

15th March 2026

Sharing in Service

A couple of weeks ago, Peter told us how his Sunday School would memorise verses from the Bible, well Mark 10.45 is a verse I remember having to memorise and it still rolls off my tongue. Although I hope they are not just words that I can quote, but that their meaning and implications really sink in.

Jesus' words, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.", reveal something beautiful about the heart of God: true greatness is found not in being looked after, but in caring for others.

Mothering Sunday helps us reflect on this kind of love. Motherhood, whether expressed through raising children, nurturing family, supporting friends, or caring for a community, is often a quiet ministry of service. Much of what mothers and caregivers do happens behind the scenes: the early mornings, the listening ears, the endless patience, the countless small acts of kindness that shape lives day by day.

Jesus chose the path of service. Even though he had all authority, he humbled himself to care for people, heal the broken, and ultimately give his life for the world. His example reminds us that serving others is not a lesser calling—it is a holy one.

Many mothers know the reality of sacrificial love; caring for others often without recognition or reward. But these acts are deeply valued by God. Every meal prepared, every prayer whispered, every tear wiped away reflects the servant heart of Christ.

Serving can sometimes feel exhausting, but it's also a blessing. What a privilege it is to be able to help someone else. When we do, we reflect the very nature of Jesus and we make God's love visible in the world. This Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for those who serve with faithful hearts. We celebrate mothers, grandmothers, aunts, carers, and all who nurture others with compassion. And we remind ourselves that in serving one another with love, we follow the example of Christ himself.

Catherine



Please pray for...



Phil Turnock; Malcolm Grey-Smart; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds. We

also pray for the families and friends of Margaret and Dennis Neville, Helen Venables, Mary Cater and Ronald Hand.

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's Corner

If you are able to help with our Children's Corner on the 1st or 3rd Sundays of the month, please speak to Carol Preston or Catherine McBride for more information.

Support for 'Open the Book' in Schools



'Open the Book' presents the Bible in a fun drama form, ideal for school assemblies.

We're putting together a team to go into the schools in our town. If you'd like to be involved, please talk to Carol Preston to find out more.

Easter Canal Towpath Outreach



We will be on the canal towpath near Newcastle Road Bridge 62 again this year, giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs,

inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. This year's event will be the weekend before Easter, **28th and 29th March**. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. If you would like to donate hot cross buns (well inside their best before date, please) and/or contribute to the costs, we would be very grateful. Please bring buns to St Mary's on Wednesday 25th March between 11.00am and 1.00pm or contact us to arrange collection at another time. More details from Jan and John Halford, 07478 337188.

Services

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

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11; Mark 10. 32-45

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>

Bring and Share Lunches

If you would like to host a lunch, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome area. If you would like to host in the Parish Rooms, please check with the office for availability.

Girls Friendly Society (GFS)



GFS meets at the Parish Rooms each Thursday during term time, now at the new time of 5.30pm – 6.45pm.

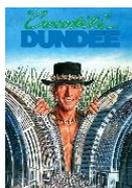
Wine Tasting



Saturday 18th April 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms. Tickets £15, in aid of the Organ Fund and available from Barbara Bashford. Only 30 tickets are available, so book soon to avoid disappointment!

Film Club

Christ Church Little Drayton on **Thursday 19th March 12.00-3.00pm** showing Crocodile Dundee. Light lunch and raffle. ALL FREE and everyone welcome.



Children's Society Box Holders

Please return your boxes to Elaine Mason. Many thanks.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Instant mash; custard; instant noodles; sponge puddings/cakes; soup; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; shampoo; toilet roll; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; washing up liquid.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

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

Urgent Help Needed



Refreshments after our morning service are invaluable. Despite regular appeals, however, there are still not enough volunteers to serve every week. Please consider whether you can help in this way and speak to Pat Fox.

Games Café

The final Games Café is on **Tuesday 24th March at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter!

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