

17th May 2026



The Way

We have just walked the Cotswold Way; it took us 10 days to cover just over a hundred miles staying at new accommodation each night. The long walk gave us plenty of time to relish the sights and sounds of England in the Spring. We made friends with other people on the same walk, these were mostly visitors from Europe or America. There was time for: relaxation and renewal; recollection of other journeys we had made; sharing our stories with new friends also on the way.

The challenges of finding the right way to walk along the edge of the Cotswolds share much in common with those we face as we journey through life. Sometimes the path is straightforward, the signposts are easy to follow. Other times the path is narrow and not clearly marked. The going can be gentle, or it can be tough, a lot of it is hard walking uphill followed by slippery steep descents. Occasionally things get in the way, like broken stiles, fallen trees, or stray animals, which we had to get round before returning to the right path. We needed good equipment to support our walk: a map, stout shoes, waterproof clothing, sun hats, walking poles, food, water and enthusiasm to get to our next stop.

The very first Christian communities called themselves "The Way", probably because they knew that Jesus, through his birth, death, resurrection and ascension had, following Isaiah's prophesy (Isaiah 40), opened the only way for God to rescue humanity from its state of sin. We are on that same journey and what good equipment we have. The bible is available to read in our own language - it is the best map of all. We have friends to encourage us on our way, we have prophets, preachers, teachers and healers by our side. Above all we have Jesus, the only son of God, who was quite explicit when Thomas asked and said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". Jesus continues to hold us with his hand as he supports us on the way.

Lindsay

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



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; 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.

APCM – Monday 18th May at 7.30pm

There are a significant number of **vacancies on PCC** (10), so please consider if this is something God might be calling you to do. **We also need a new PCC Secretary.** You wouldn't need to be an elected PCC member, but this is a vital role, nonetheless. You would need to be comfortable with electronic forms of communication and able to use Microsoft Word. PCC usually meet around 6 times a year on a Monday evening and there may be additional subgroups (e.g. Standing Committee, Buildings, Finance etc) that you might also serve on. We may also have occasional special days together, to allow us more time for praying about and discussing significant items.

Deanery Synod also begins a new 3 year cycle and so we will also be voting for **Deanery Synod Representatives** (3 vacancies) to serve for 3 years. This would also make you an ex officio member of the PCC. Deanery Synod meets 3-4 times a year, as we discuss mission-related activities and Diocesan initiatives, hear from guest speakers and seek to support one another by looking for opportunities for our local churches to work together. We are in need of a Deanery Lay Chair and Synod Secretary (the latter post needn't be an elected representative). Again, you would need to be computer literate.

Nomination forms for the PCC and Deanery Synod posts are available at the back of church. You'll need a proposer and seconder and you will need to have been on our Electoral Roll for at least 6 months. **Please note that PCC and Deanery Synod members are required to undergo safeguarding training and have DBS checks.**

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 1.6 – 14 and John 17.1 – 11

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>

Iona Communion – 24th May

Reading: Isaiah 11.1 - 9

UCB Celebration

On **Saturday, 27th June** at 6.30- 8.30 pm, UCB are hosting an evening of praise and worship including true life stories at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich B70 7JW.

God has been at work in UCB for forty years. I have been invited as a guest and can take a friend with me. Would you like to come? If so, are you willing to drive (I will pay the petrol)? There is parking at the venue. If so, let me know as soon as possible so I can submit your name to UCB. Thank you, Liz Barnes.

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

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; washing powder/pods.

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

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.



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



June 26th (please note change of date) at the Festival Drayton centre. **July 17th** – an afternoon tea at Fletchers garden centre. To book a place a £5 deposit is required.

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

During Helen's absence, please continue to use the church email address in the usual way.

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund