

30th November 2025



### Wonderful Counsellor

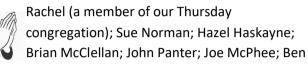
When we think of counsellors we probably think of the law courts where, if we were unfortunate enough to find ourselves in the dock, we would need a defence counsellor to plead our cause. In many other areas of life we may also need the use of a professional counsellor to advise us. But what about our 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 selfcontrol".(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.





## Please pray for...



Robinson; Jack Cade; Finley Parton; John and Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris; Hilary Talbot's friend Kelly, Pam Clarke who is currently in hospital.

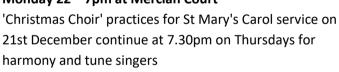
We also pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Eric White and Timothy Haywood.

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



# Messy Church

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December
3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms

Everyone is welcome to all these events.

#### Games Cafe

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 9**th **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  $14^{\rm th}$ .

### Christmas and New Year Services

Sunday 21st 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 28th December

No 9.00am Service

10.30am Songs of Praise Service
Please let Catherine know if you have a favourite
hymn or worhip 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 servies over the Christmas period (welcomer's, reader's, support on the AV desk and Holy Communion) These services often atttract those who don't normlly attend church, so it would be great to make it a welcoming and positive experince 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

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