

4th January 2026



We Three Kings

Over the Christmas period we met Mary, Joseph, angels and shepherds. Today we meet what appears to be travellers from far afield about who we know so little. The visit of the Magi is more than a charming nativity scene; it is a revelation. These travellers from the East were outsiders: not shepherds of Israel, not scholars of the Law, but Gentile seekers guided by a star. God announces the birth of the Messiah beyond expected borders. The light of Christ shines where we might not think to look.

Their journey contrasts sharply with the reaction in Jerusalem. Herod, threatened by the news, responds with fear and duplicity. The chief priests, though knowledgeable, remain stationary. They can quote prophecy but do not take the short walk to worship the One it foretells. Knowing about Jesus is not the same as seeking Him.

The Magi, however, persevere. They follow the light before full understanding. Faith often begins with a stirring, not a syllabus. When the star stops, they rejoice, worship is the destination, not an interruption. They offer gifts rich in meaning: gold for kingship, frankincense for divinity, myrrh foreshadowing suffering. They worship a King who will rule not by force but by sacrifice.

Then comes a subtle but vital obedience: "They departed, another way." Encountering Jesus always redirects us. Worship reshapes our route, our priorities, our loyalties. We cannot return unchanged.

This passage invites us to ask: Are we moving toward the light, or merely analysing it from afar? The star still calls seekers. Christ still welcomes outsiders. And worship still sends us home, by another way.

Peter



Please pray for...



Rachel (a member of our Thursday congregation); Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Ben Robinson; Jack Cade; Finley Parton; John and Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris; Hilary Talbot's friend Kelly.

We also pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Eric White and Timothy Haywood.

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.

Children and Families Worker

Please join us in welcoming Carol Preston who starts in this position on Monday 5th January, 2026. Contact details will be in next week's Newsletter.

Games Café

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 13th January at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Feel free to bring your own games or just turn up to join in the fun. Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Entrance fee of £1



Mothers' Union



...are collecting used postage stamps for charity. Please leave your stamps in the container on the welcome desk at the back of church. Thank you

Christmas Cards

There are still some cards in the pigeon-holes by the main (west) door. Please check to see if anyone has left you a Christmas card.

Services

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

Sunday 4th January

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 and Matthew 2: 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 Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

PCC News

At the last PCC meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the installation of external CCTV cameras to improve security. A local firm will be engaged and Peter Fox is applying for a faculty. As soon as this is received we can proceed with the work. Over 50% of the cost has been raised by donations and the proceeds of the auction at The Crown at the end of August. The remaining cost will be met from the Fabric Fund.

And...

Every three years we decide which Christian charities we support. From 2026 PCC have decided we will support Ukraine Christian Ministries and Waterways Chaplaincy (pending reassurance about their continuation). In addition, we will continue to support Tearfund, Embrace the Middle East and UCB. Each charity will receive £1,600 for each of the next three years. For further information please speak to Geoff Oakes.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Washing up liquid; sponge
puddings/cakes; long-life fruit juice; pasta/cooking sauce; small jars of coffee; biscuits; laundry tabs/pods; toilet roll; female deodorant; toothpaste; sanitary towels; shampoo; anti-bacterial wipes/spray.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; rice; baked beans; pasta.

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



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting Friday 16th January 2026.

Details to follow.

Film Club

Christ Church Little Drayton

Thursday 15th January 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Light lunch and raffle.

ALL FREE and everyone welcome.

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

Children and Families Worker: Carol Preston

Phone: tbc

E-mail: tbc

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund