

30<sup>th</sup> November 2025



## Wonderful Counsellor

When we think of counsellors we probably think of the law courts where, if we were unfortunate enough to find ourselves in the dock, we would need a defence counsellor to plead our cause. In many other areas of life we may also need the use of a professional counsellor to advise us. But what about our spiritual lives? Who do we turn to when we need advice and guidance? Well, of course, there are Christian ministers and Christian friends who we can turn to and we should feel free to seek their advice. However, we have the enormous privilege of the advice from a much higher source – **The Wonderful Counsellor** – God Himself through the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, this advice is free, as compared the enormous cost of hiring a barrister, and it is available without having to wait for an appointment. In Jesus' last words to His disciples before His death, resurrection and ascension, He assured them that they would not be left alone. He told them: *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counsellor to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things"* (John 14:16,26). This Holy Spirit is also given to us in order to teach us, show us the truth and guide us in our lives. We may well ask how does the Spirit do this? I think there are several ways. Through prayer He puts in our minds the things He wants us to know, and He may speak to us through a fellow Christian. But most of all the Holy Spirit speaks to us through God's Word. Psalm 119 (part of which is our reading for today) speaks a lot about how God's Word enlightens the Psalmist; how it gives him insight and gives him wisdom. It is summed up in verse 105: *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light to my path"*. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit tells us how our lives should be, for *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"*. (Gal. 5:22).

Come Holy Spirit and be our Wonderful Counsellor. Lead and guide our lives so that we might bring honour and glory to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*David*



## Please pray for...



Rachel (a member of our Thursday congregation); Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Ben Robinson; Jack Cade; Finley Parton; John and Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris; Hilary Talbot's friend Kelly, Pam Clarke who is currently in hospital. We also pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Eric White and Timothy Haywood.

*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.*

## Christmas Choir & Carol Singing

Singers and friends needed to join carol singing in December:

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am at Joules Place**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 11am at Woodcroft**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm at Tunstall Hall**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm at Mercian Court**

'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on 21st December continue at 7.30pm on Thursdays for harmony and tune singers

Everyone is welcome to all these events.



## Messy Church

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms

## Games Cafe

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Feel free to bring your own games or just turn up to join in the fun. Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Entrance fee of £1



## Services

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

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Holy Communion with Healing Prayer**

**Readings** Psalm 119. 33-48, 97-112 Luke 2.41-52

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**

## Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

## Gift Service



We shall be accepting gifts for the Women's Refuge on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are able to donate

items such as toiletries, chocolates, hats, scarves and gloves for women, and any toys or treats for children, these would be very gratefully received. Please bring them along to the services on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas and New Year Services

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

**No 10.30am Service**

7.00pm Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**

**No 9.00am Service**

**10.00am** Family Communion Service

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**No 9.00am Service**

10.30am Songs of Praise Service

*Please let Catherine know if you have a favourite hymn or worship song you'd like us to sing.*

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required:

Rice Pudding; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Jam; Sponge Pudding/cake; Disposable Razors and Shaving Products.

### **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.



## Phoenix Group

(for those bereaved)

Meeting Friday 12<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am in Festival Drayton for coffee, cake and chat.

## Can You Help?

We are in need of volunteers for some of our services over the Christmas period (welcomer's, reader's, support on the AV desk and Holy Communion) These services often attract those who don't normally attend church, so it would be great to make it a welcoming and positive experience for them. Please consider helping if you can and let Helen in the office know as soon as possible if you can help. Many thanks to those who have already offered help.

## 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

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

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook

**Phone:** 07454 441943

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**Vicar:** Revd Catherine McBride

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund