

15th February 2026

Mountains

Mountain experiences may affect us in many different ways. Probably most experiences are wonderful and give us memories that last a long time – the clear air, the magnificent views, a sense of achievement after a climb, or perhaps even a sense of solitude. On the other hand, it may be an experience of terror and dread. A time when unexpectedly there has been a change in the weather and suddenly we are enveloped in mist, we become disorientated, lost and panic ensues.

Both of the passages set for today (*Exodus 24: 12 – 18; Matthew 17: 1 – 9*) tell about mountain experiences – very special experiences, where people met with God. The Old Testament passage tells us that Moses, for a second time, is called by God to meet with Him on Mount Sinai, where we are told the glory of the Lord settled. The New Testament tells of an occasion when Jesus took three of His disciples up a mountain (probably Mount Hermon) where, again, the glory of the Lord was seen in Jesus when “*His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as the light*”. These were spectacular; however, although mountain experiences are described frequently in the Bible, most of them are not so dramatic as these two occasions. Most commonly in the Gospels we are told that the mountains were the places where Jesus taught the people, spent time with His disciples or, most importantly, went in solitude to pray – to be alone with His Father. In our lives we have, no doubt, enjoyed and remember spectacular “Mountain-top experiences” when we have been uplifted at Christian festivals etc. But we also need to escape to our own quiet “mountain” to be alone with God. That “mountain” maybe a climb up the stairs to our bedroom, a quiet spot downstairs, alone at the kitchen sink, or a quiet place at work..... Let’s enjoy the spectacular mountain experiences but also be sure to follow Jesus’ example of finding that quiet “mountain” place where we can be alone with God.

David



**“Come up to me,
on the mountain...”**

Please pray for...



Phil Turnock; Malcolm Grey-Smart; Sue Norman; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; John and Ray Reynolds.

We also pray for the families and friends of Margaret Neville and Ronald Hand.

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.

Children's Corner

As you know Carol Preston recently joined us as our part-time Children and Families' Worker, a sign that we recognise how important it is to invest in this work. We also want to make our Sunday services a consistently welcoming experience for families and our Children's Corner is an important part of that, where we provide a small activity and story for any children at the 10.30 services. Carol is here for the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, but we need a few more people willing to cover the 1st and 3rd Sundays. This is especially important as Ali and Rod Doulton will soon be moving away. Carol will prepare all the necessary material, so there's no need to worry about that. Please speak to Carol Preston or Catherine McBride for more information.

Music Hall Sing-a-long

Saturday 28th February 2pm at the Parish Rooms. Bring friends, family and neighbours to this fun event! Leaflets to advertise this afternoon are at the back of church. **Raffle prize** donations gratefully received and also volunteers to make cakes. Please contact Val Creasey if you can help.



Phoenix Group

Upcoming dates:

February 20th – coffee and chat at Festival Drayton Centre

March 13th – Lunch 12.00 at the Red Lion



Services

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

Sunday 15th February

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Exodus 24.12-end Matthew 17.1-9

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=RytPQ3RmOG5yYIBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Wednesday 18th February 6.30pm

Ash Wednesday Communion Service

Thursday Holy Communion 10.00am

IONA Communion



Sunday 22nd February at 6.30pm

Reading: Jeremiah 18. 1-11

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

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

Draw Near – Lent Booklet



Copies of the Church of England's booklet of reflections for Lent are available at the back of

church, price £2.00. We will be following the book's themes in our Lent sermons. There is also a booklet for children and families, also £2.00.

Bring and Share Lunches

Today's Bring and Share lunch (15th Feb) is at Barbara and Lindsay Bashford's home (3 The Mount, Mount Lane), starting at 1.00pm. If you would like to host a lunch, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome area.

Support for 'Open the Book' in Schools



'Open the Book' presents the Bible in a fun drama form, ideal for school assemblies.

We're putting together a team to go into the schools in our town. If you'd like to be involved, please talk to Carol Preston to find out more.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

NO STOCK: tinned spaghetti; tinned fruit; Jam; tins of ham/chicken/luncheon meat.

LOW STOCK: long-life fruit juice; UHT milk (blue full fat), instant mash; sponge puddings/cakes; instant noodles; small jars of coffee; biscuits; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; toilet roll; male/female deodorant; shower gel; shampoo.

We have plenty of: Cereal; rice; baked beans; pasta.

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

Games Café

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 24th February at 2.00pm** in the Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games, coffee and good company! Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Games Café continues to the end of March.

Children's Society Box Holders

It's time to collect your boxes and cheques please. I will be returning to church on Sunday February 22nd to collect from church or I will call on you in the next few weeks. Thanking you all for your generosity in advance. Much love in Christ Elaine Mason

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

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