

5th April 2026

From Fear to Joy by encountering the Risen Christ

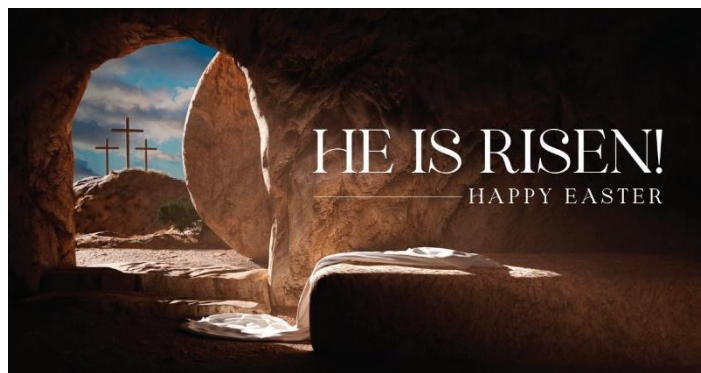
That first Easter morning captured the moment that reshaped human history with the discovery of the empty tomb and the first encounter with the risen Jesus.

The passage begins quietly, at dawn, with Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” going to look at the tomb. It is interesting that it was the women who went to the tomb – where were the men? Their actions reflect devotion and grief, not expectation. They are not anticipating resurrection, they are simply honouring what they believe is a finished story. Yet God interrupts their assumptions with an earthquake, an angel, and a message that changes everything: “He is not here; he has risen.”

What stands out to me is the mixture of fear and joy. The women are understandably afraid, they are experiencing something that is overwhelming, supernatural, and beyond their comprehension. Yet joy begins to break through because the angel’s words carry hope – death has not won. This tension mirrors the human experience of encountering the mighty God, fear at His power, joy at His grace.

Then comes the deeply personal moment: Jesus meets them. He doesn’t appear first to powerful leaders or crowds, but to faithful followers who came in love. His greeting is simple, almost ordinary, yet it confirms the extraordinary truth. Their response, grasping His feet and worshipping, shows both recognition and reverence. Finally, Jesus redirects them outward: “Go and tell my brothers.” Resurrection is not meant to be kept private; it must be shared. This passage reminds us that God often meets us in ordinary faithfulness, transforms our fear into joy, and calls us to carry hope to others.

Peter



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; 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.

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.

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.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported the canal towpath outreach last weekend. We gave away lots of Easter services invitation cards, hot cross buns and children's 'Bags of Hope'. We had many good conversations with passersby and, praise the Lord, the weather was good! Jan and John Halford

Services

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

Sunday 5th April – EASTER DAY

6.15am Sunrise Service (in churchyard)

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 10. 34 - 43 and Matthew 28. 1 - 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>

Confirmation

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



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!

Can you spare 60 seconds?

Cursillo is a movement empowering Christians to grow through prayer, study and action, sharing God's love. With many others they are encouraging Christians to set aside 1 minute each day to pray for peace in our world: for the end of conflict, and for the restoration of calm and security for all people on earth. The time for prayer in the UK is 9pm. Why not set an alarm on your phone to remind you just to pause for 60 seconds, wherever you are and pray?

Please note

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

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.

Catherine Holiday

Catherine is away from 6th-16th April

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