

27th July 2025



Raised to New Life

When I meet with parents to prepare for the baptism of their children, we think about the symbols used in the baptism service: we sign each child with the sign of the **cross**; we baptize them in **water** and we give them the gift of a **candle**.

The cross is such a powerful symbol, encapsulating the very core of our faith: that humankind was helpless to deal with all our sin, but that God made us a way to forgiveness and that way was the cross. We're all guilty of thinking we know how best to run our lives, usually with very little thought to how God wants us to live. And we see the consequences of that every day in the news. It's easy to think that it's all that big stuff that is the problem, but every selfish act, unkind thought, unloving word, however inconsequential they seem to us, all of it adds to the mountain of things that separate us from God. BUT THROUGH JESUS GOD BRINGS US FORGIVENESS and *everything* that causes us guilt, shame, regret, remorse is nailed to the cross – all of it...dealt with, removed, disarmed (Colossians 2.15). The cross might seem like a symbol of death and defeat, but to the Christian it is a symbol of triumph.

The water we use in a baptism also symbolises that forgiveness and fresh start, free from sin, that Jesus brings us. But, if you've ever seen a full immersion baptism, you'll also have seen that powerful and vivid enactment of the 'old life' going down and the 'new life' being raised up. As St Paul says, we are buried with Jesus in baptism and also raised with him, through our faith in the God who raised Jesus from the dead (Colossians 2.1).

Baptism is just the beginning though. As forgiven people, full of the new life that God gives us, we have a purpose – to continue on and live our lives for Christ, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2. 6-7). The candle is the symbol of that new life that we take forward with us and out into the world, so that it (we) can be a sign to others that forgiveness and hope and new life is available for them too.

Catherine



Please pray for...



Brian McClellan, John Panter, Mary Senior, Joe McPhee, Cherion George, Nita's grandson, Ben and Debra Deeley's son-in-law, Andy

We also remember in our prayers the families of Jenny Wade and Alan Dean (Helen Sweet's son-in-law), who have recently died. Jenny's funeral will be here at St Mary's on Wednesday 13th August at 12.00.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.

Recent PCC Discussions

At its recent meeting the PCC approved a working group recommendation that a Children and Families Worker should be appointed for an initial 3-year period and the position will be advertised in the autumn. If you would like to learn more, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the working group....Ali Doulton, Richard Priestley, Geoff Oakes, Julia Farrant or Hilary Talbot.

Discussion also took place on the recent fire and an insurance claim has already been submitted. A community group is organising a charity auction in August to raise funds towards our insurance excess and to the cost of additional security measures....more information to follow!

Concert in aid of our organ fund



Saturday 23rd August at 7.00pm in church. Enjoy the sound of the Shifnal Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund

If you are available to help with welcoming or serving refreshments at this event, please speak to Elaine.

Services

Welcome today to the families and friends of Emilia Banfield and Theo Firman-Attaoui, who are being baptised today.

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

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship + Baptism

Readings **Colossians 2.6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11.1-13**

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 10.00am BCP Holy Communion



IONA Communion

Sunday 27th July at 6.30pm

Reading: Psalm 95

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Refreshments

Everyone enjoys the social time after our 10.30 service on Sundays, but it often slips our minds that the refreshments are made and served by an unsung group of volunteers. We are in need of extra people to help provide these refreshments. So, if you enjoy a coffee and nibbles on a Sunday morning, please consider joining our group of volunteers. Contact Pat Fox if you are interested.



Charity Auction



The local community are organising a charity auction to raise funds to help towards:

- a) the cost of the fire damage; and
- b) improvements to security.

Nick Allsopp, a local auctioneer, together with Nicola, the licensee of The Crown in the town centre, have arranged for the auction to take place on **Thursday 14th August at 7.30pm in the Crown**. Everyone is welcome. They are also organising a draw and if anyone would like to donate a draw prize or an item to sell at auction, Kath Slater has put a box at the back of church. Kath will also have draw tickets available to buy.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Tinned Fruit; Long-life Fruit Juice; Jam; Tinned Wet Dog Food; Men's Deodorant; Anti-bac spray/wipes.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

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

Messy Church Summer BBQ



Tuesday 5th August at the Vicarage

This is a ticketed event for all regular Messy Church families. If you usually attend but have not received an

invite, please contact the office and Helen will forward your details to the Messy Church team.

St Mary's Mothers Union

A special party was held last Monday afternoon to celebrate 3 of their ladies having been members of this wonderful worldwide organisation for 62, 60 and 60 years. Molly Lucas, Beryl Hinton and Mary Leonard-Johnson were presented with certificates to mark the occasion by Vicar Catherine McBride and fellow members and friends enjoyed a social afternoon of tea, cake and quizzes.



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

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.