

11th October 2026



A Challenging Gospel

I wonder if, like me, you've been challenged by our readings from Matthew's gospel over the past few weeks. We find Jesus teaching in the temple precincts in Jerusalem and within the crowd are some chief priests and Pharisees. Jesus' parables feel very pointedly aimed at them and indeed anyone who feels they're one of the fine upstanding, 'righteous ones', whilst others are less deserving of God's favour and blessing.

In the first parable, we have two sons who are asked by their father to go and work in the vineyard. One brother says 'no', but later changes his mind and goes. The other son says he'll go, but doesn't. There's no indication that he's changed his mind. He never intended to go. Outward appearances can be deceptive. We may talk a good talk, but ultimately God judges us by what's in our hearts and by our actions.

Then there's a story about some tenant farmers, who seem to forget that the vineyard and its fruit doesn't belong to them. It has been entrusted to them, not because they've done anything to deserve it, but purely at the gift of the owner. So, the owner will give it to other, more deserving tenants.

Now the chief priests and Pharisees are in no doubt Jesus is referring to them, so he hits them with a third parable. This time there is a wedding banquet, but the invited guests refuse to come. Even worse, they kill the messengers sent to fetch them. So, servants are sent out to the street corners to gather all the people they can find – good and bad – and bring them to the wedding feast.

The chief priests and Pharisees would have considered themselves the invited guests – of course. They'd have been angry that Jesus was suggesting they'd excluded themselves from the wedding feast, but to say that the goodand the bad, would be invited – that was outrageous.

It's so easy to think the fruit of God's blessing belongs to us, to do with as we see fit; when in truth we have a God who seems intent on blessing those who we might think don't deserve it. That's the challenge of the gospel. It's also the good news of the gospel.

Catherine

Catherine is on holiday from 12⁻¹⁹ October.



Please pray for...



Pauline Bickley, John Panter and Pam Clarke.
We pray for the family and friends of Susan Brown and Phillip Hickman.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list, which is reviewed and edited regularly.

Warm Spaces: Games Café...

Come this **Tuesday 13th October 2-4pm.**

Everyone is very welcome to drop in for a cake and drink and see what is going on!.

If you have a game you would like to bring with you please do. It's a perfect chance for those from all our congregations to meet, mingle and make new friends!. Bring a friend or neighbour with you too. Regards Avril



Christmas Choir – singers needed!



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service (20th December) start at 7.30pm on Thursdays from 22nd October for harmony singers; with tune singers joining from 26th November. Please sign the sheet at the back

of church or let me know if you would like to take part. Everyone is welcome. Elaine

The Big Quiz Night

The Tearfund Big Quiz returns on **Saturday 14th November at 7pm.**

Free entry but donations encouraged in aid of Tearfund.

Come as a team of up to 6 members or on your own and team up with others on the night. Bring your own refreshments. Please book your place with Elaine Cook or sign the sheet at the back of church.



Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union will be meeting in the Parish Rooms on **Monday, 12th October at 2.30pm.** A speaker from Shropshire Fire Service on 'Keeping your home safe'.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Philippians 4. 1 - 9 Matthew 22. 1 – 14

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>

Another Great Outreach Opportunity – Do Join Us

We had a great opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with around 150 children at the recent Ginger and Spice Festival, where they were able to make spice bags and play an interactive game relating to a 'spice-related' Bible story. It was all free, lovingly given and it was busy! Many thanks to the team for helping us embrace this great missionary opportunity.

Join us for our next outreach opportunity on Saturday 31st October (Halloween Night), when we'll be bringing a message of light to the streets of the Dalelands and Fairfields estates, as we go out dressed as Angels of Light, meeting those who are out and about, bearing treats and the Good News of Jesus. Approximate times will be 6pm – 7.30pm (details to follow) Please let Carol Preston know if you'd like to take part (email Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk or call 07878 926853).

All Soul's Memorial Service

10.30am Saturday 31st October. There is a sheet at the back of church for you to add the names of those you would like to be remembered in the service.

Christ Church Film Club

Thursday 17th September at 12pm.

'Bridget Jones's Diary' Everyone is welcome for a film, light lunch and a chat. Free.



Foodbank

Market Drayton Foodbank is closed temporarily so not receiving donations for the time being.



Phoenix Group



The next Phoenix meeting is at the Festival Drayton Centre **Friday October 16th at 10:30am.** There will be a talk by one of the local fire brigade officers about safety in the home this winter.

Stewardship and Gift Aid

Many thanks indeed to those who gift aid their donations to St Mary's. This allows us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC. If you would like to gift aid any donations made by standing order or the envelope scheme, Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the welcome desk. Please return these to Elaine Cook and speak to Elaine if you have any questions. She also has envelopes for use under the envelope scheme. Standing order payments should be made to:

'PCC St Mary's Church'
sort code 30-15-39
a/c number 00102200

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: 07878 926853

E-mail: Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.