

5th January 2025 (updated)



Epiphany is a great word, I've decided.

Did you know, for example, that it has a couple of meanings? One meaning is 'a manifestation' (another good word!). That's an event, action or object that clearly shows or embodies something which would otherwise be very abstract or theoretical.

Today, we remember the arrival of the Magi. They had poured over old prophesies predicting the birth of a new and mighty King of Israel. They had searched the heavens for astronomical signs which they theorised would herald the birth of such a king. Now they finally arrive in Bethlehem and nothing is theoretical anymore. The child before them is the embodiment of all their predictions and theories. And he is so much more than that. We know that this child is the embodiment of God himself. God is no longer abstract – he is flesh and blood.

A second meaning of epiphany is a moment of sudden and great revelation. Did the Magi really understand who this child was? Who knows? We do know they understood enough to realise their strange and prophetic gifts had found their way to the right recipient: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest and myrrh for a sacrificial death. And they understood enough to heed a dream, warning them not to go back to Herod and disclose the child's whereabouts. Something of this child's true identity and destiny had been revealed to them.

The Magi's journey is one we can all undertake: a journey to discover the God who is not theoretical or abstract, but who through Jesus is very real and very present with us every day; a journey in allowing this real God to reveal himself to us in Jesus: the one who died for us, the one who still intercedes for us, the one who is King.

Catherine

Please pray for...



Iris Thomas, John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith.

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

Churches Together Special Meeting

There will be a special meeting of Market Drayton Churches Together on **Tuesday 14th January at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church**. There will be some important discussions about the future of our Churches Together group and also about the future of Christians Against Poverty in Market Drayton. Please do make every effort to attend.

AV Desk

As Mike Rushworth steps down from operating the sound and visuals desks and from managing the AV desk rota, we now need more volunteers to help on the desk. Full training will be given. Please contact Elaine Cook for more information or, better still, to volunteer.

Messy Church

There is no Messy Church in January.

Our next session will be on Tuesday 4th February 3.30pm. We are still

looking for one or two more to join our Messy Church catering team. Please talk to Catherine McBride or David Lake if you can help.



Sidespeople & Welcomers

There is another opportunity to serve in church as a welcoming face before our services. We need a new sidesperson for the 10.30am service each first Sunday and it would also be helpful to have a couple of reserves. Please let Helen in the office know if you would like to help in this way. Many thanks to everyone who undertakes this valuable work and especially to Alan Venables who is stepping down after many years.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 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=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFZz09>

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>

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.

The Bells!

On Sunday morning as you walk into Church you will hear the Bells of St Mary's ringing out to the Community, have you ever wondered how the bells are rung? Would you like to visit the tower and see the Bellringers in action? Would you like to try your hand at ringing a church bell?

A New Year, a new opportunity. If you would like to see the Bellringers of St Mary's in action or try your hand on a bell rope, please contact David Beckwith (Tower Captain) by email beckwithda@yahoo.co.uk to arrange a mutually convenient time to visit the tower.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; £5 Shepley's Butcher's Vouchers; Biscuits; Small Jars of Coffee; 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

Requests for prayer can be made to our dedicated 'Prayer Link' team. Please contact Elaine Mason 07846715620 nickjgmason@gmail.com or Carol Corney 01630 653137 or 07932 642246 candjcorney@gmail.com - or speak to them in person. If you love to pray for others, why not think about joining the team.

Christmas Holidays & Office Hours

Helen and Catherine both return on 6th January. Elaine will be away from 6th until 15th January.

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.