

17th November 2024



The Christian safeguarding charity, Thirtyone:eight, run an annual campaign – Safeguarding Sunday – to raise awareness about the whole area of safeguarding in churches and other organisations. This Sunday – 17th November – is Safeguarding Sunday. And yes – I'm acutely aware of the painful irony that this coincides with the first Sunday after the Archbishop of Canterbury has resigned in relation to the historic handling of a particular safeguarding case; taking 'personal and institutional responsibility' for the 'safeguarding failures of the Church of England'. The past couple of decades have seen several organisations and institutions called to account for how they've handled (or not) cases of abuse perpetrated by those in positions of power and influence. That the Church (of various denominations and traditions) is one of those institutions should grieve us deeply. The fellowship of Christ's followers should be a safe haven and refuge for everyone; otherwise, how can we point people towards a loving, compassionate God?

In one sense, it's good that institutional and societal cultures, which in the past were perhaps too deferential to those in certain positions, are now being made to hear the voices of those who, for so many years, had no voice. That's where Thirtyone:Eight get their name (Proverbs 31.8). And it's good that light is being shone into the dark corners – but it is a slow, painful and emotionally costly process, for all concerned, but especially for the ones who have been abused and so, first and foremost, we pray for them.

This week's reading from Hebrews speaks about sin and forgiveness and- praise God - that in Christ Jesus there is forgiveness for those who repent and are genuinely remorseful and contrite. But we shouldn't confuse being forgiven by God with the need to face human justice and accountability.

Archbishop Welby has taken responsibility for safeguarding failures within the Church of England and he is to be commended for that and we pray that he would know the Lord's assurance and strength, to endure the ongoing repercussions. However, safeguarding is rarely, if ever, just the responsibility of one person. Others will have had opportunity to act along the way. Safeguarding works when we understand we all have a part to play and we are all accountable.



Here at St Mary's we have an amazing and diligent Safeguarding Officer in Barbara Bashford, but she can't do it on her own. We are all called to be watchful, but not fearful; diligent, but not paranoid. And maybe this is a moment for some collective repentance. How many of us have rolled our eyes when asked to renew our DBS certificates or sighed with exasperation when having to do another safeguarding course?!

Together we are the Church, the Body of Christ – together we should form that place of hope and new life for everyone – so let us consider how we can spur one another on in this task of ensuring everyone is safe and to be that place of transformation for all.

Catherine

Please pray for...



John Panter and Diana Picton-Robinson, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law) and Gordon Robinson (Nita Heath's son-in-law). Catherine

Smith would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers for Colin.

We pray for Margaret Law, following the death of her son, Norman and we continue to pray for David Costelloe, following the sudden death of his wife Cynthia, known to many here at St Mary's. Barry Salter would like to thank everyone for their prayers following the death of his sister, Helen Atkinson, who had been on palliative care.

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

Christmas Choir - will you join in?



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on the 22nd December are at **7.30pm** on Thursdays, currently for harmony singers, with sopranos and tune singers joining from **28th November**. All welcome.

Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday 17th November in the Parish Rooms.



Operation Christmas Child



Please bring filled boxes and the £5 distribution cost per box to church **by end of Sunday 17th November**, ready to go the following week.

Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Hebrews 10. 11-14 [15-18] 19-25 Mark 13.1-8

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



IONA Communion

Next Sunday ,24th November at 6.30pm

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Gift Service

We shall be accepting gifts for the Women's Refuge on **Sunday 8th December**. If you are able to donate items such as toiletries, chocolates, hats, scarves and gloves for women, and any toys or treats for children, these would be very gratefully received. Please bring them along to the services on the 8th.

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.



Angels on Songs of Praise



Some of you may remember one of our past vicars, Geoff Price and his wife Hope. Hope is being interviewed on Songs of Praise on Sunday 8th December, talking to Rev Kate Bottley about angels.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

Sponge Pudding / Slab Cakes; Shampoo; Conditioner; Men's Deodorant; Sanitary Towels / Tampons.



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

If you need prayer for yourself or a loved one, we have a dedicated 'Prayer Link' team, who link up to pray for any situation/ request that is put to us. All requests are strictly confidential. There is a list at the back of the church of the whole group and you can contact anyone of us to start the prayer chain, although the usual first contact is either through:

Elaine Mason 07846715620 nickjgmason@gmail.com

Or Carol Corney 01630 653137 or 07932 642246

candicorney@gmail.com - or speak to us in person.

If you love to pray for others, please join us. Contact Elaine or Carol.

Singing For the Brain



For people living with dementia, friends, family & carers, or even if you want to come for a sing- a- long. We meet every **Thursday 1.45pm** at the Beacon Centre. £2.50 pp includes tea and biscuits. For further details please contact Avril 01630 656264

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

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.