

18th January 2026



Come and See

Today begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our gospel reading is not one that is usually selected for the theme of Christian Unity, yet as we read it we can find connections. It gives us an insight to the very beginnings of what would become the Church as we know it.

It might even help us reflect on our personal faith journeys. Coming to faith, seeing the light, could have been a lightbulb moment for you, or maybe a gradual realisation, like the dawn.

Here we have Andrew and another disciple of John the Baptist meeting Jesus. They seem intrigued, curious or excited by John's declaration, 'Look, the Lamb of God!'. It seems they want to discover more about him, so they go after him.

Jesus offers them a wonderful invitation to 'Come and see'. So simple, yet so profound. They accept, spending time with him. Time that was life-changing. Time that was world-changing!

Andrew's natural response to good news is – to tell someone: his brother Simon, who will become Peter. From its very beginning the church is a bringer of good news, always seeking to share it with others. But all this springs from one thing – spending meaningful time with Jesus.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity can be marked by the holding of special services (like the one next Sunday afternoon at the Methodist Church), launching a new social project showing God's love in action, or joint evangelistic missions.

Perhaps our reading can remind us that at its heart, the Church's life, purpose, and mission, are all grounded on time spent with Jesus. We don't invite people who have all the answers, whose lives are all perfectly sorted out. What we can do is share the same invitation that Jesus offered, 'Come and See'. Opening the way for them meet our friend Jesus, and discover how he is the best news.

Offering this invitation, I believe, is what unites us as Christians together in Market Drayton.

Yours,

Rod



Please pray for...

Sue Norman; Brian McClellan; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Ben Robinson; John and

Ray Reynolds; Tony Morris. We also pray for Tracy Cook and her family following the death of Ian Cook. We also pray for the family and friends of Sam Butter and Danny Emmott.

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.

Games Café

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 27th January 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.



Save The Dates – two social events!

Coming soon to The Parish Rooms:



on **Saturday 28th February, 2 – 4.30pm**, for your delectation and delight, a deliciously delightful Music Hall Variety style entertainment event; and...

on **Saturday 18th April**, a Wine Tasting evening.

More details for both events will be available closer to the time.



Message from Operations Manager

This week scaffolding has gone up at church. This is to enable routine repairs around the roof and high walls of the church building. The work will take place over the next few weeks and should not interfere in any way with regular church activities.

Services

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

Sunday 18th January

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 49. 1 - 7 and John 1. 29 – 42

IONA Communion



Sunday 18th January at 6.30pm

Reading: **Jeremiah 1. 4 - 10**

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>

Swap Shop

Saturday 7th February at 10.30 in the Parish Rooms. Helpers would be most appreciated. **Please note: due to storage constraints, donations can only be accepted on the day itself. Please do not bring donations before this.**



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A service to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at **3.30pm Sunday 25th January** at MDMC, where the speaker will be Catherine McBride. Everyone is very welcome.

UCB

Copies of the UCB Word for Today covering February/March/April are now available on the table at the entrance to the Church. UCB thank all at St. Mary's for our support and partnership during 2025.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Sponge puddings/cakes; long-life fruit juice; pasta/cooking sauce; small jars of coffee; biscuits; laundry tabs/pods; toilet roll; female deodorant; toothpaste; sanitary towels; shampoo; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach.

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.



Alpha

Alpha is an opportunity to offer an invitation to others to 'come and see' what the Christian faith is all about. A new course is running at MDMC on Tuesdays from 27th January to 31st March, following a special launch event and meal on **Tuesday 20th January 7.00pm** with JB Gill. Tickets for the launch event are £5 and there are leaflets at the back of church with the link for registering.



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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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund