

26th January 2025

The Psalmist writes "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made".

Paul reminds us that just as the human body is made up of many parts, so too is the Church, one body with many members. Each part has a unique role, and no part is superior to another. This unity amidst diversity is foundational to understanding the nature of the Church. Paul uses the metaphor of the body to highlight several key points. First, every member of St Mary's (applying it our church) is essential, regardless of their perceived importance. The foot cannot say to the hand, "I don't belong," nor can the eye claim superiority over the ear. Each member contributes to the whole, and every gift is necessary for the proper functioning of the body. This stresses the value of each individual in the church, no matter their role or gifting.

The passage also addresses the tendency for comparison and division. Paul reminds the Corinthians (and us) that all members of the body are needed, and that those who seem weaker or less honourable are often the most indispensable. This message was particularly important for the Corinthian church, which struggled with divisions and pride over spiritual gifts. By emphasizing mutual respect and the necessity of every part, Paul calls the church to unity and humility.

Paul encourages believers to desire the greater gifts, not for status or power, but for the edification of the body. The overarching theme is that the Church should be a cohesive whole, with each believer uniquely gifted to serve one another in love. By working together, the body of Christ can function as God intended, glorifying Him and advancing His Kingdom on earth.

Can this be said of all of us?

Peter



Messy Church

Tuesday 4th February 3.30pm in the Parish Rooms

Severn Hospice Collection

Thanks to everyone who gave generously to the Severn Hospice collection at the Christmas Carol Service. £180.13 was raised in total.



Please pray for...

John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith and Jenny Wade. We also pray for those recently bereaved: the families and friends of Alan James and Hazel Rosier.

Some of you will have known Hazel very well. Her husband, Bert, was Churchwarden at St Mary's some time ago. Her funeral will be at St Mary's on Tuesday 28th January at 1.00pm.

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

If you are attending Hazel's wake at the Red Lion, following the funeral, the family would like you to let them know in advance. Please contact Hazel's son, Paul, at rosier@blueyonder.co.uk



We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to help our church and services run smoothly. There are lots of roles:

welcoming, the audio/ visual desk, bookshop, refreshments etc. Please pray about how you can serve St Mary's and contact Helen in the church office to volunteer. In particular, we need another regular monthly reader for our 9.00am service. If you would like to join the team, please let Helen or Maggie know. Many Thanks

Confirmation Service

Our Deanery is holding a Confirmation Service on **Sunday 23rd February at 4.00pm**. If you are interested in being confirmed and want to find out more about what's involved, please speak to Catherine as soon as possible.



Bring and Share Lunches 2025.

These will resume in February when we are invited to Kath

McClellan's, 3 Victoria Road on Sunday 16th Feb. A list is now available in the Welcome area for offers to host these very popular events.

Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship + Baptism

Readings: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

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>



IONA Communion

Sunday 26th January 6.30pm

Reading: Mark 1:21-28.



Songs of Praise

3.30pm on Sunday 26th January at

Market Drayton Methodist Church

All are welcome to this informal

gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are served as you sing your favourite hymns

Churches Together

A summary from the Churches Together meeting held on the 14th January: The meeting endorsed the recommendation that the Market Drayton Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre and its other services be closed down, due to a lack of clients. This recommendation will go to the St Mary's PCC for ratification on 3rd February. Hopes for a new ministry to support our local community were welcomed and this will be explored further. There was agreement that Churches Together in Market Drayton should continue and currently Mark Lawrence from Freedom Church will act as Chair.

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



We will meet as usual at Festival Drayton 21st Feb at 10:30

We are having a speaker from the Market Drayton museum.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Men's Razors and Deodorant; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Spaghetti; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Biscuits; Full Fat (blue) UHT Milk.

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.

Romania Link Fund Raiser Lunch



Saturday 8th February 6pm see poster on the noticeboard for further details. Please contact John Corney (653137) if interested.

Word for Today



The UCB Bible notes covering February-March are available on the desk at the entrance to the Church.



The Filling Station

Monday 27th January at Rodington Village Hall 7.30pm with speaker Andy Ackroyd. All welcome

Swap Shop

Saturday 8th February, from 10.30 am in the Parish Rooms. Donations will be gratefully received (men's clothing particularly welcome), as well as helpers please.



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

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