

29th March 2026

Make Way for the Purposes of God

Are we outdoor 'storm chasers' or inside 'curtain twitchers'? Can we ask ourselves; do we get excited when something out of the ordinary 'whips up' and we want to see what it is all about and get 'out there' to experience it, or do we just 'see how it goes' before venturing out – when it is known to be safe?

I suppose it depends on the outcomes of events that denotes who might be the crazy ones, after all anything can happen!

With our reading of Jesus in his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (on what is known to us as Palm Sunday) there were huge crowds of people who turned out to announce, gladly, this new gentle King riding a donkey into Jerusalem. It was a loud commotion of excitement because of their huge desire to see those who had been downtrodden to be lifted and rescued. This was the people's King - the one who had come to heal and to save.

But not all had heard this Good News. In fact, when some had heard who this Jesus was, they didn't consider it Good News at all! This was when the storm came rolling in and Jesus was in the eye of the storm as far as the enemies of God were concerned.

Jesus was calm as he rode into Jerusalem because he is at the very centre of God's Will. He is there to make way for the purposes of God, and he has all the resources of heaven to back him. But certainly, he represented a storm for those who were trying to stop him. Nothing can stand in the way of God's ultimate Will. Yes, Jesus is gentle, but he is also very mighty in name and deed. He has the surety of purpose and that is to love the world into the knowledge of God.

Shall we join him in the centre of God's Will or just wait, and see?

Carol

PALM SUNDAY

This morning's 10.30am service is followed by a procession with palms to the Cheshire St War Memorial.



Please pray for...



Phil Turnock; Malcolm Grey-Smart; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray

Reynolds. We also pray for the families and friends of Helen Venables, Mary Cater 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.

Sharing the Good News Socially

For the past few months several of us from St. Mary's have been meeting informally at the Crown, in Stafford Street/Queen's Street, each Tuesday evening just to chat and spend time together, and we invite more of you to join us. We meet about 7pm for an hour or two. One advantage of meeting on Tuesday evenings is that it is "Steak Night" which means £2 off the price of a steak and a free drink. Meals are served between 5pm and 8pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

Easter Canal Towpath Outreach



28th and 29th March, near Newcastle Road Bridge 62. We'll be giving away

hot cross buns and small Easter eggs,

inviting passers-by to our Easter services and running quizzes for families. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. More details from Jan and John Halford, 07478 337188.

Confirmation

If you would be interested in being confirmed or would like to know more about what it involves, please speak to Catherine.

Services

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

Sunday 29th March – PALM SUNDAY

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Psalm 118. 1 - 2 and Matthew 21. 1 - 11

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>

Easter Services

All services at St Mary's unless otherwise stated.

Palm Sunday 29th March

Services at 9.00am and 10.30am. The latter will be followed by a procession to the Cheshire St War Memorial.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am Service at MDMC followed by Walk of Witness and service outside the Town Hall at 10.40am.

2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross

7.00pm Candlelit Tennebrae

Easter Day 5th April

6.15am Sunrise Communion (in churchyard)

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CM Holy Communion

Easter Egg Hunt & Family Fun



Sunday 12th April from 12.00-3.00pm at St Mary's Church. All are welcome to an Easter Egg hunt, games, crafts and refreshments.



Wine Tasting

Saturday 18th April 7.00pm in the Parish Rooms.

Tickets £15, in aid of the Organ Fund and available from Barbara Bashford. Only 30 tickets are available, so book soon to avoid disappointment!

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Pasta; cereal; instant mash; custard; instant noodles; sponge puddings/cakes; soup; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; shampoo; toilet roll; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; washing up liquid.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

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

Children's Corner

If you are able to help with our Children's Corner on the 1st or 3rd Sundays of the month, please speak to Carol Preston or Catherine McBride for more information.



Urgent Help Needed

If you can help with serving refreshments on a Sunday morning, please speak to Pat Fox.

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

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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