

10th May 2026

From Unknown to Known

Paul is in Athens and speaks to a people deeply engaged in religion yet uncertain of truth, pointing them toward the “unknown God” they already sense but do not fully know. His message reframes God not as distant or confined to temples, but as the living source of all life, intimately near to every person. This passage challenges the tendency to settle for partial understanding or inherited beliefs without deeper knowledge. It suggests that true knowledge of God requires both humility and a willingness to move beyond familiar frameworks. The John reading takes us to the upper room and Jesus last night before the crucifixion. In the well-known passage Jesus connects love with obedience, not as a rigid duty but as a relational response. He promises the Spirit as a continuing presence, one who teaches, comforts, and makes God known from within rather than through external structures alone. Together, these passages highlight a shift from seeking God in the abstract to encountering Him personally and actively. The connection between them lies in movement, from ignorance to awareness, from distance to intimacy, and from passive belief to active relationship. Paul calls people to rethink who God is, while Jesus invites them into a lived experience of that truth through love and obedience. Knowing God is not merely intellectual; it transforms how one lives.

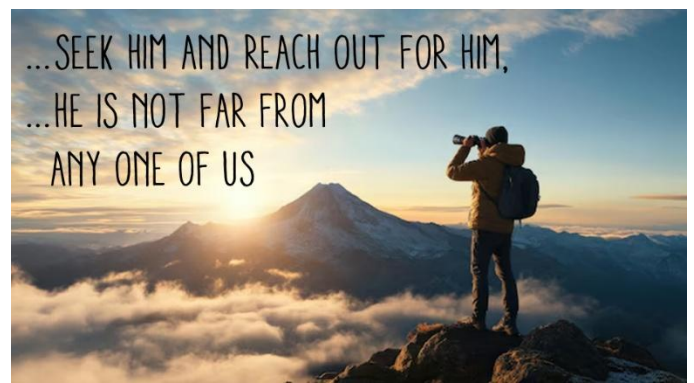
This raises a question for us for reflection, is faith something observed from a distance, or something embodied daily? Both passages suggest that encountering God leads to change, not imposed, but arising naturally from recognizing His presence and responding to it.

Peter

Worship@6



returns to MDMC on **Sunday 10th May at 6pm**, with speaker Rev Yanyan Case. Growing up as an atheist in China, Yanyan experienced a life-changing encounter with God that turned her world around and set her on an unexpected path.



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Veronica Williams; Dean Price; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds.

Also the families and friends of Len Hutchinson, Thelma Arnold and Joyce Carless.

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.

Ascension Day Service 14th May at 7pm



We are hosting the Deanery Ascension Day Service this year. All volunteers to sing in the scratch choir, please contact Elaine Cook. Refreshments will be served after the service, so if anyone can help with cake, biscuits or the serving of tea and coffee it would be much appreciated. Please indicate on the sheet at the back of the church what you are able to help with, many thanks.



APCM – Monday 18th May at 7.30pm

The APCM is on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm in Church. Nominations are invited for both the PCC (10 vacancies) and Deanery Synod (3 vacancies). Nomination forms are available on the table at the entrance to the Church and require a proposer and seconder. **Please note that members of both the PCC and Deanery Synod are required to undergo safeguarding training and have DBS checks.**

If you would like to be able to vote at the APCM you will need to be on the Electoral Roll. A copy is on the notice board at the back of church, if you need to check. If you are baptised, aged 16+, and live in the parish or have attended regularly for six months, you can apply to join. Application forms are on the Welcome Desk and can be left in the yellow box provided.

Please note the deadline for items for the newsletter is noon on Wednesdays. Thank you.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 17.22-31 and John 14.15-21

No 10.30am service today

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>

Urgent Help Needed – AV Desk



Please contact Elaine Cook if you are willing to help operate the AV Desk – we urgently need at least one more to join the Audio/Zoom team.

Swap Shop



Saturday 16th May, 10.30am in the Parish Rooms. Due to limited storage, please only bring a **few** donations **on the day**. Helpers please as usual. Thank you

Word for Today



Copies of the May-July UCB Word for Today booklets are available on the table at the entrance to the Church. Please take one and if you haven't read it previously please try one and we are sure you will find it inspiring.

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



As the weather is getting better our calendars can get quite busy so here are the dates for the next 3 Phoenix group meetings so you can pencil them in the diary.

May 15th and **June 26th** please note change of date!

Both at the Festival Drayton centre.

July 17th an afternoon tea at Fletchers garden centre. To book a place a £5 deposit is required.

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May



Please help support projects helping those in need around the world. Donation envelopes will be available at all our services this week.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Cereal; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; tinned spaghetti; jam; instant mash (single packs); instant noodles; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; conditioner; shampoo; toilet roll; toothpaste; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; shaving gel. **We have plenty of: Baked beans.**

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

Children & Families Vision Day

10am – 3pm on Saturday 23rd May 2026 at Longford Old Hall. Longford.

'The Boy who Offered the Loaves and the Fish'

The purpose of the Vision Day is to clarify what opportunities we have to share the Good News of Jesus with both parents and children and how in this current climate we can do that.

We warmly invite all congregation members to come along to discern God's will in this area of the St Mary's Church Family. A light lunch will be provided, so for catering purposes, please indicate your interest either by putting your name on the sheet at the back of the church or contacting Carol Preston directly on the email address below. Thank you. Carol P

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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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund