

30th August 2026

Magnificence to share

Earlier this month we were able to observe an eclipse of the sun. In Market Drayton. At the height of the eclipse over 90% of the sun was covered by the moon, with only a thin crescent sun visible using a pinhole camera or eclipse glasses. Even 10% of the sun is far too bright for us to view safely without eye protection. Watchers in Siberia, Greenland, Iceland and Spain were able to see a total eclipse, where the bright surface of the sun is completely shadowed and its glowing corona bursts into view. A total solar eclipse is the most moving spectacle: day turns to night; stars hidden by the glare of sunlight spring into view; birds fall silent and even the noisiest crowds hush during that magnificent, celestial moment. Eclipses are always best observed in company. We are all filled with awe and wonder, for a moment the majesty and power of God is palpable and so is the desire to share it.

Total eclipses are rare, in England; the last was in 1999 and the next is in 2090 and totality is only ever visible in a narrow band. However, there is a pattern to eclipses that allowed astronomers accurately to forecast eclipses long before they understood about the orbits of the earth around the sun and the moon around the earth. Knowing just when and where eclipses are going to occur does not detract from the deeply spiritual experience they offer. Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian, reports that an eclipse that occurred during a battle between the Medes and the Lydians inspired both sides to put down their weapons and declare peace.

The bible resounds with wonder and praise at the majesty of stars and space, mountains and plains, rivers and seas - always seen as the work of the Creator God who, amazingly, still cares for us, individuals in the enormity of the Universe. He promised Jeremiah that: "I am with you to rescue and save you." Jesus promises all those who know, love and live for him that: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Lindsay

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. We pray for the family and

friends of Keith McIntosh.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list. The list above will be reviewed and edited next week.

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 or supply 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 or can be reserved by emailing songbirdsandswans@gmail.com.



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.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship & Healing Prayer

Readings: Jeremiah 15.15 – 21 Matthew 16.21 – 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=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>



Stewardship and Gift Aid

Thank you to those who have recently expressed an interest in gift aiding their donations. This allows us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC. Donations need to be made by standing order or using the envelope scheme. Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the welcome desk and should be returned to Elaine Cook upon completion. Any questions to Elaine, who also has envelopes for use under the envelope scheme. Standing order payments should be made to:

'PCC St Mary's Church'
sort code 30-15-39
a/c number 00102200

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Pasta; rice; tinned fruit; packets of mashed potato; sponge puddings/cake; UHT semi-skimmed milk (green); biscuits.

Low stock Items:

Long-life fruit juice; 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

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Children and Families Worker: Carol Preston

Phone: 07878 926853

E-mail: Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com



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.