

27th September 2026



Faith That Shows Itself in Action

Both readings this morning challenge us to look beyond outward appearances and ask what truly shapes our relationship with God.

In Philippians, Paul calls us to live with humility, unity and concern for others. He points us to Jesus, who “made himself nothing” and willingly humbled himself in obedience to God. The Christian life is therefore not about status, recognition or having our own way, but about putting others before ourselves and allowing Christ’s attitude to shape our actions. Paul reminds us that God is at work within us, giving us both the desire and the strength to do what pleases him.

Jesus’ encounter with the religious leaders in Matthew raises a similar question about genuine obedience. The leaders are concerned with authority and appearances, but Jesus exposes the difference between saying the right thing and actually doing God’s will. The two sons illustrate this clearly: one initially refuses but later obeys, while the other promises to obey but does not follow through. Jesus makes clear that obedience is ultimately demonstrated through action, not simply words.

Together, these passages invite us to examine our own discipleship. Are our words matched by our lives? Are we seeking recognition, or are we willing to humble ourselves and serve others? Following Jesus means more than agreeing with him, it means allowing his humility and obedience to transform how we live.

The encouragement is that we do not have to accomplish this through our own strength. God is at work in us, enabling us to desire and do what reflects his purposes.

Peter



Messy Church

On **Tuesday 6th October at 3.30pm** in The

Parish Rooms.



Please pray for...



John Panter. We pray for the family and friends of Susan Brown.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list, which is reviewed and edited regularly.

Warm Spaces: Games Café

The games café returns again on Tuesday 13th of October. It is open to everyone, so please pop in for a cake and drink and see what is going on! Feel free to bring a friend or neighbour with you to any of the afternoon sessions. If you have a game you would like to bring with you please do.

It is also a perfect chance to meet someone socially from our church who may worship at a different time and so you have never met. A lovely way to make new friends! Regards Avril

Do You Hear the People Sing?

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the concert on 11th September and especially to those who made and served refreshments and helped at the door, with the raffle and stewarding the car park. I estimate that, after expenses, we raised around £1,500 for the church organ fund. The choirs both loved singing for such a full and responsive audience. For those who missed it, many of the songs are now available to view on

www.youtube.com/@songbirdsswans-elainecook1035

Thanks again, Elaine Cook

Songs of Praise MDMC

Sunday 27th September at 3.30pm



Come along to the Methodist Church and choose and sing your favourite hymns whilst



enjoying pleasant company and tea & cakes!

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Philippians 2. 1-13 Matthew 21-23-32

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Iona Communion



Join us for a quiet, contemplative communion service in the round. This **Sunday 27th September at 6.30pm**

Reading : 1 John 2. 20-29

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

THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNION SERVICE THIS THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026

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; rice pudding; sponge puddings/cakes; men's toiletries; shower gel; toilet rolls; toothbrushes; laundry washing pods; cleaning products; 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

E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com



Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.