

26th July 2026



Parable or persuasion?

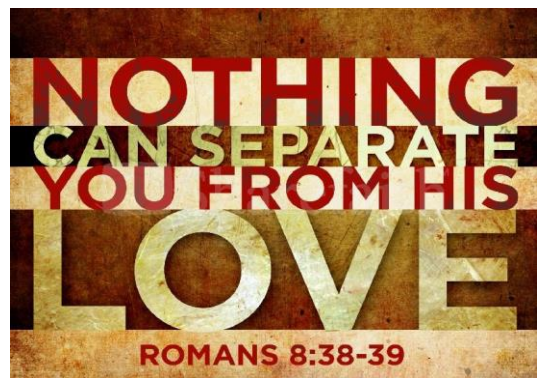
Recently, our readings have taught us about God's kingdom in very different ways. Matthew recounts a selection of Jesus' parables - teaching us just as he taught them. Paul writes a closely argued letter, full of very sensitive issues, to the Romans to persuade them to support his ongoing mission.

Jesus' parables are special because they open to us his heart and mind in a distinctive and memorable manner. They are significant because their subject is God's kingdom, the central core of his teaching. Ever since Jesus used parables, there have been debates about their meaning - the disciples themselves often needed a gentle steer from Jesus to get them on track. The parables are a rich resource. Each time we come back to them, we find nuances we hadn't noticed before - the story hasn't changed, but we probably have! This week there is an additional twist - parables that are told in pairs, two different stories making a similar point, sometimes called "twin parables". The mustard seed emphasises how the smallest item can grow into a major structure in God's kingdom, while yeast grows and spreads through whole communities. The hidden treasure and the pearl suggest God's kingdom is not, in reality, very far away and it is definitely worth throwing all caution to the wind to become part of it.

Martin Luther wrote: "Romans is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel." In the face of persecution and opposition, Paul is convinced that since God gave his son, he will give everything else he promised. God has gone to extraordinary lengths to keep his promises and demonstrate his inexhaustible love for his people. Nothing can change that - God's victory and that of his people is guaranteed.

I am sure we need both approaches to point us in the right direction. Unforgettable stories from Jesus's mouth are full of meaning and offer glimpses of his kingdom aligned with our everyday lives. Paul's careful analysis provides wonderful insight into the struggle between evil and good and the enduring certainty that God reigns.

Lindsay



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

Sheila English.

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

Sunday 6th September at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come and support our candidates. If you would be able to make (or buy) a cake for refreshments after the service that would be great. Please let Catherine know.

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.



Songs of Praise MDMC

Sunday 26th July at 3.30pm



Come along to the Methodist Church and choose and sing your favourite hymns whilst enjoying pleasant company and tea & cakes!

Iona Communion



Join us for a quiet, contemplative communion service in the round. This
Sunday 26th July at 6.30pm

Ginger & Spice Fundraising Events

Tues 4th August Bingo at The Tudor Bar

Sun 23rd August Afternoon Tea at Cotton House

See notice board at back of church for more details.

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings: Romans 8.26–end Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

6.30pm Iona Communion

Reading: Psalm 77

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 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. If you are reading a paper copy of the newsletter, these various links can be found via www.lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/vacancy-in-see/

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 for 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

Donations can be made by scanning the QR codes:



General fund



Organ fund



Security fund

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.