prayer to guide me when I am not sure about the right way to go.

Our gospel reading, Matthew's account of the beatitudes takes us to the heart of Jesus' teaching about His Kingdom and the attitudes and behaviours we need to adopt to take part. They are not easy: again and again, Jesus seems to be saying the opposite of what we expect. The inhabitants in His Kingdom are poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry for righteousness, merciful, peace-making, persecuted and reviled but thank goodness, they are also blessed. Jesus lived out and showed us the right way: not world-centred or self-centred but God-centred. It's all summed up in his two commandments – love God and love our neighbours. Fortunately, there are lots of people who have chosen the Jesus way, a great cloud of witnesses. When we let Jesus into our lives, we join that cloud and can draw strength from all the others in it. In that cloud are people we respect and honour, cherish and nurture. They can inspire us as we can inspire them. This what I think when I say: "I believe in the communion of saints."

*Lindsay*



## Please pray for...

Colin Smith, John Panter, Norman Law and Diana Picton-Robinson. Also, for Debra Deeley's Son-in-law, Andy Morton and Nita Heath's son-in-law, Gordon Robinson. Molly Lucas wants to thank everyone who prayed for her son David who has now completed the intensive treatment for cancer which has gone very well. Thanks be to God.

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

## Christmas Choir - will you join in?



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December are at **7.30pm** on Thursdays, currently for harmony singers, with sopranos and tune singers joining from **28<sup>th</sup> November**. All welcome.

## St Mary's Autumn Meeting

Each year our Autumn meeting is a chance to catch up with what's going on in our church and reflect on where God may be calling us. This year's meeting is on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm** in church. We hope to see you there.

## Bring and Share Lunch



Nita & John have kindly offered to host the next lunch on 17<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish Rooms. They will need a few helpers so please speak to them if you are available.

## Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at Festival Drayton for coffee and chat. Why not stay for lunch? 13<sup>th</sup> December 12.00pm, Christmas meal at the Red Lion. Menu to follow. Please book your place with a £5 deposit at the November meeting.



## Mothers Union



Our next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish Rooms at 2.30pm. All welcome

## Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Holy Communion**

Readings: Hebrews 12. 1-3, 18-24 Matthew 5. 1-12

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>

## Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

The service on Remembrance Sunday is at **10.45am**, there is no 9.00am service that day. Instead, a Communion service will be held at 6.30pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November.



## Operation Christmas Child

Boxes and instructions are at the back of church for those wanting to put together some gifts for a child in need this Christmas. We collected a record 55 boxes last year and we are hoping to match or surpass that amount this year.

Please bring filled boxes and the £5 distribution cost per box to church the **week starting 11<sup>th</sup> November** with all boxes to be in **by end of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**, ready to go the following week. **Please do not leave boxes in church before 11<sup>th</sup> November.** If you are unable to fill a shoebox but want to contribute you can leave a donation in the envelope at the back of the leaflet and give it to Hilary Talbot or hand it in at the church office.



## Singing For the Brain

For people living with dementia, friends, family & carers, or even if you want to come for a sing-a-long. We meet every **Thursday 1.45pm** at the Beacon Centre. £2.50 pp includes tea and biscuits. For further details please contact Avril 01630 656264

## Good News Stories

We'd love to share some stories of what God has been doing in our lives. If you have an encouraging story you'd be willing to share on a Sunday morning please let Catherine know.

## Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

**Shampoo; Conditioner; Toilet Rolls;**

**Laundry Washing Pods;**

**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.

## Prayer Link

St Mary's has a dedicated group of people called the "Prayer Link", who link up to pray for any situation/request that is put to us. All requests are strictly confidential. We ensure each member of the group receives the prayer and prays as soon as the prayer is received.

Sometimes it's very hard to pray for yourself or others and you need to feel the peace, comfort and strength that comes from knowing others are praying for you.

Our usual first contact is either through:

Elaine Mason 07846715620 [nickjgmason@gmail.com](mailto:nickjgmason@gmail.com)

Carol Corney 01630 653137 or 07932 642246

[candjcorney@gmail.com](mailto:candjcorney@gmail.com)

Or speak to us in person.

If you love to pray for others please join us. Contact Elaine or Carol.

There is a list at the back of the church of the whole group and you can contact anyone of us. Please use us! God bless you all, Elaine

## Swap Shop

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, from 10.30 am in the Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received (men's clothing particularly welcome), as well as helpers please.



## 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](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

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