

24<sup>th</sup> May 2026



This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost and at our 10.30 service we are also celebrating some baptisms, so what a great opportunity to reflect on how streams of water flowing over someone can become “rivers of living water flowing from within them” (John 7.38).

At baptism, water is one of the simplest and yet most powerful symbols we use. Water cleanses, refreshes and gives life. In baptism it speaks of God’s grace poured freely upon us, reminding us that we are welcomed, forgiven, loved and claimed as His own. Yet Jesus’ words in John’s Gospel take us even further. Faith is not simply something poured onto us from the outside; through the gift of the Holy Spirit it begins to flow from within us and out into the world around us.

That is exactly what we celebrate at Pentecost. The disciples, who had once hidden fearfully behind locked doors, were filled with the Spirit and suddenly became people overflowing with courage, joy and hope. God’s Spirit was no longer something distant or reserved for a few, but alive within ordinary men and women, enabling them to speak words of life and love to others.

We baptise people in the name of the Father, the Son *and the Holy Spirit*. We pray for the Holy Spirit to dwell within each person being baptised, so that their lives may reflect Jesus and they become channels of the Father’s love. None of us are called simply to keep faith for ourselves. Like living water, faith is meant to move, refresh and bring life wherever it flows.

As we gather this Sunday, perhaps we can remember our own baptismal calling. May the Spirit renew us again, so that God’s love may flow through us into our homes, our community and our daily lives.

*Catherine*

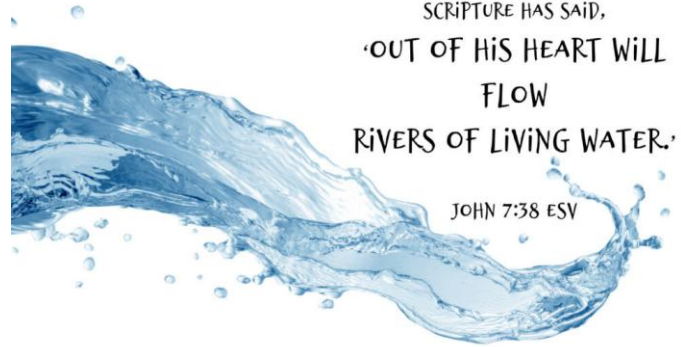
## Last call for donations for Christian Aid

Donation envelopes are available at the back of church. Please return these **by the end of May**.

Please note the deadline for items for the newsletter is noon on Wednesdays. Thank you.

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE  
SCRIPTURE HAS SAID,  
‘OUT OF HIS HEART WILL  
FLOW  
RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.’

JOHN 7:38 ESV



## Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Dean Price; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds. Also the families and friends of Janet Wray, Roy Monger and John Jacobs.

*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 & Families Vision Day

Please note that the Vision Day planned Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 has been postponed. Watch this space for further updates.

## Songs of Praise MDMC

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm



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



## APCM Update

Many thanks to those who attended and presented at our APCM meeting on Monday evening. Following the meeting, the current PCC members are: Richard Priestley, Janet Gilliland, Justin Frankfort and Kath Slater and Davd Lake (who is also Treasurer). There are a number of casual vacancies which we hope to fill over the coming months. Your Churchwardens are Peter Fox and Margaret Deaville.

We are still in need of a new PCC Secretary. This role is key to the smooth running of the PCC, so please give some prayerful consideration as to whether you could fill this role. Please speak to Catherine McBride for more information.

We also have vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives. Again, please speak to Catherine to find out more.

## Services

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

### Sunday

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Morning Worship and Baptism**

**Readings:** Acts 2.1 – 21 and John 7.37 – 39

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**

**6.30pm Iona Communion**

**Reading:** Isaiah 11.1 - 9



### Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

### UCB Celebration

If anyone would like to accompany Liz Barnes to an evening of praise, worship and testimonies in West Bromich on **Saturday, 27th June** (6.30- 8.30 pm). Please let her know as soon as possible.

### The BFG (Big Family Gathering)

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 11.00 at Tern Hill Hall**

A day of worship, live music, community performances, food, games, stalls and much more (including St Mary's Messy Church activities). Tickets are free, but must be booked. See <https://mdmc.org.uk/bfg/>

### How can you serve?

You'll have seen from the APCM reports, we have some wonderful teams of volunteers assisting in the care and running of many aspects of St Mary's, including:

Welcome team	Audio/visual desk;
Musicians and singers	Refreshments;
'Brass Band'	Open church;
Prayer ministry	Gardening.

Messy Church and children's corner;

Reading and leading intercessions;

All teams are delighted to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to help, chat with a member of any of the teams or one of the church wardens for more information.

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Stock Items urgently required:

**Green/blue milk; fruit juice.**

*Low stock Items:*

**Cereal; toilet roll; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; size 6 nappies; deodorant.**

**We have plenty of:** Baked beans; washing powder/pods.

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

### Urgent Help Needed – AV Desk

Please contact Elaine Cook if you are willing to help operate the AV Desk – we urgently need at least one more to join the Audio/Zoom team. Training given.



### Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)



**June 26<sup>th</sup>** (please note change of date) at the Festival Drayton centre. **July 17<sup>th</sup>** – an afternoon tea at Fletchers garden centre. To book a place a £5 deposit is required.

### 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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**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Children and Families Worker:** Carol Preston

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**Phone:** 01630 656943

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

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund