

18th May 2025



The passage for today from Acts follows on from the account in the previous chapter which tells us of Peter's visit to the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and a Gentile. This was a momentous occasion for Peter, since at that time it was against the Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. While there, in the house of Cornelius, which was filled with Gentiles, you can imagine the astonishment of Peter and the circumcised believers who were with him, when they witnessed the gift of the Holy Spirit being poured out on the Gentiles present. Today's passage tells us that when news of this reached the circumcised believers they were critical of Peter's actions and he had to go to Jerusalem to defend himself. You can see that at that time, racism was deeply imbedded in that early Christian Church and it was a very difficult thing for them to deal with. We even read in Galatians that, much later on, Paul had to rebuke Peter because Peter had drawn back and separated himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of the criticism from some of the circumcised Christians.

I guess this is a reminder to all of us of two things. Firstly, that we do not consider anybody of less value than ourselves, particularly in God's sight. Constantly we need to remind ourselves that we are what we are, not because of anything we have done but solely because of what Christ has done for us. No matter how good we think we are, let us remember that along with everybody else in the world, we are "all sinners and have fallen short of God's glory". Secondly, the wonderful truth that "God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that WHOEVER believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"; and what Peter himself said to the crowd of mixed race on the day of Pentecost: "EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" – that includes you and me. Hallelujah!

David

Please pray for...



John Panter, Colin Smith, Jenny Wade, Nita's grandson, Ben, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), and Helen Sweet's son-in-law Alan Dean.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on **Monday 19th May at 7.30pm** in Church.

If anyone would like to serve on the PCC, nomination forms are available on the table at the back of church. Please complete and put in the box provided.

Copies of the of the APCM Booklet are available at the back of church.

Christian Aid Week



Thank you to all those who have already picked up a Christian Aid envelope and made a donation. If you would still like to donate please return your envelopes to church by 25th May.

Christians Against Poverty Celebration

Despite the closure of our CAP Debt Centre earlier this year, we really want to celebrate and give thanks to God for everything that he has done through the work of the Centre and our other CAP services (Job Club, Fresh Start, Money Course and Life Skills) over the years. A celebration service will be held here at St Mary's at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st June, Everyone is welcome – we hope you can join us.



Services

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **Acts 11. 1-18 John 13. 31-35**

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 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

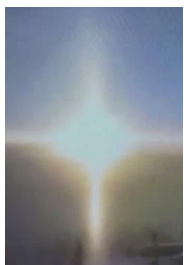
These are available on our website:

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

Moving House...update

We have an update from Fiona and Axel. They are not returning now until the end of the year, which gives us much more time to find a house. The house we were hoping for has been let to someone else, there were 45 applicants!

Please continue to pray for God's guidance and provision for Helen and if you know of any 2 or 3 bed rentals, please let Helen in the office know. Many thanks.



Ascension Day Service

This year our Deanery Ascension Day Service is at St Peter's Stoke on Tern **7.00pm Thursday 29th May**. All are welcome and we hope you can stay for refreshments after the service. We'd especially like to invite all those who normally lead the singing at their local churches to come and join a 'scratch' Deanery Choir for this service, to help us raise the roof! This year, St Peter's are celebrating their 150th Anniversary, so it will be a great opportunity for the Deanery to come together to celebrate with them.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Sponge Pudding; Shampoo;

Washing-up Liquid.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

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



Bring and Share Lunch.

The next lunch will on Sunday 18th May at 1pm hosted by Simon & Julia Farrant Longford Old Hall, TF9 3PW. All Welcome.



Organ Social - What a Night!



Thank you to everyone who came last Saturday and to all those who

gave of their time and talents. We raised almost £1,700, an amazing start to our organ campaign.

More photos can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Further donations are welcome at any time via the QR code on the noticeboard or by cash or cheque in envelopes labelled 'Organ Fund'.



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

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

if you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.