

4<sup>th</sup> October 2026



## Harvest Thanksgiving

Every autumn we celebrate Harvest Festival giving thanks for all the good things that the growing season has provided. Bringing in the harvest before any losses to inclement autumn and winter weather has always been important for farmers for whom the sale of harvest goods provides the resources to purchase food and fertiliser for next year's crops. For generations an important element of harvest time was a party to share food and celebrate together with singing and dancing.

In America the most important holiday of the whole year is Thanksgiving, now celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. The roots of this celebration go back to the very earliest settlers for whom a significant harvest ensured they would survive the harsh American winter. In New England help from native American Indians definitely contributed to the Thanksgiving celebrations because of the hunting and agricultural activities they had shared with the settlers. Earlier this year I was profoundly moved by a little book called 'The Serviceberry - an economy of gifts and abundance' written by the native American botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer. She makes a dramatic contrast between market economies and gift economies. Markets are driven by the underlying principles of scarcity and the ability to maximize return on investment - the greatest status and success are inextricably linked to ownership and possession. In gift economies abundant harvests, owned by no one, are shared. Sharing fosters good relationships and encourages reciprocity - when you have plenty you invite others to share; when they are so fortunate, they invite you.

A gift economy is part and parcel of God's upside down Kingdom where the last are first, the first last, there is always enough for everyone and sharing trumps selfish hoarding. Surely this is one of the lessons we can take from the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12: 13-21). The bumper harvest was a gift from God that was never meant to be withheld purely for personal gain. Here, Jesus challenges us to recognise that God continues to provide each of us with inexhaustible love and a variety of gifts to share in His growing Kingdom.

*Lindsay*



## Please pray for...



John Panter and Pam Clarke. We pray for the family and friends of Susan Brown and Phillip Hickman.

*Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list, which is reviewed and edited regularly.*

## Warm Spaces: Games Café...

...returns fortnightly from **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2-4pm**. Do pop in for a cake and drink and see what is going on!. If you have a game you would like to bring with you please do. All welcome and feel free to bring a friend or neighbour with you. It's also a perfect chance for those from all our congregations to meet and mingle. A lovely way to make new friends! Regards Avril

## Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival I this Sunday **4<sup>th</sup> October**. If you bring your donations for the Foodbank we will make sure they are delivered to them. Please check the information at the back of church to see what they need.

## Messy Church

On **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm** in The Parish Rooms.



## Christmas Choir – singers needed!



'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service (20<sup>th</sup> December) start at 7.30pm on Thursdays from 22<sup>nd</sup> October for harmony singers; with tune singers joining from 26<sup>th</sup> November. Please let me know if you would like to take part. Everyone is welcome. Elaine

## Christ Church Film Club

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 12pm**. 'Bridget Jones Diary' Everyone is welcome for a film, light lunch and a chat. Free.

## Services

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

### Sunday

**9.00am BCP Holy Communion**

**10.30am CW Holy Communion HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Readings:** Philippians 3. 4b - 14 Matthew 21. 33 – end

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMZ2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

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>

## Another Great Outreach Opportunity – Do Join Us

We had a great opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with around 150 children at the recent Ginger and Spice Festival, where they were able to make spice bags and play an interactive game relating to a 'spice-related' Bible story. It was all free, lovingly given and it was busy! Many thanks to the team for helping us embrace this great missionary opportunity.

Join us for our next outreach opportunity on Saturday 31st October (Halloween Night), when we'll be bringing a message of light to the streets of the Dalelands and Fairfields estates, as we go out dressed as Angels of Light, meeting those who are out and about, bearing treats and the Good News of Jesus. Approximate times will be 6pm – 7.30pm (details to follow)

Please let Carol Preston know if you'd like to take part (email [Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](mailto:Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk) or call 07878 926853).

## Foodbank Items Needed



### Urgent or low stock items:

**Cartons of UHT semi-skimmed milk; cartons of long-life fruit juice; biscuits; noodles; toilet rolls; cleaning products; shampoo; laundry washing pods; washing up liquid.**

**We have plenty of:** Baked beans.

See the Foodbank website for more details.

<https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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

**Please see the back of church for information about the Foodbank's Harvest Appeal**

## Stewardship and Gift Aid

Many thanks indeed to those who gift aid their donations to St Mary's. This allows us to claim an extra 25% back from HMRC. If you would like to gift aid any donations made by standing order or the envelope scheme, Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the welcome desk. Please return these to Elaine Cook and speak to Elaine if you have any questions. She 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

## 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](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

**Facebook:** @StMarysMarketDrayton

**Parish Rooms FB:** @TheParishRoomsMD

**Children and Families Worker:** Carol Preston

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**Vicar:** Revd Catherine McBride

**Phone:** 01630 656943

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**Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.**

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund