

15th December 2024



Do not be afraid!

Fear is one of the trickiest emotions that all people experience. On the one hand 'healthy' fear can guide us to act in ways that are undoubtedly beneficial – we won't cross a road full of fast-moving traffic until there is a break, big enough, for us to proceed safely. 'Unhealthy' fear, on the other hand, can be so powerful that we won't do things that we want to do and would enjoy – like not going to a friend's party because we know their house has spiders in it. Finding the right balance so that our fears stay in the 'healthy' and out of the 'unhealthy' court is never easy. However, our readings this week can help us get this right!

Archangel Gabriel, almost always a totally unexpected, intimidating and surprising visitor, was quick to reassure Mary not to be afraid – neither of him nor of the news he was bringing, which was straight from God. A healthy fear of God means we have a deep, heartfelt reverence and awe for Him – such fear helps us to walk in His way and to follow His word. Mary is a wonderful example to us of a vulnerable, young woman placing her life at God's disposal and trusting that He would stick with her whatever happened. God loves us, just as he loves Mary, and really doesn't want us to walk in a paralysing, unhealthy fear of Him or anything else.

In Jesus we see what God looks like when He becomes fully human – the perfect example to follow as we make choices in our own lives. Paul is very direct in his instructions to the Philippian Christians: unite in Jesus; be full of the Holy Spirit; love as He does; and work humbly for the benefit of everyone else. This is great advice for us as well. Can we shine like stars as we let God work His way in our lives to build His Kingdom? We don't need to be afraid to do this because, as Paul wrote to the Romans, neither death nor life, neither angels or demons nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lindsay



Please pray for...

John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law) Catherine Smith would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers for Colin. .

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

Cynthia Costelloe's Funeral

Cynthia's funeral service in Shoreham-by-Sea will be live-streamed at 11.30 on Monday 16th December. You can 'join' the service via the following link <https://visual-memorials.co.uk/cynthia-costelloe> and we are also planning to stream the service here in church. The video can also be watched later in the day as explained on the web page. Donations in memory of Cynthia can be made via the donations tab at the following link <http://www.hdtribe.co.uk/>. Please continue to keep David and the family in your prayers.

Carol Singing

Do join us at any of our remaining carol singing events this year:



Mercian Court 7.00pm Monday 16th December

Tunstall Hall 2.00pm Wednesday 18th December

All welcome – Christmas jumpers essential!

AV Desk

As Mike Rushworth steps down from operating the sound and visuals desks and from managing the AV desk rota, we now need more volunteers to help on the desk. Full training will be given. Please contact Elaine Cook for more information or, better still, to volunteer.

Carol Service Refreshments

We are hoping to have refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies following the Carol Service on the 22nd December If you are able to bring some mince pies please include your name on the sign up sheet at the back of church. For further information please speak to Pat Fox. Many Thanks.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Luke 1.26-38 Philippians 2. 1-18

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>

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

No 10.30am service

7.00pm St Mary's Carol Service in church

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle

11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Communion

Sunday 29th December

No 9.00am service

10.30am CW Holy Communion Songs of Praise

Songs of Praise

On **Sunday 29th December**, our 10.30am service will be a service of Songs of Praise. Please let us know your requests of carols, hymns or songs by email to Catherine by **Monday 23rd December**.



Good News Stories

We'd love to share some stories of what God has been doing in our lives. If you have an encouraging story you'd be willing to share on a Sunday morning, please let Catherine know.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; £5 Shepley's Butcher's Vouchers; Biscuits; Small Jars of Coffee; Sponge Pudding / Slab Cakes / Christmas Cake.

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans.

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.

Prayer Link

Requests for prayer can be made to our dedicated 'Prayer Link' team. Please contact Elaine Mason 07846715620 nickjgmason@gmail.com or Carol Corney 01630 653137 or 07932 642246 candjcorney@gmail.com - or speak to them in person. If you love to pray for others, why not think about joining the team

Church Directory 2025

The church directory has been updated. Before publication we would like people to confirm that their directory entry is correct. A draft copy will be on the table at the back of church over the next couple of Sundays. Please check your details and let Helen in the office know of any changes that need to be made.

Christmas Holidays & Office Hours

The office will be closed from December 20th and will open again on 30th December when Elaine returns from leave. Helen will return to the office on Monday 6th January. Catherine is available until the 29th December and then on holiday until the 6th January.

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.

