

12th July 2026



'Water, water, everywhere, not any drop to drink'

What are we thirsting after – what are we hungering for? The poem with the words of "Water, water, everywhere, not any drop to drink"; relates to a boat on the sea and the thirst of its occupants. Those in the boat have no water on board and their thirst cannot be satisfied even though the water (the sea) around them is plentiful but if they drank it, it would be deadly.

This boat and sea illustration is a good example of how this world boasts of all kinds of things that surround us that promise to satisfy our thirsty souls or meet the need of our spiritual hunger. However, with wisdom, we know the consumption of them (if we are not careful) brings harm of a different kind.

The Parable of the Sower (told by Jesus to the crowd) was giving spiritual milk to those who were spiritually thirsty. He helped them to understand that it was in him they will be satisfied if their hearts were right before God and good things would come from drinking of what he was offering them.

Equally, Paul (in his letter) was speaking to a spiritually hungry Christian community in Rome. What Paul had to say was far meatier and obscure, in fact even today we are still chewing over what he had to say as it can still be difficult to understand what he is writing about. But Paul knew the transition from the death of the law to life in the Spirit and he was zealous in sharing the message of Jesus who had saved him out of this world in order for him to inherit eternal life.

What we thirst after or hunger for - it is from that we will reap.

Carol

Phoenix Group



Our next meeting is on **July 17th**, for afternoon tea at Fletcher's Garden Centre. Pick up **1.30pm** at Lidl car park.



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.

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.

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.



Mothers Union



Our next meeting is on **Monday, 13th July, at 2.30pm** in the Parish Rooms, when we will have a speaker from The Drayton Civic Society and Museum.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Romans 8.1 – 11 Matthew 13.1 – 9, 18 – 23

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>

Bring & Share Lunch Sunday 19th July



All are welcome.

The next Bring & Share Lunch will be at Julia and Simon Farrant's house:
Longford Old Hall, Longford TF9 3PW.

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

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.

Low stock Items:

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

We have plenty of: Baked beans; washing powder/pods, toilet roll.

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

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund

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.