

6th October 2024



Living in Shropshire, I'm more aware of the passing seasons than when I lived in London. Surrounded by trees and fields you can't help but notice the changing colours and shades; the fresh growth of spring and the falling leaves of autumn ...and, of course, there's the various agricultural machinery you get stuck behind throughout the year on the A53!

I think, as human beings, we are 'wired' to appreciate and respond to the rhythm of life around us. As the Bible puts it, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.' Certain times and seasons elicit particular responses within us: whether it's the anticipation we feel at the beginning of a new year or the extra energy we feel when the days start to brighten and lengthen. Certain times of year act as place-markers; reminders or prompts to ourselves to do something. Harvest is one of those times.

What response does the season of Harvest elicit in you?

Perhaps many of us – unless our livelihoods depend on the land – have lost touch with the genuine, heartfelt feelings of relief, gratitude and thankfulness that having the harvest 'safely gathered in' used to evoke. That's a shame, I think. We can end up taking so much for granted and forget our dependency on creation, on one another ...and on God.

Harvest is a timely reminder to pause for a moment and simply be thankful for everything we have; to remember that we have so much compared with many in this world; to be grateful for every blessing we receive. You may wish to join me in this prayer....

Father God, forgive me when I am careless with your creation and its resources. Forgive me when I take my plenty for granted and ignore the needs of others. Thank you for your many blessings to me. Thank you for food and drink, for home and health, for friends and family. Thank you for your abundant love for me. Amen.

Catherine



Please pray for...

David Lucas, Colin Smith, David Halford, John Panter and Debra Deeley's Son-in-law, Andy Morton. Nita Heath also asks for our prayers for her son-in-law, Gordon Robinson, recovering from a cancer operation. Sheila Lomas thanks you for your prayers for her brother, John Widdows, who died peacefully on Monday in Plymouth.

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

Tear Fund Big Quiz

Saturday 2nd November in the Parish Rooms. Last year we had great fun whilst raising money for Tear Fund. Why don't you join us this year? Teams of 4 – 6 and individuals welcome. Please let Elaine know on



opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com so we can ensure there are enough answer sheets to go round. More details to follow closer to the date.

Christmas Choir - will you join in?



All enthusiastic carollers are invited to join the 'Christmas Choir' for St Mary's Carol service in December. Practices start at **7.30pm** on Thursdays from **17th October** for harmony singers, with sopranos and tune singers joining from **28th November**. Please let Elaine Cook know if you'd like to take part.

Thank You

... to those who manned the church for the Ginger & Spice Festival, welcoming around 150 visitors, offering refreshments and showing them round. We're also delighted that our Gingerbread Man (Alfie Hewitt) received the children's vote for the best gingerbread man. Our prize was a bag of Festival goodies, so if you were one of our volunteers on Saturday do collect a little something from Catherine, as a thank you.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Psalm 126 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3Rm OG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

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>



Church Clock

Repairs to the clock are underway. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of repairs. This can be done by scanning this QR code or clicking here



<https://givealittle.co/c/4LCgzleOjgqN78gn05FSA>

Mothers Union

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 14th October** in the Parish Rooms at 2.30 pm.

The speaker will be Barry Salter. All Welcome



Visually Impaired Club

The leaders are looking for volunteers to work alongside them on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall in support of those with failing or no eyesight. Tea and cake is always served! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Barbara Shingler (tel: 652555) or ask Lyn Turnock or Carol Siddall.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Tinned tomatoes; Rice Pudding; Custard;

Tins of Ham or Chicken; Cartons of UHT Milk; Cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Cleaning products; Conditioner; Jam.

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.

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

Bring & Share Lunch



Sunday 20th October hosted by our brass band ladies, Nita, Cynthia and Gillian, in the Parish Rooms.

Church Office

Please note Helen is still on Annual Leave and will return to the office on Monday 14th October. If you have anything urgent please contact Elaine by email or leave a message on the answer machine.

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.