

23rd August 2026

Faith That Remembers

Though the prophet Isaiah, God calls his people to remember where they have come from:

"Look to the rock from which you were hewn." They are reminded that God can bring life from what seems small, barren, or hopeless. Their future does not depend simply on their circumstances, but on the faithfulness of God. In Matthew, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" and who else but Peter answers, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus blesses Peter and speaks of building his Church upon this confession of faith. Peter had a long way to go, but he was work in progress!

These passages invite us to ask where our own faith is rooted. Like Israel, we can easily become discouraged when the world around us feels uncertain. We may look at our weaknesses, failures, or fears and wonder whether God can still bring something good from them. Yet Isaiah reminds us to look back and remember God's faithfulness. Peter's confession gives us the heart of Christian faith: Jesus is the Messiah. The Church is built not on human strength or perfection, but on the truth of who Christ is. When we remember God's faithfulness and keep our eyes fixed on Christ, as we were thinking about two Sundays ago, we can face the future with hope. God is still at work. What may appear small or fragile in our hands can become something fruitful in his hands. Our calling is simply to trust Christ, confess our faith, and follow him faithfully however hard it may be.

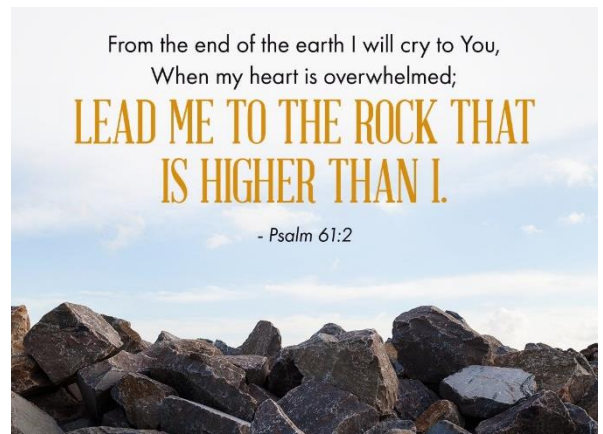
Peter

Iona Communion



Join us for a quiet, contemplative communion service in the round. This **Sunday 23rd August at 6.30pm**

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Dean Price; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, 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.

Confirmation Service

Sunday 6th September at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come and support our candidates. If you could make (or buy) a cake for refreshments after the service that would be great. Please let Pat or Margaret know.

Concert: Friday 11th September 7.30pm



A Choired Taste and Newport & District Male Voice Choir present a varied programme of easy listening at St Mary's to entertain us in aid of our

organ fund. Leaflets are available at the Welcome desk, please share these and encourage everyone to join us. If you are happy to make cake or help on the night serving refreshments or acting as car park attendants (from 6.30pm), please speak to Margaret Deaville. Tickets cost £10 each and are now available from Elaine Cook.

Ginger & Spice Fundraising Event

Sun 23rd August Afternoon Tea at Cotton House
See notice board at back of church for more details.

Songs of Praise MDMC



Sunday 23rd August at 3.30pm

Come along to the Methodist Church and choose and sing your favourite hymns whilst enjoying pleasant company and tea & cakes!

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Isaiah 51.1 – 6 Matthew 16.13 – 20

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

6.30pm Iona Communion

Reading: Psalm 138

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>

Seeking the 100th Bishop of Lichfield ...have your say



You can take part in the consultation process for our new Diocesan Bishop, either by using this QR code or following the link [here](#). There is more information and Q&As about the consultations [here](#) and some optional background information about the diocese [here](#). If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter, these various links can be found via

www.lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/vacancy-in-see/

Please pray for our Diocese during the vacancy and for Bishop Michael as he prepares to retire.

Phoenix Group (for the bereaved)



Next meeting: September 18th a trip out to Sunnycroft National Trust near Wellington. To book a place, a deposit of £5 is required. Times and transport details will follow.

Word for Today

Copies of the Word for Today for Autumn 2026 are now available at the Welcome Desk.



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Tinned fruit; biscuits, UHT semi-skimmed milk; sponge puddings/cake; long life fruit juice; packets of mashed potato.

Low stock Items:

Pasta sauce; rice pudding; custard; jam; shampoo; sanitary towels; regular tampons; men's deodorant.

We have plenty of: **Baked beans.**

See the Foodbank website for more details. The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Church Organ

The PCC would like to hear your views as we consider the best way forward for our church organ. Please pick up a leaflet and return your responses, in the box provided, **by Sunday 6th September**. Thank you.

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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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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

During Helen's absence, please continue to use the church email address in the usual way.

To ensure Elaine has a break from work on her days off, please avoid speaking to her about office matters on a Sunday. She is happy to talk to you about music, AV or Gift Aid matters. Thank you.