

22nd March 2026

Sharing the Good News

I wonder if you can remember some of the comments made by teachers on your school reports? One comment I always remember was written by my sister's art teacher. To be fair, my sister was pretty hopeless at art and quite often our father would help her with her homework. At the end of one school year the art teacher had written on my sister's report: "Father's art is improving"!

As we continue our Lenten series, the topic for this Sunday is "Sharing the Good News". I wonder what would be written on our reports about how well we do at Sharing the Good News. I suspect for many of us the comment might well be one that appeared on our old school reports: "COULD DO BETTER"! When it comes to sharing the "Good News" of Jesus with others, I know a lot of us know we could do better. We should realise, however, that we are not all evangelists. We have to remember that being an evangelist (being able to explain, clearly and with conviction, the love of God shown to the world by the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that our sins may be forgiven and we can be made right with God) is one of the gifts from the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:11), and this gift of evangelism is not given to all of us. However, for all of us, what is expected of us is: *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"* (1 Peter 3:15). This means sharing with those whom we know our own unique personal experience of the presence of Jesus in our lives, and all He has done for us. Our reading from Romans says: *"How can they hear about him unless someone tells them"* (10:14 NLT). We have quite a responsibility towards our friends, since it may well be that we are the only person they know who is able to share the Good News with them. Let us, therefore, ask the Holy Spirit to help us to do better at sharing the Good News.

David



Please pray for...



Phil Turnock; Malcolm Grey-Smart; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray

Reynolds. We also pray for the families and friends of Helen Venables, Mary Cater and Ronald Hand.

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.

Sharing the Good News Socially

For the past few months several of us from St. Mary's have been meeting informally at the Crown, in Stafford Street/Queen's Street, each Tuesday evening just to chat and spend time together, and we invite more of you to join us. We meet about 7pm for an hour or two. One advantage of meeting on Tuesday evenings is that it is "Steak Night" which means £2 off the price of a steak and a free drink. Meals are served between 5pm and 8pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Support for 'Open the Book' in Schools



'Open the Book' presents the Bible in a fun drama form, ideal for school assemblies. We're putting together a team to go into the schools in our town. If you'd like to be involved, please talk to Carol Preston to find out more.

Easter Canal Towpath Outreach



28th and 29th March, near Newcastle Road Bridge 62. We'll be giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs,

inviting passers-by to our Easter services and running quizzes for families. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. Donations of hot cross buns (well inside best before date, please) and/or contributions to the costs, gratefully received. ***Please bring buns to St Mary's on Wednesday 25th March between 11.00am and 1.00pm*** or contact us to arrange collection at another time. More details from Jan and John Halford, 07478 337188.

Services

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

Sunday 22nd March

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Romans 10. 5 – 17 and Matthew 9. 9 - 13

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

IONA Communion



Sunday 22nd March at 6.30pm

Reading: Psalm 86

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Easter Services

All services at St Mary's unless otherwise stated.

Palm Sunday 29th March

Services at 9.00am and 10.30am. The latter will be followed by a procession to the Cheshire St War Memorial.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am Service at MDMC followed by Walk of Witness and service outside the Town Hall at 10.40am.

2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross

7.00pm Candlelit Tennebrae

Easter Day 5th April

6.15am Sunrise Communion (in churchyard)

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CM Holy Communion

Wine Tasting



Saturday 18th April 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms.

Tickets £15, in aid of the Organ Fund and available from Barbara Bashford. Only 30 tickets are available, so book soon to avoid disappointment!

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Instant mash; custard; instant noodles; sponge puddings/cakes; soup; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; shampoo; toilet roll; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; washing up liquid.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

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

Children's Corner

If you are able to help with our Children's Corner on the 1st or 3rd Sundays of the month, please speak to Carol Preston or Catherine McBride for more information.



Urgent Help Needed

If you can help with serving refreshments on a Sunday morning please speak to Pat Fox.

Deanery Synod – 25th March

All welcome to this meeting on **25th March** at Christ Church, Little Drayton

Games Café

The Games Cafe closes its doors on **Tuesday 24th of March** until next Winter. A big thank you to all who have given of their time, talents and cakes! Your help has been invaluable.

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

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Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund