

25th January 2026



A warm welcome to Finlay Platts and his family and friends as he is baptised today.

Called, Changed, and Drawn Together in Christ

Both readings today invite us to reflect on call, conversion and the grace that reshapes both individuals and the whole Church.

Peter asks Jesus a very human question: "We have left everything to follow you, what then will there be for us?" Jesus does not dismiss the sacrifice but gently reframes it. God's kingdom is not built on comparison or entitlement. Instead, it overturns our assumptions: "Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." Discipleship is not about status, but about trust in God's generous grace. Saul is convinced he is right, convinced he is serving God, yet he is blind to the truth. On the road to Damascus, Christ does not destroy him but transforms him. Saul is humbled, blinded, and then healed. He must receive the gospel through the hands of Ananias, a member of the very community he once persecuted. Conversion leads not only to faith in Christ, but to belonging within the Body.

As we come to the end of the Week for Christian Unity, these readings challenge us to humility. Like Peter, we can be tempted to measure faithfulness by what we have given up. Like Saul, we can be certain our tradition or viewpoint is the right one. Yet Christ meets us all on the road calling us to repentance, deeper faith, and renewed fellowship.

Unity is not uniformity, but shared submission to Christ. Arising from this week, may we be willing to be changed, to listen, and to recognise Christ can work beyond our own assumptions so that, together, we may bear witness to the reconciling love of God.

Peter



Please pray for...



Malcolm Grey-Smart; Sue Norman; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Ben Robinson; John and Ray Reynolds.

We also pray for Tracy Cook and her family following the death of Ian Cook and the families and friends of Sam Butter, Danny Emmott, Anthony Morris and Thomas Muir.

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 27th January at 2.00pm**

in the Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Games Café continues to the end of March.



Save The Dates – two social events!

MUSIC HALL SINGALONG

28 SATURDAY
FEB 2PM

Parish Rooms, St. Mary's
Market Drayton
Refreshments available



Coming soon to The Parish Rooms: on **Saturday 28th February, 2 – 4.30pm**, for your delectation and delight, a deliciously delightful Music Hall Variety style entertainment event...

and on Saturday

18th April, a Wine Tasting evening.

More details for both events will be available closer to the time.



Services

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

Sunday 25th January

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship & Baptism

Readings: Acts 9. 1-22 and Matthew 19. 27-end

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=RytPQ3RmOG5yYIBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

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>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A service to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held **this Sunday 25th January 3.30pm** at Market Drayton Methodist Church, where the speaker will be Catherine McBride. Everyone is very welcome.



Swap Shop

Saturday 7th February at 10.30 in the Parish Rooms. Helpers would be most appreciated. **Please note: due to storage constraints, donations can only be accepted on the day itself. Please do not bring donations before this.**

UCB

Copies of the UCB Word for Today covering February/March/April are now available on the table at the entrance to the Church. UCB thank all at St. Mary's for our support and partnership during 2025.

Film Club

Christ Church Little Drayton

Thursday 19th February 1.00pm showing Sister Act 2. Light lunch and raffle. ALL FREE and everyone welcome.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:



UHT milk; instant mash; sponge puddings/cakes; long-life fruit juice; pasta/cooking sauce; small jars of coffee; biscuits; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; toilet roll; male/female deodorant; shower gel; toothpaste; sanitary towels; shampoo.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; rice; baked beans; pasta.

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

Alpha

There is still a chance to sign up for the Alpha course starting this coming



Tuesday It's a great opportunity to explore the Christian faith. The course is running on Tuesdays 7.00pm at MDMC from 27th January to 31st March. There are leaflets at the back of church with more 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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund