

5th October 2025



Clear out the clutter

In the New Testament the Greek word for prune also means cleanse. Pruning does not harm the plant but removes dead wood so it can grow stronger and bear more fruit. My father used to say, "Let your worst enemy prune your roses", they must be cut back hard to flourish.

When Jesus spoke of the vine, his hearers knew the image well. Vines were common in Palestine, but they needed constant care. For the first three years a vine was cut back drastically to conserve life and strength. Fruit-bearing branches were nurtured, but unfruitful ones were removed so the plant's energy was not wasted. The wood itself was useless, fit only for burning. Jesus applied this image to his followers: either fruitful or barren.

First, he was thinking of the people of Israel. They had been God's vine, yet repeatedly ignored judges, prophets, and kings. Though warned, they fell back into disobedience and were cut off, even exiled. In Jesus' day many rejected him, leading to the final scattering in AD 70.

Second, he was thinking of us. As branches, we too must be "pruned", removing what hinders our faith. We glorify God in our words and actions, letting our light shine. We must remain in Christ; as coals keep burning only when together, so without prayer, fellowship, and Scripture, our life quickly fades. And as branches we should live in God's joy, not dependent on circumstances but rooted in Christ.

Jesus chose us (John 15:16). That privilege brings responsibility: to clear out the clutter and let him shape our lives for his glory.

Peter



**Messy Church –
Tuesday 7th
October**
3.30pm – 5.15pm in the
Parish Rooms.

John 15:16

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you and
appointed you so that
you might go and bear
fruit*

Please pray for...



Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan;
John Panter; Joe McPhee; Cherian George; Nita's
grandson, Ben; Helen Hughes and family; Finley
Parton; John and Ray Reynolds.

We continue to pray for Roy Senior and his family as they mourn the loss of Mary. Mary's funeral will be at St Mary's on Wednesday 8th October at 2.00pm.

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.

Help us be a welcoming church...

by joining our welcoming team or helping to serve refreshments, either occasionally or every month? We need someone to join the team of welcomers on the first Sunday of each month. Please contact Elaine Cook, Margaret Deaville or Peter Fox to volunteer as welcomer and Pat Fox regarding refreshments.

Mothers' Union



Our next Mothers' Union meeting is on Monday, 13th October at 2:30pm in the Parish Rooms. Speaker – Rosemary Walker – a past Diocesan MU President.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebboxes will be collected from 10th November. Please save and fill your own boxes. Contact Hilary Talbot for further information.



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

We are meeting for coffee, cakes and chat at the Festival Drayton Centre 10:30am on Friday 17th October



Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings Isaiah 32.14-end John 15.1-17

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

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Christmas Choir - will you join us?



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on 21st December start at 7.30pm on Thursdays from 23rd October for harmony singers with tune singers joining from 27th November. Please let Elaine Cook know if you would like to take part. Everyone is welcome.

Singing for the Brain



Thursdays, 1.45pm – 3.15pm at the Beacon Centre. £2.50 pp inc tea, coffee & biscuits

Anniversary Concert, A Choired Taste

Join A Choired Taste at Christchurch, Little Drayton for their 10th Anniversary celebration concert

Pick 'n' Mix!

on Saturday 11th October, 2025 at 7pm

Favourite songs chosen from across the years by choir members

Entry and refreshments by donation

Choired Taste

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

UHT milk (green); deodorant (M & F); toilet rolls; washing up liquid; shampoo; shower gel; cartons of long-life juice; toilet cleaner & anti-bac spray.

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.



This autumn, please can you help support Market Drayton Foodbank with our harvest appeal? You'll find some shopping lists at the back of church with ideas of *non-perishable* items that our Foodbank needs. You can also make a monetary donation instead to help with our signposting services and running costs, please click [here](#) for further information.



Swap Shop – Saturday 8th November

Taking place in the Parish Rooms. Helpers as well as items would be much appreciated.

Christ Church, Little Drayton



Film Club

16th October – Dad's Army

#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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