

28<sup>th</sup> June 2026



## Who Do You Serve?

This past week has been Armed Forces Week, when we reflect on the service of the men and women of our military; service marked by commitment, sacrifice, and loyalty. At the heart of military service is an oath of allegiance—a public promise to serve Crown and country faithfully.

Interestingly, the language of allegiance is not confined to the military. Even priests in the Church of England, when they are ordained and licensed, swear an oath of allegiance to the Sovereign. Such promises remind us that our lives are shaped by the commitments we make and the loyalties we embrace.

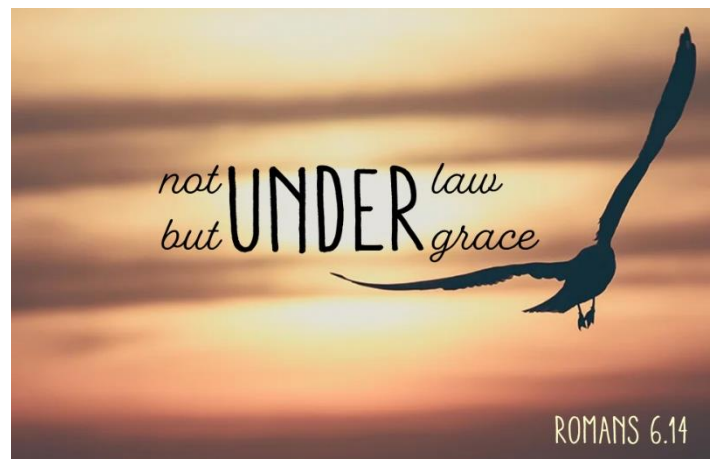
St Paul, however, takes us even deeper. "Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey?" (Romans 6:16). His point is both simple and challenging: everyone serves something or someone. The real question is not whether we serve, but whom we serve.

Many things compete for our allegiance: not only our families and communities, but also success, wealth, reputation, comfort, political causes, and factions – perhaps even just ourselves, we look out for 'Number 1' and no one else. Yet Paul reminds Christians that, through God's grace, we belong to Christ. Having been set free from sin, we are called to offer ourselves in service to God, whose rule brings life, freedom, and peace.

As we honour those who serve our nation this week, we might also reflect on our own deepest loyalties. What governs our decisions? What shapes our priorities? To whom have we ultimately given our hearts?

The Christian faith doesn't ask us to abandon our responsibilities in the world. Rather, it places every other loyalty in its proper place and context. We honour our country, support our communities, and fulfil our duties, but above all we belong to Jesus Christ. Our highest allegiance is to him, and it's in serving him that we discover true freedom and true and lasting life.

*Catherine*



## Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Dean Price; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds. Also, the families and friends of

Kathleen 'Jenny' Compton.

We also pray for Danny George on his mission trip to Lesotho, visiting the church, school and care homes.

*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.*

## Confirmation Service

We will be hosting a confirmation in September (probably the afternoon of Sept 6<sup>th</sup>). If you would like to join others in marking your journey of faith, or are interested in finding out more, please speak to Catherine.

## Welcome Tea

We're aware that St Mary's been blessed with many new people in the past year or so. If that's you then we'd love to invite you to



**Afternoon Tea at The Vicarage on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 2.00pm.** It will be a chance to talk to key members of our team and find out more about our church life. If you'd like to come or want to know more, please speak to Margaret Deaville 07922 629248 [deavillemargaret1@gmail.com](mailto:deavillemargaret1@gmail.com)

## Songs of Praise MDMC

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm**



Come along to the Methodist Church and choose and sing your favourite hymns whilst enjoying pleasant company and tea & cakes!



## Iona Communion

Join us for a quiet, contemplative communion service in the round. **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm**

## Services

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

### Sunday

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship**

**Readings:** Romans 6.12 – end Matthew 10.40 – end

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**

**6.30pm Iona Communion**

**Reading:** Deuteronomy 15: 1-11



## Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

## Foodbank Trustees Needed

Market Drayton Foodbank is in the process of developing a new strategy, aimed ultimately at reducing the need for the Foodbank by addressing the underlying needs of our clients.

We are, therefore, seeking people of energy and commitment to help us do this; particularly, but not limited to those who can bring other skills, such as financial, legal, governance (health and safety, safeguarding), human resources or public relations experience.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Foodbank Chair – David Strudley at [chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:chair@marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk) to discuss further and obtain an information and application pack. Applications should be received by 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Interviews will be held week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

## PCC and Deanery

We still have vacancies for PCC and for Deanery Synod Representatives. Please speak to Catherine to find out more about both roles.

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required:

**Fruit juice.**

*Low stock Items:*

**Biscuits; size 6 nappies; deodorant; tinned fruit; soup.**

**We have plenty of:** Baked beans; washing powder/pods, loo roll.

See the Foodbank website form more details. The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://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](mailto:Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook

**Phone:** 07454 441943

**E-mail:** [OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Vicar:** Revd Catherine McBride

**Phone:** 01630 656943

**E-mail:** [vicarofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstmarys@gmail.com)

**During Helen's absence, please continue to use the church email address in the usual way.**

**To ensure Elaine has a break from work on her days off, please avoid speaking to her about office matters on a Sunday. She is happy to talk to you about music, AV or Gift Aid matters. Thank you.**



**Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.**