

26th April 2026



I Am the Gate

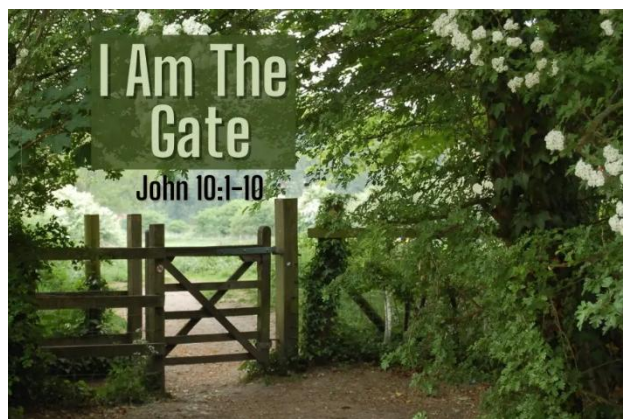
What is a door? The dictionary definition is: “a barrier at the entrance to a building or a room which can be opened or closed”. Therefore, it is a means, when closed, of preventing entrance or exit or, when open, of giving free access of entering or leaving. We have so many doors in our homes or other buildings that we take them for granted, but think what an important part of your life they play if you are in a prison cell, where the door is the only way you can be freed from your confinement into the world beyond. In our homes, shops, businesses etc. we invariably find that the exterior door is fitted with a lock of some description, to provide security, so that only those with the right to enter can do so.

In today's Gospel Reading (John 10: 1 – 10) Jesus tells us that **He is the gate** (or the door in some versions) to the sheepfold. He is illustrating the role of the shepherd in those ancient times, whereby at night the shepherd would lie across the entrance to the sheepfold keeping the sheep safe, by preventing them from leaving, and preventing anything or anybody who would harm the sheep from entering. He goes on to tell us that He is also the **Good Shepherd** who cares for His sheep and will lay down His life for the sheep. This is why He says: *“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved”*, thus assuring us that, because of His great love for us, our lives with Him are secure for eternity. Just as the sheep in those times had a close relationship with their shepherd so we can have a close and lasting relationship with our Shepherd, Jesus. Today, if someone wants to enter our homes they knock on the door, we unlock the door, open it, and invite them in. Jesus says to us: *“Here I am! I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me”*. (Revelation 3:20).

David

Parking

The Parish Rooms has an increasing number of daytime bookings so *please do not park* at the Parish Rooms unless you are at an event there.



Please pray for...



Veronica Williams; Dean Price; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds.

Also the families and friends of Len Hutchinson and Sheila Carless.

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.

History of St Mary's

Wednesday 29th April, 2pm. An invitation to members of St Mary's Market Drayton to a presentation on the history of our Church. How has the Church changed from before the Normans to the Present Day?

Urgent Help Needed – AV Desk



Please contact Elaine Cook if you are willing to help operate the AV Desk – we urgently need at least one more to join the Audio/Zoom team.

Electoral Roll

If you've started at St Mary's in the past year, why not join our Electoral Roll? It's a simple way to show your commitment and gives you a voice at the APCM. If you are baptised, aged 16+, and live in the parish or have attended regularly for six months, but not necessarily living in the Parish, you can apply. Application forms are on the Welcome Desk and can be left in the box provided. Be part of shaping our church's future, join today.

Stewardship Envelopes

New stewardship envelopes are available at the back of church for those who give in this way (pink boxes). Please contact Elaine Cook or Avril Innocent if you would like to switch to standing order or have any questions.

Please note the deadline for items for the newsletter is noon on Wednesdays. Thank you.

Services

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

Sunday 26th April

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Acts 2.42-end and John 10.1-10

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

6.30pm Iona Communion

Readings: Luke 22.54-62 and John 21.15-19



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>

Confirmation

If you would be interested in being confirmed or would like to know more about what it involves, please speak to Catherine.

Swap Shop

Saturday 16th May, 10.30am in the Parish Rooms, when we are asking for a FEW donations ONLY per person. Helpers please as usual. Please only bring donations on the day. Thank you



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.

Word for Today



Copies of the UCB Word for Today booklets covering May,

June and July are available on the table at the entrance to the Church. Please take one and if you haven't read it previously please try one and we are sure you will find it inspiring.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Cereal; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; tinned spaghetti; jam; instant mash (single packs); instant noodles; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; conditioner; shampoo; toilet roll; toothpaste; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; shaving gel.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

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

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.

Meal for Romania

We are invited to share a 3-course meal plus tea/coffee on **Saturday 9th May at 6pm** in the Methodist church hall. The cost is £15, a fund-raiser for the needy church supported by the Methodists. Please see John Corney if you would like to attend.

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