

Christmas 2025



Prince of Peace

"Wonderful, Counsellor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" Handel set these words of Isaiah, written over two thousand five hundred years ago, to music in 1741. They provide our theme for Advent this year. Every time I think about them, I hear the magnificent music from the Messiah ringing in my ears. It is the grandest music for a most thrilling prophecy – God will send his Son into our world to make all the things right that fell apart in the Garden of Eden. It is prophecy with a promise of greatness under the care of a supreme, benevolent ruler.

As is so often the case, God's idea of the perfect ruler who will bring us peace that surpasses all our understanding, is not the hero of might, majesty and power we might imagine. The peace God wants for us is the wholeness, well-being and confidence that comes from loving Him, living for Him and being forgiven by Him for all our sinfulness. To do this, He sent us His Son: conceived out of wedlock, born in a shed, a refugee from mayhem and murder and armed entirely with the knowledge and love of God, his Father. Jesus lived out completely the values of God's Kingdom and made them real in the day to day lives of everyday people from the strongest to the weakest, both the best and the worst. He cherished the poor, the humble, the sick and the weak, he knew that God moved in them, and us, just as much as he does in everyone else. Jesus fully expressed what life is like when lived out in the power of the Holy Spirit with its fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. His is the perfect example to us of a life worth living. When we follow him and let the fruits of the Spirit find expression in everything we do, then His Kingdom grows a bit larger and comes a bit closer. These are the reasons why that baby in that manger remains the best Christmas present we have ever had.

Lindsay

Christmas Carol Singing

Singers and friends needed to join carol singing on **Monday 22nd 7pm at Mercian Court**



Please pray for...

Rachel (a member of our Thursday congregation); Sue Norman; Hazel Haskayne; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Ben Robinson; Jack Cade; Finley Parton; John and Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris; Hilary Talbot's friend Kelly. We also pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, including the families and friends of Eric White and Timothy Haywood.

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.

Games Café

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 13th January 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



PCC News

At the last PCC meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the installation of external CCTV cameras to improve security. A local firm will be engaged and Peter Fox is applying for a faculty. As soon as this is received we can proceed with the work. Over 50% of the cost has been raised by donations and the proceeds of the auction at The Crown at the end of August. The remaining cost will be met from the Fabric Fund.

And...

Every three years we decide which Christian charities we support. From 2026 PCC have decided we will support Ukraine Christian Ministries and Waterways Chaplaincy (pending reassurance about their continuation). In addition, we will continue to support Tearfund, Embrace the Middle East and UCB. Each charity will receive £1600 for each of the next three years. For further information please speak to Geoff Oakes.

Services

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

Sunday 21st December

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

Readings Psalm 37.1-11; John 14.15-27

10.30am No Service

7.00pm Carol Service

Sunday 28th December

9.00am No Service

10.30am Songs of Praise service

Readings: Isaiah 63.7-9; Matthew 2.13-end

Please let Catherine know if you have a favourite hymn or worship song you'd like us to sing.

The 10.30 services 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

There is no Thursday BCP Holy Communion on 25th December & 1st January. The next service is on Thursday 8th January.

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day

No 9.00am Service

10.00am Family Communion Service



Christmas Carol Service

We are partnering with our local support group to raise funds for the Severn Hospice. There will be gift aid envelopes available, and all contactless payments will go to this worthy charity. Next year the Christmas Carol Concert will raise funds for McMillan Cancer Support.

Church Office

This is the last newsletter before the New Year. The office will be closed from 22nd December and reopen on 5th January when Helen returns from annual leave. If you have any **urgent** requests/enquiries, please contact Elaine Cook (contact details opposite)

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice;
Jam; UHT Milk (blue full fat only); Sponge
Pudding/cake; Jars of Pasta/Cooking Sauces; Small Jars of Coffee; Small packs of Tea (40s); Tins/ Packets of Vegetarian Chilli/Curry; Biscuits; Laundry Washing Tabs/Pods; Washing-up Liquid; Deodorant (female); Toothpaste; Anti-bac Wipes.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; rice; baked beans.

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



Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting Friday 16th January 2026.
Details to follow.

Mothers' Union

...are collecting used postage stamps for charity. Please leave your stamps in the container on the welcome desk at the back of church. Thank you



Please

...make sure you check the pigeon-holes by the main (west) door, to see if anyone has left you a Christmas card.

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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

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E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund