

13th September 2026



Stories of Faith

It was wonderful to celebrate the journeys of faith that led to some being confirmed last week and thank you to all those who helped with the service in any way, including the refreshments afterwards. We thought more people might like to read some of the encouraging testimonies from the St Mary's confirmands, as we celebrate our patronal festival this week.

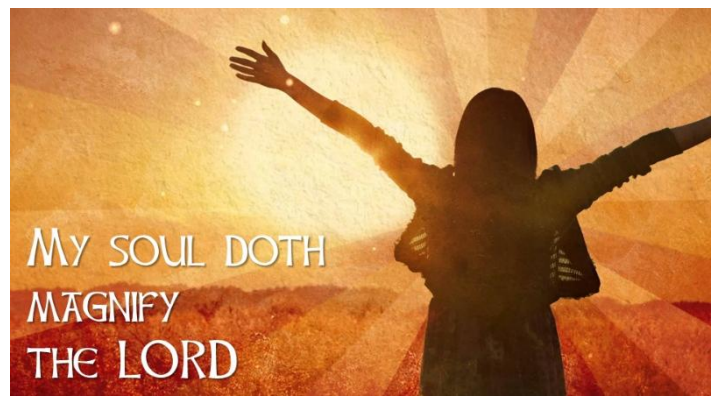
ALEXA HUYTON: I've been coming to church for almost a year now. I started going for a few reasons, but one that played a major role was seeing my dad's faith and it inspired me to look for Christ and made me realise how whole it made me feel. I want to be confirmed as, to me, it's one step closer to what I think God has planned out for me, and it's a way for me to publicly confirm the promises my parents made on my behalf when I was christened, that I'll forever follow Christ.

GRANT SIRETT: I was raised within the Christian faith; however, over time, because of the things I had seen and been through while serving in the Army, I started to question many things. It was only after leaving the military, and being blessed with my little boy Roman, that I began to feel drawn back to the faith.

I now believe that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit had been constantly speaking to me until I was ready to hear them again. That is why I am now back among the Christian faith and committing myself once more to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This is why I wish to be confirmed: I truly believe I am now in the place I was always meant to be, and I feel that Confirmation is the next step in drawing closer to my faith, to God, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit.

FAYE HILL: My journey with Christ started in 2023 after some difficult life experiences. I moved from Birmingham to Market Drayton at the end of 2024 and this helped me to get out of my shell a bit, I started coming to Church in 2025.

I would like to be confirmed as I feel the most important thing in life is a relationship with God. My journey with Christ has helped me through a lot of trauma, it has helped me to grow and find true meaning in this life. I feel I was lost before I found Christ. For these reasons I would like to be confirmed, so that I can secure my life-long covenant with God to live as close to Christ as I can.



I am very appreciative of this opportunity to affirm my faith with other individuals like myself, who have found their purpose through the everlasting love we feel from our wonderful Lord.

MIKE SLATER: At university, I had tutorials with Professor Richard Dawkins, a well-known atheist and for many years I accepted that belief in God was simply a human invention. Yet, over time, I found myself asking questions that science alone did not seem able to answer. During 2024, I became convinced that reality points beyond itself and that there is a deeper source of existence. I didn't yet know who or what that was, but could no longer believe that the Universe was simply a product of blind (watchmaker) physics and evolutionary biology. Then, in August 2025, aged 53, while in my local wine bar in Budapest, I found myself in the middle of a deeply personal crisis. In that moment something changed. It was not a vision or an audible voice. Instead, I experienced an overwhelming certainty that God is real and the Holy Spirit was around me. It was as though the questions I had been wrestling with suddenly found their answer; not through argument, but through God's presence... What began as an intellectual search has become a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

My faith has continued to grow through prayer, worship, and becoming part of my local church in both the UK and Budapest. I would like to be confirmed because I want to make a public declaration of the faith that has transformed my life. Confirmation is, for me, a commitment to continue following Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and as part of the family of the Church in my two homes in Market Drayton and Budapest.

DAN JONES: It was my Grandad who brought me back to my faith, before he returned home to be with the Lord. I've been coming to church for around a year now, after an encounter I had with the Lord Jesus brought me to St Mary's and all the lovely people that attend the 9am service. I would like to be confirmed as I truly believe the Lord has a plan for me and that my confirmation is the next step in my relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-end; Luke 1.46-55

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>

Please pray for...



John Panter. We pray for the family and friends of Keith McIntosh.

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

Mothers Union

The next meeting of St. Mary's Mothers' Union will be on Monday, 14th September at 2.30pm. We will be having a Holy Communion Service in church and celebrating 150 years of our wonderful organisation.



Phoenix Group (for the bereaved)

Anyone going on the Phoenix group trip to Sunnycroft on the 18th please meet at Lidl car park no later than 10:30am.



Bring and Share



The next Bring and Share lunch is at the Parish Rooms on **20th September**. Everyone is welcome. Lunch is served from 1pm.

Ginger & Spice



St Mary's will again be part of the Heritage Trail at the Ginger & Spice festival on Saturday 26th September. If you can help welcome visitors to the church that day, please sign up at the back of church.

Foodbank Items Needed



Urgent or low stock items:

Cartons of UHT semi-skimmed milk; cartons of long-life fruit juice; jam; coffee; tinned potatoes; rice pudding; rice; pasta sauce; sponge puddings/cakes; toilet rolls; men's toiletries; shower gel.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

See the Foodbank website for more details.

<https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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

Warm Spaces: Games Cafe



The games café will be returning on each second and fourth Tuesday during October to March. It will run 2pm – 4pm and is open to everyone FREE. Come and join the fun and games or just join in the nice warm social atmosphere. Anyone happy to help set up beforehand or to bake cakes, please contact Avril.

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

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund