

7th September 2025



No longer a slave, but a brother

One could hardly call Philemon a book; it's the fourth shortest in the Bible at just 25 verses. And yet the letter is rich with gospel echoes.

At its heart, Philemon is about reconciliation. Paul appeals to Philemon to forgive and welcome back Onesimus, a runaway slave who has now become a Christian and Paul pleads with Philemon to receive Onesimus "no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a beloved brother" (v. 16).

In this relationship we see a microcosm of our own human story; a mirroring of the gospel itself: humanity, once estranged from God, is reconciled to Him through Christ and even though we are sinners, God welcomes us back, not as slaves but as family, as his children. This radical redefinition of our identity in Christ echoes Paul's declaration in Galatians 3:28, that now there is neither slave nor free... for you are all one in Christ.

In Paul's willingness to intercede for Onesimus and even to take on his debt (v. 18), we see another gospel parallel. Here, Paul plays the role of a mediator, much like Jesus, who took our debt upon Himself on the cross so that we might be reconciled to the Father.

The tone of Paul's letter reflects gospel grace. He does not command Philemon to take back his runaway slave, though he could. Instead, he appeals "for love's sake" (v. 9), modelling the way grace invites rather than compels.

Ultimately, Philemon gives us a real life example of how the gospel transformed hearts, relationships and communities in quite radical ways—not by force, but by love, forgiveness, and a new identity in Christ. That is still the challenge it poses for us today: do we believe people can change; how far are we willing to forgive; will we let Christ heal, transform and restore our relationships? I hope the answer is yes, especially when, like Philemon, we realise how much we ourselves have been forgiven, changed and welcomed back into God's love.

Catherine

Please pray for...



Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Mary Senior; Joe McPhee; Cherian George; Nita's grandson, Ben; and Jude Niklas-Carter who is in intensive care at Shrewsbury hospital and her husband Charles Nicklas-Carter.

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

We are excited to announce that we are currently advertising for a part-time Children and Families Worker and full details are available on the St Mary's Website. It would be good to publicise this

position by word of mouth so if you know of someone who is a committed Christian and interested in working with children and families please pass on the details. The closing date for applications is 30th September. Please pray that the right people will apply and that those interviewing will be guided by the Lord in the decisions they make.



Bring and Share

Today, Sunday 7th September
hosted by Pam and David
Clarke, Rowney Farm,
Loggerheads, TF9 2QC

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

We are meeting for coffee, cakes and chat at the Festival Drayton Centre
10:30am on Friday 19th September.



Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33

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>

Mothers' Union

Our next Mothers' Union meeting is on Monday, 8th September. We will be having a Communion Service in church at 2.30pm, led by the our vicar, Catherine. It will be followed by refreshments.



The Stag Pub Quiz & Supper in aid of The Red Cross



British RedCross

Wednesday 24th September at 6.30pm (for quiz start at 7.00pm). Get together with friends to form a team of 6 maximum, or join with others on the night. Tickets £20 per person – includes supper. Contact Julia Farrant if you like to book a ticket.

Save The Date – Next Organ Social 29th November, 2025

Our next organ fund raising event will be a social along similar lines to the very successful one held in May. There will be a meal interspersed with entertainment. Please let Elaine know if you are interested in helping out in any way, including food preparation and serving as well as contributing to the entertainment.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Packets of Instant Mash; Sponge pudding / cake; Tins of chicken, spam or luncheon meat; Tinned Custard.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

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



This autumn, please can you help support Market Drayton Foodbank with our harvest appeal? You'll find some shopping lists at the back of church with ideas of non-perishable items that our Foodbank needs. You can also make a monetary donation instead to help with our signposting services and running costs, please click [here](#) for further information. You can put food donations in the trolley at the back of church or deliver them to the Foodbank at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays or Fridays 9-10.30am only. It would be very helpful if you could let the Foodbank know when you will be bringing donations along. If you are struggling to drop off your donations, please email us at info@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk and we'll do our best to arrange a date and time with you to collect your donation safely. Thank you for your support.

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

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