

3rd May 2026



Context is King

Have we ever jumped into a situation and made a judgement call without all the facts, only to regret it later? Whether that is being involved in some form of debate or making a personal decision. It is easy to make the 'wrong call' without all the facts that put the situation in its right context. 'The Stoning of Stephen' passage starting at Acts 7 verse 54 didn't seem to have the context for me to understand it without further exploration. When it said 'When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this' my thought was 'heard what? So, I explored, not only historically (before this verse) but further on into scripture and I am glad I did, because it opened my eyes to the unknowns. So, what was the issue?

The Sanhedrin members were incensed at the rapid success rate of new converts to the new movement that Stephen was part of. It threatened their standing, influence and authority over the community they lorded over. Stephen's proclamation of the Risen Lord showed who held the true power and authority of God, it was evidenced in the many new converts to 'The Way'. The Sanhedrin didn't like that. The only way the members of the Sanhedrin could see to stop Stephen proclaiming Jesus was to bring false witnesses against him to justify stoning him – this they did. Yet, as with all things Jesus related – death was not the end – there is life. When looking ahead (for further context) we see that Saul (who had been standing there approving of Stephen's death by stoning) also became a follower of 'The Way', to the enrichment of us all – that man we know as the Apostle Paul!

The King of Context (God) knows the end from the beginning – trust him.

Carol

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

Meeting **Friday 15th May** 10.30am at Festival Drayton Centre for coffee, cake and chat.



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Veronica Williams; Dean Price; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and

Ray Reynolds. Also the families and friends of Len Hutchinson, Thelma Arnold and Joyce Carless.

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.

Ascension Day Service 14th May at 7pm



We are hosting the Deanery Ascension Day Service this year. All volunteers to sing in the scratch choir, please contact Elaine Cook. Refreshments will be served after the service, so if anyone can help with cake, biscuits or the serving of tea and coffee it would be much appreciated. Please indicate on the sheet at the back of the church what you are able to help with, many thanks.



APCM – Monday 18th May at 7.30pm

The APCM is on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm in Church. Nominations are invited for both the PCC (10 vacancies) and Deanery Synod (3 vacancies). Nomination forms are available on the table at the entrance to the Church and require a proposer and seconder. **Please note that members of both the PCC and Deanery Synod are required to undergo safeguarding training and have DBS checks.**

If you would like to be able to vote at the APCM you will need to be on the Electoral Roll. A copy is on the notice board at the back of church, if you need to check. If you are baptised, aged 16+, and live in the parish or have attended regularly for six months, you can apply to join. Application forms are on the Welcome Desk and can be left in the yellow box provided.

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

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 7.55-end and John 14.1-14

We're without a volunteer for the sound desk and Zoom this week, so sadly the 10.30 service will NOT be on Zoom.

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>

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.

Swap Shop



Saturday 16th May, 10.30am in the Parish Rooms. Due to limited storage, please only bring **a few** donations **on the day**. Helpers please as usual. Thank you

Word for Today




Copies of the May-July UCB Word for Today booklets are available on the table at the entrance to the Church. Please take one and if you haven't read it previously please try one and we are sure you will find it inspiring.

Meal for Romania

Join us for a 3-course meal plus tea/coffee on **Saturday 9th May at 6pm** in the Methodist church hall. The cost is £15, a fund-raiser for the needy church supported by the Methodists. Please see John Corney if you would like to attend.

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May

 Please help support projects helping those in need around the world. Donation envelopes will be available at all our services that week.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Cereal; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; tinned spaghetti; jam; instant mash (single packs); instant noodles; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; conditioner; shampoo; toilet roll; toothpaste; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; shaving gel.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

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

Diocesan Day of Prayer

Wednesday 6th – Thursday 7th May

Do join us online for the Hodnet session which starts at **3.00pm on Wednesday 6th May**. You can access this via the link or details below:

Direct Link: [here](#)

Meeting ID: 829 5163 4231 Passcode: 774732

Bishop Sarah will be leading Opening Prayer 10.00 Wed 6th May and Closing Prayers 11.30 Thurs 7th May. For more information see the Diocesan website:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-faith/diocesan-day-of-prayer/diocesan-day-of-prayer-6-7-may-2026.php?origin=search>

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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund