

6th September 2026



Love That Restores

We seem to be living in a time when some of the most powerful people in the world excel at holding grudges and are keen to exact their revenge for all the world to see. Paul's words in Romans 13 are a challenge to all of us: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another." (NRSV). In a world that likes to 'keep score' —who has helped us, who's disappointed us, who's hurt us—Paul reminds us that the Christian life is not about keeping accounts. Our one lasting debt is love.

But what does that love look like when relationships become difficult? Jesus' solution is both practical and challenging (Matthew 18). He speaks about what to do when another member of the church sins against us. We're not to gossip or gripe and complain to others, but neither are we to simply walk away. Instead, we're told to go and speak to the person privately. The aim is not to win an argument or prove that we are right, but to "win them over" - and we may have to acknowledge some home truths about ourselves in the process.

We see that Christian love is not passive. It's willing to have difficult conversations, because people and relationships matter. At the same time, Jesus' teaching gives us a process: begin privately, involve others if necessary, and seek the restoration of fellowship. There is both truth and grace.

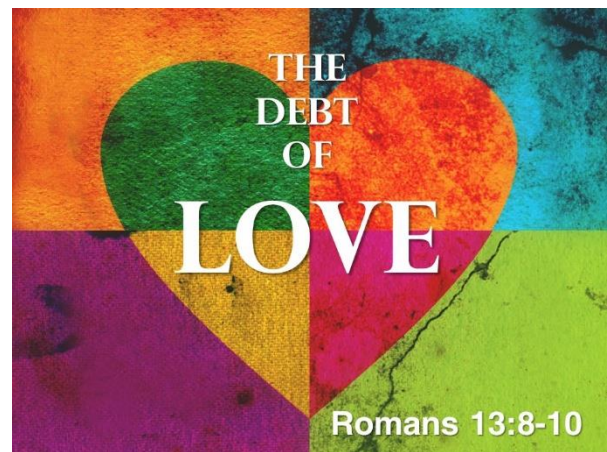
Then comes the beautiful promise that where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there among us. He isn't just talking about when we gather for worship; he's reminding us that he's there with us in the midst of the difficult work of reconciliation, too.

Perhaps these readings invite us to ask: Is there someone with whom I need to make peace? Is there a conversation I've been avoiding? Or am I carrying a debt of resentment that Jesus is asking me to release?

Sadly, we know that relationships between Christians aren't immune from problems. We cannot manufacture perfect relationships. But we can choose the way of love. And as Jesus shows us, love seeks not merely to be right, but to restore what has been broken.

Catherine

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.



Please pray for...



John Panter. 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, which is reviewed and edited regularly.

Confirmation Service Today

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, please speak to **Margaret Deaville**. If you're prepared to help as a car park attendant (from 6.30pm), please speak to **Peter Fox**. 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 Holy Communion

4.00pm Confirmation Service

Readings: Romans 13.8 - end Matthew 18.15 – 20

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

Next Sunday (13th September) we'll be celebrating our patronal festival

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



Urgent or low stock items:

Rice; pasta sauce; sponge puddings/cake; jam; carton of UHT semi-skimmed milk; cartons of long-life fruit juice; 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.

Christ Church Film Club



Thursday 17th September at 12pm.

'Goodnight Mister Tom.' Everyone is welcome for a film, light lunch and a chat. Free.

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

Children and Families Worker: Carol Preston

Phone: 07878 926853

E-mail: Families@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com



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.