

30th March 2025



The Art of Noticing

When you were growing up did you ever wonder how your mum seemed to know what you were up to, even when you were apparently 'out of sight' – or so you thought? I can certainly recall the sharp tap on the window, that would instantly de-escalate the fight that was about to break out in the garden over whose turn it was to go on the swing and remind us that she was watching us; or the shout coming from downstairs at night, "I told you to switch your light off and go to sleep!" It must be some kind of parental superpower – that and knowing your own children so well, that noticing what they're up to becomes second nature. As we grow, we come to realise that their watchfulness has not merely been about chastisement, but much more about their love and concern for us and wanting what's best for us – and we know that good parental watchfulness also notices when we need some extra reassurance, support or comfort. Today, as we celebrate those who have been mother-figures to us – including the wider church family that have 'raised us' - we're thankful for how they've watched over us, steered us, protected and supported us.

Of course, all this is a just a small glimpse into how much God knows us and watches over us. Even when we might feel 'out of sight', or we're not aware of His presence, He still sees us and notices what is going on in our lives. No detail of our lives is too insignificant to be important to Him and today we celebrate and give thank for that too.

But knowing that God notices me surely prompts the question, 'How good am I at noticing Him?' Am I aware of his presence with me as I go about the usual day to day business of life? Because He is. When I come up against difficulty, do I remember He wants me to ask for His help? Because I can – always. When I look back over my life, can I see where He was? Because He *was* there. If I look forward and things feel uncertain, do I know that He will be there too? Because He always will be. *Lord, thank you that you notice us. Give us the art of noticing: noticing those around us who need our love and noticing you - always and everywhere. Amen.*

Catherine

Please pray for...



John Panter, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Christine Fish, Nita's grandson, Ben, Elaine Cook's mother, Jose Wright and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean.

Christine and family would like to thank all those who came to Jeff Murison's celebration service. We were overwhelmed and touched by all your support. *Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.*

Archbishop of Canterbury

There is an opportunity to contribute to the consultation about the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Submit your comments **by 31 March**, online at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/ABC106Consult> or by post to: Canon Stephen Knott, Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU.

Revision of Electoral Roll.

Every 6 years (i.e. this year) we have to produce a completely new Electoral Roll. If you wish to be on the new Roll, **you must** submit an application form **by 20th April** (Easter Day!), even if you are on the current Electoral Roll.

New Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of the church on the welcome table. Completed form should be put in the box also on the welcome table. If you have any queries, please talk to Pat Fox.



Mothers' Union Cake and Preserves Stall.

This will be held on Sunday 6th April after both the 9.00 and 10.30 services, to raise money for the MU appeal, "Gift of Peace". It is focusing on providing training for Parenting Programmes in the Solomon Islands and four African states. If you don't eat cake, we are happy to receive donations to help further this important work.



Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Mothering Sunday Family Service

Readings **Genesis 28. 1-17 John 10. 1-20**

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>

Open Church

Due to the Lent course in church during Lent, the church will be open from **12.00pm – 2.00pm on Wednesdays**.

Normal time will resume after Easter.

Ops Manager Absence

Elaine Cook will be working remotely until Easter while she cares for her mother. If you need to get in touch with Elaine, please email or phone her on her work mobile.



Easter Canal Towpath Outreach

We will be on the canal towpath near Newcastle Road, Bridge 62 again this year, giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs, inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. This year's event will be the weekend before Easter, running from 12th-14th April. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. If you would like to donate hot cross buns (well inside their best before date, please) and/or contribute to the costs, we would be very grateful. Please bring buns to St Mary's on Wednesday 9th April between 11.00am and 1.00pm or contact us to arrange collection at another time. More details from Jan and John Halford. [07478 337188](tel:07478337188) Thank you.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Cartons of UHT blue full fat Milk; Tins/Cartons of Custard; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Dry Dog Food; Women's Shampoo; Women's Conditioner; Shower Gel.

We have plenty of Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans

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

How can you help? There are lots of opportunities to join our great teams at St Mary's, including: welcoming, the audio/ visual desk, refreshments, 'Brass Band,' open church, Messy Church, reading, leading intercessions and prayer ministry. Please pray about how God might be calling you to join us. Contact Helen in the church office to volunteer. Elaine would particularly love to hear from singers and musicians, whatever instrument you play, but especially pianists! **We especially need volunteers for Open Church on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Please speak to Barry Salter or Helen Hughes if you would like to join the team.**

Moving House...again!

Helen Hughes needs to move house again, but finding a home to rent in Market Drayton is proving to be very difficult. Please pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen and if you know of any 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.



Messy Church

Tuesday 1st April 3.30pm – 5.15pm
in the Parish Rooms

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

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

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