

19th July 2026

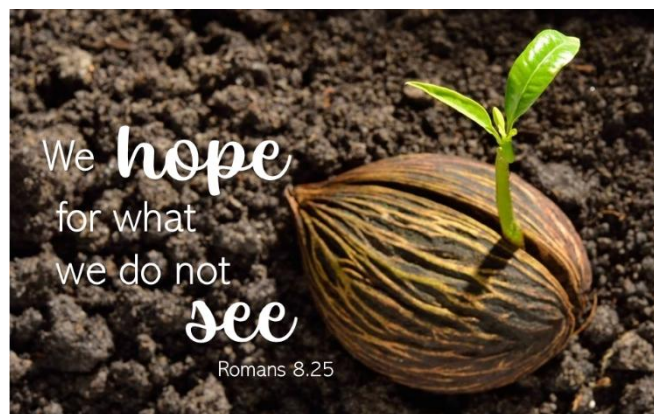


Living in Hope While Waiting for God's Kingdom

The passages today together present a powerful message of hope, perseverance, and faithful living. In Romans, Paul reminds believers that they are no longer slaves to the sinful nature, but are called to live by the Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we become children of God and heirs with Christ. Although we may experience suffering in the present, Paul assures us that future glory will far outweigh today's trials. Creation itself longs for renewal, and Christians wait with patient hope for the complete redemption that God has promised.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the weeds among the wheat. The good seed represents the children of God's kingdom, while the weeds symbolise those who follow evil. Rather than removing the weeds immediately, the landowner allows both to grow together until the harvest. Jesus explains that the harvest represents the end of the age, when God will judge with perfect justice, separating righteousness from wickedness. These passages encourage Christians to trust God's timing, which I find difficult at times! While evil and suffering remain part of the world, they do not have the final word. As followers of Christ, we are called to live by the Spirit, bearing the fruit of faith, love, and obedience, even in difficult circumstances. Patience is not passive, but an active confidence that God is at work, bringing about His purposes. As we await the fulfilment of God's kingdom, we are invited to remain steadfast, knowing that our hope rests not in present circumstances, but in God's faithful promises and the certainty of His coming justice and redemption.

Peter



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Dean Price; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds. Also, the families and friends of Michele Padgett.

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.

Bring & Share Lunch Sunday 19th July



This Sunday's Bring & Share Lunch is at Julia and Simon Farrant's house: Longford Old Hall, Longford TF9 3PW. All are welcome.

Confirmation Service

We will be hosting a confirmation in September (probably the afternoon of Sept 6th). If you would like to join others in marking your journey of faith, or are interested in finding out more, please speak to Catherine as soon as possible, in order to be able to complete the preparation.

Welcome Tea

If you have joined St Mary's in the past year or so we'd love to invite you to **Afternoon Tea at The Vicarage on Saturday 1st August at 2.00pm**. You'll meet key members of our team and find out more about our church life. If you'd like to come or want to know more, please speak to Margaret Deaville 07922 629248 deavillemargaret1@gmail.com

Please do RSVP if you've had an invite and thank you to those who've offered to make cakes. Please let Margaret know what cakes you plan to make. She or Pat will let you know where and when to drop them off.



Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Romans 8.12 – 25 Matthew 13.24 – 30, 36 – 43

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>

Seeking the 100th Bishop of Lichfield ...have your say

You can take part in the consultation process for our new Diocesan Bishop in a number of ways.



You can complete a consultation form online, either by using this QR code or following the link [here](#).

There is also an in-person group consultation at St Francis Church, Sandon Rd, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7LH on the 21st July, 6.30pm. There is more information and Q&As about the consultations [here](#) and some optional background information about the diocese [here](#). For more information about the Vacancy in See process and the timetable, see [here](#). In the meantime, please pray for our Dioceses during the vacancy and for Bishop Michael as he prepares to retire

Word for Today

Copies of the Word for Today for Autumn 2026

are now available at the Welcome Desk.



Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

UHT Milk – full fat/blue; jars of pasta sauce; tinned fruit; men's toiletries; anti-bacterial wipes/spray/bleach.

Low stock Items:

Juice; rice pudding; custard; jam; soup; biscuits; shower gel; shampoo; toothpaste.

We have plenty of: Baked beans.

See the Foodbank website form more details. The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Donations for Venezuela



The Disaster Emergency Committee have opened a Venezuela Earthquake Appeal.

Please consider making a donation at donation.dec.org.uk/venezuela-earthquake-appeal.

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



During Helen's absence, please continue to use the church email address in the usual way.

To ensure Elaine has a break from work on her days off, please avoid speaking to her about office matters on a Sunday. She is happy to talk to you about music, AV or Gift Aid matters. Thank you.