

18th October 2026



“Could do better”

Do you remember your school reports and the comments in them? No doubt some of the comments were praiseworthy, e.g. “Works hard”; “Has made good progress”, “Shows promise”. But perhaps some of the comments were not as complimentary: “Could do better”; “Could try harder”, etc. In the reading from 1Thessalonians (1:1 - 10), Paul basically writes a reference for the people of the Church in Thessalonica. It is a glowing report as he speaks of their work produced by faith, their labour prompted by love, their endurance inspired by their hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. They welcomed the Gospel message, in the midst of suffering, with joy given by the Holy Spirit. Such was their behaviour that Paul was able to say that they became a model to the believers in the districts around them and their faith in God became known everywhere. Christians from other places had reported how the Thessalonians had turned to God from their idols to serve the true and living God and His Son whom He raised from the dead. (Three marks of true conversion). This is truly an amazing testimony when you consider that Paul did not hold back when he pointed out the shortcomings of Churches in others of his letters, particularly in that to the Corinthians.

I wonder what Paul would have written if he had written a reference for the Church at St. Mary's?

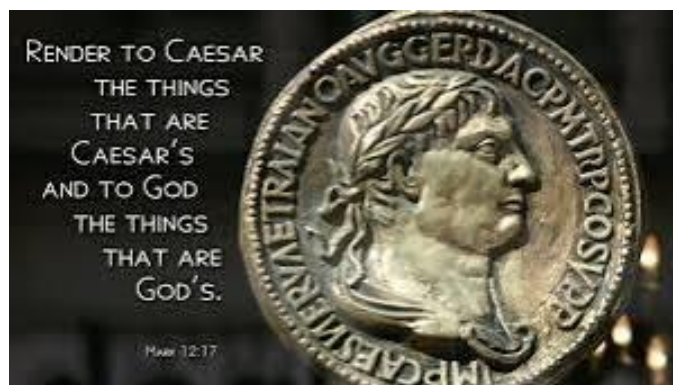
No doubt there would be many good things: the Christian love we have for each other; the welcome all receive; our desire for God to “set our hearts on fire to build His Kingdom in our lives through our church and in our town”. But the challenge to us is those areas where he might have written: “Could do better”; “Need to improve”.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for our Church of St. Mary's and the many ways You enable us to faithfully serve You, but we humbly ask that, through the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit, You will show us where we could do better and that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may become the Church You want us to be. Amen.

David

All Soul's Memorial Service

10.30am Saturday 31st October. There is a sheet at the back of church for you to add the names of those you would like to be remembered in the service.



Please pray for...



Scott Reay, Helen Hughes, Pauline Bickley, John Panter and Pam Clarke. We pray for the family and friends of Angela Bridge and Frank Halford.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list, which is reviewed and edited regularly.

Warm Spaces: Games Café...

Come next **Tuesday 27th October 2-4pm.**

Everyone is very welcome to drop in for a cake and drink and see what is going on!

If you have a game you would like to bring with you please do. It's a perfect chance for those from all our congregations to meet, mingle and make new friends!. Bring a friend or neighbour with you too. Regards Avril



Christmas Choir – singers needed!



‘Christmas Choir’ practices for St Mary's Carol service (20th December) start at 7.30pm on Thursdays from 22nd October for harmony singers; with tune singers joining from 26th

November. Please sign the sheet at the back of church or let me know if you would like to take part. Everyone is welcome. Elaine

The Big Quiz Night

The Tearfund Big Quiz returns on **Saturday 14th November at 7pm.**

Free entry but donations encouraged in aid of Tearfund.

Come as a team of up to 6 members or on your own and team up with others on the night. Bring your own refreshments. Please book your place with Elaine Cook or sign the sheet at the back of church.



Thanks for prayers

A big thank you for your love and prayers during my recent illness. I can now say that I feel "back to normal". Many, many thanks. Anne Jones

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 Matthew 22. 15-22

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>

Another Great Outreach Opportunity – Do Join Us

We had a great opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with around 150 children at the recent Ginger and Spice Festival, where they were able to make spice bags and play an interactive game relating to a 'spice-related' Bible story. It was all free, lovingly given and it was busy! Many thanks to the team for helping us embrace this great missionary opportunity.

Join us for our next outreach opportunity on Saturday 31st October (Halloween Night), when we'll be bringing a message of light to the streets of the Dalelands and Fairfields estates, as we go out dressed as Angels of Light, meeting those who are out and about, bearing treats and the Good News of Jesus. Approximate times will be 6pm – 7.30pm (details to follow)

Please let Carol Preston know if you'd like to take part (email Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk or call 07878 926853).

Following an extended period of sickness, Helen Hughes feels now is the time to stop working for us in the church office. We thank her for all her service at St Mary's over the years and hope that her health starts to improve soon.

There will be cover in the office, so please continue to email the office (not Elaine) in the usual way.

Foodbank



Urgent or low stock items:

Cartons long life fruit juice; Coffee; Sponge puddings/cake; toilet rolls; laundry washing pods; men's toiletries

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

See the Foodbank website for more details.

<https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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

Word for Today

Copies of The Word for Today for November are now available on the Welcome Desk.



Stewardship and Gift Aid

Many thanks indeed to those who gift aid their donations to St Mary's. This allows us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC. If you would like to gift aid any donations made by standing order or the envelope scheme, Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the welcome desk. Please return these to Elaine Cook and speak to Elaine if you have any questions. She also has envelopes for use under the envelope scheme.

Standing order payments should be made to:

'PCC St Mary's Church'
sort code 30-15-39
a/c number 00102200

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:

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