

19th April 2026

The Journey to Joy

We probably all been on a journey of one kind or another. We know they don't always go smoothly; that there can often be set-backs. Some journeys may be familiar and well-trodden; others may be feel very different, even daunting. The most testing journeys can yield the greatest reward and so often we find the journey is as important as the destination. In many ways, the most important journeys are the ones which change us.

Two disciples trudge back home to Emmaus from Jerusalem, weighed down by confusion, disappointment and grief. Their hopes, once fixed on Jesus as the redeemer, have been shattered by the crucifixion. To start with, their sorrow blinds them—not only to the truth of the resurrection but even to the presence of Jesus himself walking beside them.

What transforms their journey is not an immediate miracle, but a gradual unfolding of understanding. Jesus meets them where they are, listening to their grief before gently reinterpreting their story through the lens of Scripture. The pain and suffering that Jesus endured – and their own pain – isn't ignored, but can be seen within a greater story. Their hearts begin to “burn” as God's story begins to reshape their perspective. A spark of joy is kindled.

The turning point comes in the simple act of breaking bread. In this familiar gesture, their eyes are opened, and they recognize Jesus. It's interesting that recognition didn't happen on the road. It didn't happen by way of explanation alone, but in shared fellowship. Joy is relational—it is found in drawing close to Jesus, not just in understanding ideas about him.

When they fully recognise Jesus, their joy knows no bounds. They immediately return to Jerusalem, the very place they'd fled. Fear is replaced with purpose, and despair with hope worth sharing.

Are you on the journey to joy? It's not linear or easy, but it is marked by movement, by some sort of change or transformation within us; as we journey from confusion, disappointment and grief to trust, purpose and hope.

Catherine



Please pray for...

Veronica Williams; Dean Price; Phil Turnock; Sue Norman; John Panter; Joe McPhee; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds.

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.

History of St Mary's

Wednesday 29th April, 2pm. An invitation to members of St Mary's Market Drayton to a presentation on the history of our Church. How has the Church changed from before the Normans to the Present Day?

Children's Society – Thank You



A tremendous thank you for your wonderful generosity of raising £1,665.88 for the Children's Society

this year. Last year's box collection enabled them to open a new drop in centre in the London Borough of Newham. We already have a similar centre in the Wellington area where young people can go, without referrals, appointments etc, to meet 1-1 with fully qualified staff to help them sort out their problems. Thank you from the bottom of my heart on their behalf. Elaine Mason.

Easter Egg Hunt – Thank You

I wanted to say a big thank you to all those who contributed, in any way, to our Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fun Day on Sunday 12th April 2026. I, and others, considered it a great success - it was well attended and fun was had by all. We had about 23 children and about 30 adults. We look forward to the next one. God Bless. Carol Preston.

APCM

This year's APCM will be on **Monday, 18th May**. Please submit all your reports to the office, by email if possible, by **Tuesday 21st April**.

Services

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

Sunday 19th April

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 2.14a, 36-41 and Luke 24.13-35

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>

Confirmation

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

Urgent Help Needed – AV Desk



Please contact Elaine Cook if you are willing to help operate the AV Desk – we urgently need at least one more to join the Audio/Zoom team.

Swap Shop

Saturday 16th May, 10.30am in the Parish Rooms, when we are asking for a FEW donations ONLY per person. Helpers please as usual. Please only bring donations on the day. Thank you



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.

Parking

The Parish Rooms has an increasing number of daytime bookings so *please do not park* at the Parish Rooms unless you are at an event there.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Cereal; biscuits; sponge puddings/cakes; tinned spaghetti; jam; instant mash (single packs); instant noodles; small jars of coffee; male/female deodorant; shower gel; conditioner; shampoo; toilet roll; toothpaste; anti-bacterial wipes/spray & bleach; shaving gel.

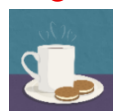
We have plenty of: **Baked beans.**

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 - Refreshments



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

Please note

The deadline for items for the newsletter is noon each Wednesday.

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

E-mail: OperationsManager@stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund