

14<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## Everlasting Father

Everlasting Father is a striking title to give a promised child. Isaiah wants us to see that the One who comes at Christmas is more than a figure of history or a fleeting leader. He is the Father who never leaves, never ends, never grows weary of His people. In a world where so much feels temporary, uncertain, and fragile, this title speaks right to the heart of our deepest longings. For some, the word *father* carries warmth, care, protection, wisdom. For others, it may stir painful memories or absence. But Isaiah points us to a Father unlike any earthly one. Jesus comes as the One who perfectly reveals the heart of God: patient, tender, constant, and strong. A Father who does not abandon, forget, or fail.

When Isaiah calls Him "Everlasting," he reminds us that Jesus' love is not seasonal or conditional. It does not fade with time or depend on our performance. His care stretches beyond our years, beyond our understanding, even beyond death itself. His arms are everlasting; His faithfulness lifelong; His presence unshakeable. In Jesus we find a Father who guides us, carries us, heals us, and welcomes us home. He steps into our world not to condemn, but to adopt, bringing us into a family defined not by fear but by grace.

As we continue our journey through Advent, we remember that the child in the manger is the Father of eternity, offering security in our uncertainty, hope in our weariness, and a love that truly lasts forever.

*Peter*

## Refreshments after the Carol Service

We would like mince pies (either made or bought) for the refreshments after the Carol Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church. Any queries please talk to Pat Fox.

## Christmas Carol Service

We are partnering with the Market Drayton support group to raise funds for the Severn Hospice. There will be gift aid envelopes, and all contactless payments will go to this worthy charity. Next year the Christmas Carol Concert will raise funds for McMillan Cancer Support.



## Please pray for...



Rachel (a member of our Thursday congregation); Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Ben Robinson; Jack Cade; Finley Parton; John and Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris; Hilary Talbot's friend Kelly.

We also pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Eric White and Timothy Haywood.

*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.*

## Christmas Choir & Carol Singing

Singers and friends needed to join carol singing in December:

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 11am at Woodcroft**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm at Tunstall Hall**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm at Mercian Court**

'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on 21st December continue at 7.30pm on Thursdays for harmony and tune singers.

Everyone is welcome to all these events.



## Games Café

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms.

Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Feel free to bring your own games or just turn up to join in the fun. Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Entrance fee of £1



## Mothers' Union



...are collecting used postage stamps for charity. Please leave your stamps in the container on the welcome desk at the back of church. Thank you

## Services

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

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship – Gift Service in aid Women's Refuge**

**Readings** Psalm 68. 1-12, 19-20 Luke 15. 1- 32

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>

## Christmas and New Year Services

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

**No 10.30am Service**

7.00pm Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**

**No 9.00am Service**

**10.00am** Family Communion Service

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

**No 9.00am Service**

10.30am Songs of Praise Service

*Please let Catherine know if you have a favourite hymn or worship song you'd like us to sing.*



## News from the PCC

Every three years we decide which Christian charities we support, and the PCC have decided that from 2026 we will support Ukraine Christian Ministries and (hopefully) Waterways Chaplaincy. In addition, we will continue to support Tearfund, Embrace the Middle East and UCB. Each charity will receive £1600 for each of the next three years. For further information please speak to Geoff Oakes.

## Foodbank Items Needed

**Stock Items urgently required:**



Rice Pudding; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Jam; UHT Milk (blue full fat only); Sponge Pudding/cake; Tinned Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce; Tea; Small Jars of Coffee; Tins/ Packets of Vegetarian Meals; Laundry Washing Tabs/Pods; Washing-up Liquid; Deodorant (female); Toothpaste; Anti-bac Wipes.

**We have plenty of:**

Cereal; rice; baked beans.

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



## Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.  
Details to follow.

## Film Club

Christ Church Little Drayton

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

This month's film is **Northpole**. Light lunch and raffle. ALL FREE and everyone welcome.

## 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

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**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook

**Phone:** 07454 441943

**E-mail:** [opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com)

**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