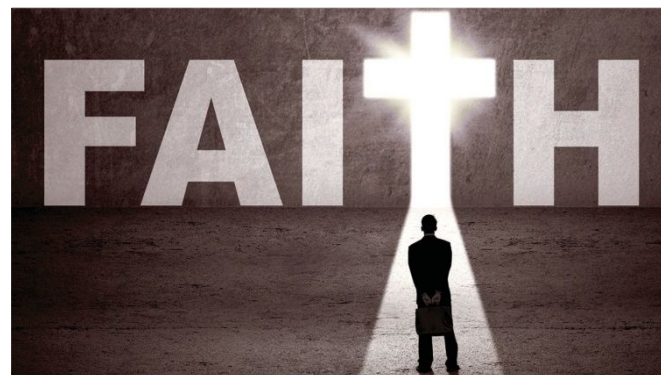


19th October 2025



The Persistent Widow

Jesus' prayer life was second to none. So who better to tell his disciples "They should always pray and not give up." The story in Luke 18 is simple yet profound: a widow, one of the most vulnerable in society, keeps coming to an unjust judge, pleading for justice. Though he neither fears God nor cares about people, her persistence wears him down until he grants her request, not because he is righteous, but because she refuses to be silenced.

This is not a story about manipulating God, but about the nature of faith. The widow's persistence is not nagging, it's courage. She stands for all who refuse to give up hope in the face of delay or apparent silence. Her insistence springs from trust that justice *should* come, and that it *will* come.

If even an unjust judge can be moved by persistence, how much more will God, who is just and loving, respond to his people's cries? Jesus reminds us that prayer is not only about asking; it's about relationship, about holding on to God even when the night is long and the answer is slow.

The question Jesus ends with is searching: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" It's not simply about belief, but endurance, the faith that keeps praying, keeps hoping, keeps standing before God in confidence and trust.

Like the widow, may we never lose heart, but keep faith alive through persistent prayer and the sure hope that God's justice will come.

Peter

Christmas Choir - will you join us?



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on 21st December start at 7.30pm on Thursdays from 23rd October for harmony singers with tune singers joining from 27th November.

Please let Elaine Cook know if you would like to take part. Everyone is welcome.

Please pray for...



Rachel; Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Nita's grandson, Ben; Helen Hughes' brother-in-law, Jack; Finley Parton; 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.

Children and Families Worker

We are advertising for a part-time Children and Families Worker - full details are on our Website. Please pass on this information who is a committed Christian and might be interested in working with children and families. The closing date for applications is **31st October**. Please pray that the right people will apply and that those interviewing will be guided by the Lord in the decisions they make.



All Souls Service to be held on Saturday **1st November at 10.30am** in St Mary's. Everyone is welcome to attend and you are invited to add the name(s) of anyone you would like to be remembered specifically at that service on the list in the Welcome area. The names of those who have died in the last year are already included on the list.

Bring and Share

Today, Sunday 19th October hosted by The Brass Band ladies and John Watkin at the Parish Rooms



Services

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

9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings Genesis 32. 22-31; Luke 18. 1- 8

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZkZDZ09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZkZDZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXR0SctVRS9PSkZkZDZ09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Holy Communion 10.00am



IONA Communion

Sunday 26th October at 6.30pm

Reading: Psalm 119, 105-112

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Games Cafe



The Games café opens on **Tuesday 28th October at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms.

Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company!

Feel free to bring your own games or just turn up to join in the fun. Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter!

Entrance fee of £1

Songs of Praise

3.30pm on Sunday 26th October

at Market Drayton Methodist Church All are welcome to this informal gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are served as you sing your favourite hymns



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

UHT milk (green); washing up liquid; shampoo; deodorant (male and female); anti-bac spray/toilet cleaner; shower gel.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; pasta; rice; tea; baked beans.

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

Swap Shop – Saturday 8th November



10.30am in the Parish Rooms.

Helpers as well as suitable items would be much appreciated.

Next Organ Social - 29th November

Our next organ fund raising event will be a social along similar lines to the very successful one held in May. There will be a buffet style meal interspersed with entertainment. We are still looking for offers of help.

Please let Elaine know if you can contribute to the entertainment.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebboxes will be collected from 10th November. Please save and fill your own boxes. Contact Hilary Talbot for further information.



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

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund