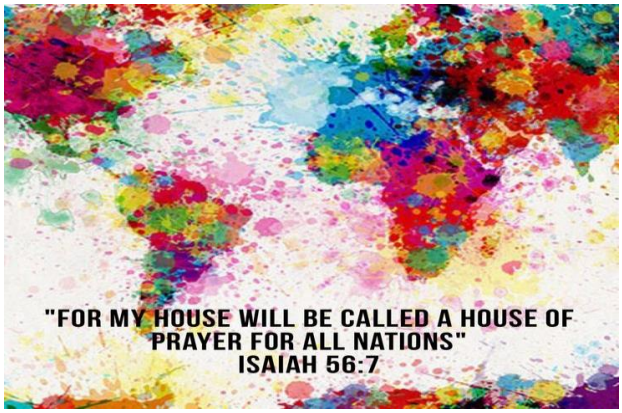
St MARY'S CHURCH Market Drayton

16th August 2026

Becoming Dementia Friendly Church 2026-7



God be at my centre

Do we fully understand what Jesus wants even when we spend a lot of time with him?

The disciples spent all day and every day with Jesus for three years and they still got things wrong. On different occasions the disciples tried to 'advise' Jesus of what he should do in certain situations, as though they were somehow the ultimate authority.

Our Matthew reading of the 'Faith of a Canaanite Woman' is an example of this. This gentile (non- Jewish) woman was throwing herself (persistently and loudly) at the mercy of Jesus to heal her demon-possessed, severely suffering daughter. So, what was the response of the disciples to this desperate, only chance of hope of healing, human need? They urged Jesus to send her away 'for she keeps crying out after us'. The noise of her pursuing them bothered them more than the reason she was there – to stop the severe suffering of her child. When it is written in black and white it doesn't look very good does it?

This wasn't the only time that the disciples were urging Jesus to send people away (think of the disciples rebuking parents bringing their children to Jesus and the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand') but on each occasion Jesus made them stay and see what he would do.

Before Jesus healed the woman's daughter, he issued the mother a challenge that almost said, 'Who do you say I am?' The response was the equivalent to saying 'I know that you are the Bread of Life and I am not even asking to sit at the table of the children of God, but I am asking you as the God of all mercy, grace and favour to spare me and my daughter a few crumbs in order that we might live'. That is great faith.

The lesson for us today, as disciples of Jesus, is that we always need to be in the proximity of Jesus, so if we do ourselves go astray; we too can be gently brought back.

Carol

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.

Please pray for…

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

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.

Confirmation Service

Sunday 6th September at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come and support our candidates. If you could make (or buy) a cake for refreshments after the service that would be great. Please let Pat or Margaret know.

Bring and Share – 16th August

This Sunday our Bring and Share is a barbeque at the house of Liz Barnes, 38 Prospect Road. Burgers, sausages, French bread and green salad will be provided. Please bring anything else you would like to eat for main course or dessert.

Save the Date (11th Sept) & Help Needed - Organ Fundraising Concert

Elaine's choirs are coming to St Mary's to entertain us in aid of our organ fund. If you are happy to make cake or help on the night at the door/ serving refreshments, please speak to Elaine. Tickets will be available shortly.

Ginger & Spice Fundraising Event

Sun 23rd August Afternoon Tea at Cotton House

Se notice board at back of church for more details.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 56.1, 6 – 8 Matthew 15.10 – 28

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

Seeking the 100th Bishop of Lichfield …have your say

You can take part in the consultation process for our new Diocesan Bishop, either by using this QR code or following the link here. There is more information and Q&As about the consultations here and some optional background information about the diocese here. If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter, these various links can be found via www.lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/vacancy-in-see/
Please pray for our Diocese during the vacancy and for Bishop Michael as he prepares to retire.

Phoenix Group (for the bereaved)

Next meeting August 21st at Festival Drayton 10.30 as normal. September 18th a trip out to Sunnycroft National Trust near Wellington. To book a place, a deposit of £5 is required. Times and transport details will follow.

Word for Today

Copies of the Word for Today for Autumn 2026 are now available at the Welcome Desk.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Soup; tinned fruit; juice, toilet rolls, laundry washing pods.

Low stock Items:

Pasta sauce; rice pudding; custard; jam; biscuits; shampoo; toothpaste.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

See the Foodbank website for more details. The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Church Organ

The PCC would like to hear your views as we consider the best way forward for our church organ. Please pick up a leaflet and return your responses, in the box provided, Sunday 6th September. Thank you.

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
Website: 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
Operations Manager: Elaine Cook
Phone: 07454 441943
E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk
Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride
Phone: 01630 656943
E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:

General fund | Organ fund | Security fund

During Helen's absence, please continue to use the church email address in the usual way.
To ensure Elaine has a break from work on her days off, please avoid speaking to her about office matters on a Sunday. She is happy to talk to you about music, AV or Gift Aid matters. Thank you.