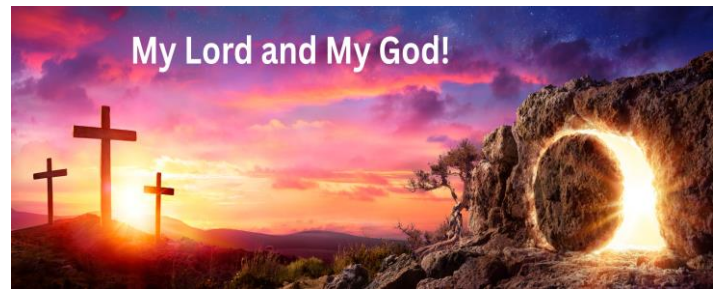


12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Mind the Gap

"Mind the Gap" is a phrase burned deep into the memory of frequent users of the trains on the London Underground. It is a warning to take care getting in or out of the train because the gap between platform and carriage is wider than expected. Falling into the gap risks severe injury and maximum inconvenience for all the other travellers. Gaps are risky places; they keep cropping up in our lives and crossing them can be exhilarating fun or debilitating anxiety. Shall I jump across here, where the gap seems narrow, or explore further hoping to find a safe crossing or a bridge? Easter brings the gap between God and man clearly into focus. Most of the time the gap between our lives on earth and life with God in heaven seems impossibly wide. It is very hard to find any trace of heaven in our current world as it faces predictable changes in the climate bringing very challenging weather and unpredictable changes in human affairs as countries contest for supremacy via destructive conflict. Yet there are places where God really does seem closer. These may be beautiful churches, great art, wonderful scenery or remote, wild places where we feel God's presence all around us. The island of Iona is one such place. Since Columba founded his monastery there it has become a place of pilgrimage for renewing the faith of visitors and the mission of members of the Iona community. Iona is a 'thin place' where everyone can feel very close to God - heaven and earth seem almost to touch. How can we close the gap between us and God? As ever, Jesus is the answer. He came to us as God made man, comprehensible not ineffable. He has enough love to hold out his hand to each of us, to support us as we cross the bridge between earth and heaven. It is a narrow bridge, strong enough to carry everyone and cross-shaped. All Jesus asks is that we have enough faith in, and love for, Him not to let go as he leads us into God's presence.

*Lindsay*



## Please pray for...



Dean Price; Helen Hughes; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray

Reynolds.

Malcolm Grey-Smart thanks everyone for their kind wishes and prayers during his recovery, with love in Jesus' name.

*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.*

## TODAY – Easter Egg Hunt & Family Fun



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April from 12.00-3.00pm** at St Mary's Church. All are welcome to an Easter Egg hunt, games, crafts and refreshments.

## Mothers Union



Our next meeting is on **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, at 2.30pm** in the Parish Rooms. We will be welcoming our Diocesan President, Deb Tudor, who had to postpone her visit last month.

## Swap Shop



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am** in the Parish Rooms, when we are asking for a FEW donations ONLY per person. Helpers please as usual. Please only bring donations on the day. Thank you

## Support for 'Open the Book' in Schools



'Open the Book' presents the Bible in a fun drama form, ideal for school assemblies. We're putting together a team to go into the schools in our town. If you'd like to be involved, please talk to Carol Preston to find out more.

## Services

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship**

**Readings:** Acts 2.14a, 22-32 and John 20. 19-end

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>

## Confirmation

If you would be interested in being confirmed or would like to know more about what it involves, please speak to Catherine.

## Wine Tasting



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm** in the Parish Rooms. Tickets £15, in aid of the Organ Fund and available from Barbara Bashford.

**Only 3 tickets remaining!**

## Film Club



This month's film is Mamma Mia. All are welcome to Christ Church Little Drayton on

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 12:00 pm.** There will also be a light lunch and raffle, and it's all FREE!

## Please note

The deadline for items for the newsletter is noon on Wednesday.

## Parking

The Parish Rooms has an increasing number of daytime bookings so *please do not park* at the Parish Rooms unless you are at an event there.

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required:

Pasta; cereal; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; tinned spaghetti; jam; instant mash; instant noodles; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; conditioner; shampoo; toilet roll; toothpaste; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; washing up liquid.

**We have plenty of:** Baked beans.

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

## Children's Corner

If you are able to help with our Children's Corner on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, please speak to Carol Preston or Catherine McBride for more information.

## Urgent Help Needed



If you can help with serving refreshments on a Sunday morning, please speak to Pat Fox.

## 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](mailto:stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com)

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

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Children and Families Worker:** Carol Preston

**Phone:** 07878 926853

**E-mail:** [Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook

**Phone:** 07454 441943

**E-mail:** [OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Vicar:** Revd Catherine McBride

**Phone:** 01630 656943

**E-mail:** [vicarofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstmarys@gmail.com)

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund