

20th September 2026

Heavenly Realm Thinking

Have you ever waited in a queue and hoped that by the time you get to the front they still have what you were waiting for?

Can you imagine queuing for your favourite lunchtime pastry and there is only one left on the tray and there are five people in front of you – time feels limited and provision running out.

Sometimes I think we forget about the generosity of God, especially when we cannot see something in what God is doing, we can get in a scarcity mentality as though there won't be anything for us.

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard (those further back in the queue who needed work) their hope may have been fading fast as the end of the day approached. But God, who is depicted by the landowner, is still looking out for someone to be generous to. Those who are still waiting patiently in the marketplace without complaining, those who keep turning up no matter what things look like.

The scripture tells us, 'So the last will be first, and the first will be last'. It is good to remember it is nothing for God to pull someone from the back of the line and put them in the front to receive what he intended them to have in the first place – often with less labour from us!

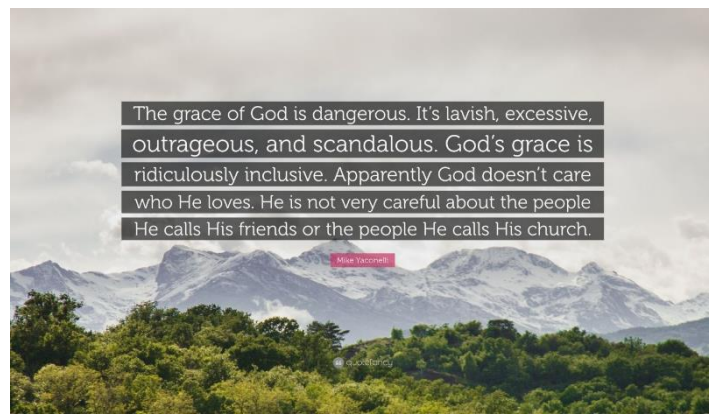
What God wants is 'One Faith, One Spirit, One Call'.

The 'Paul's Chains' reading could quite easily be aligned to the vineyard reading of labouring in the 'heat of the day'.

Indeed, Paul worked very hard for the Gospel to be known, but for him it wasn't about self-interest, but for the glorifying of God. He aligned himself with God's Will of unity with his fellow workers, not division in jealousy, strife and being indignant. He was setting the church the standards in which to live in his presence or in his absence. Paul had heavenly realm thinking. He was working hard because of what had already been done for him (even though he had not received it in full yet); now he was seeking to glorify God because of it. It was Paul's response to the generosity of God.

What will our response be?

Carol



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.

Bring and Share Lunch



The next Bring and Share lunch is **Today 20th September in the Parish Rooms**. 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.

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.

Messy Church



On **Tuesday 6th October at 3.30pm** in The Parish Rooms.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Philippians 1.21-end; Matthew 20.1-16

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>

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 4th October. If you bring your donations for the Foodbank we will make sure they are delivered to them. Please check the information at the back of church to see what they need.

Stewardship and Gift Aid

Thank you to those who have recently expressed an interest in gift aiding their donations. This allows us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC. Donations need to be made by standing order or using the envelope scheme. Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the welcome desk and should be returned to Elaine Cook upon completion. Any questions to Elaine, who also has envelopes for use under the envelope scheme. Standing order payments should be made to:

'PCC St Mary's Church'
sort code 30-15-39
a/c number 00102200

Foodbank Items Needed



Urgent or low stock items:

Cartons of UHT semi-skimmed milk; cartons of long-life fruit juice; biscuits; noodles; coffee; jam; plain rice; tinned potatoes; rice pudding; pasta sauce; sponge puddings/cakes; men's toiletries; shower gel; toothbrushes; laundry washing pods; washing up liquid.

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.

Please see the back of church for information about the Foodbank's Harvest Appeal

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

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com



Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.