

2nd August 2026



Roll Up! Roll Up!

Most English translations of Isaiah 55 start very politely: *'Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!'* But this isn't a genteel invitation. Isaiah's form of words starts with an interjection, an abrupt interruption for people going about their daily life. This is a market trader's shout, of the "ROLL UP, ROLL UP!!" variety. Isaiah has important news that everyone needs to hear. It's too good to miss. He's offering something priceless – and it's completely free.

Isaiah's cry is designed to cut through the noise of everyday life. We all know how easy it is to get caught up in the busyness of life. There's always another job to do, another bill to pay, another email to answer, another thing competing for our attention. We spend so much of ourselves chasing what we hope will make us happy or fulfilled, only to discover it doesn't quite deliver. Isaiah's probing question: *'Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?'* is as relevant today as it was nearly three thousand years ago. What are we investing our time, energy and hearts in? And is it really enough?

God's invitation is astonishing. There's no catch, no hidden cost, no requirement to prove ourselves worthy. The good news is that God doesn't wait for us to have everything sorted out before inviting us in. He simply says, "Come." Come thirsty. Come empty-handed. Come just as you are. The water, the wine and the milk on offer are symbols of the abundant life that God longs to give, symbols of grace, that cannot be earned, only received. Is this an invitation you really need to hear? God still calls out above the clamour: "Come." Pause. Listen. Receive. A few verses later Isaiah voices God's promise: For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace. The gifts of joy and peace, of forgiveness, hope, and new life remain freely offered to us through Jesus. God's voice is still calling. Why not take him up on his offer? After all, it really is too good to miss.

Catherine



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.

Bring and Share – 16th August

The next Bring and Share is our annual church Barbeque at the house of Liz Barnes, 38 Prospect Road. Burgers and sausages, French bread and green salad will be provided. Please bring anything else you would like to eat for main course or dessert.



Save the Date (11th Sept) & Help Needed - Organ Fundraising Concert



Elaine's choirs are coming to St Mary's to entertain us in aid of our organ fund. If you are happy to make cake or help on the night at the door/ serving

refreshments, please speak to Elaine. Tickets will be available shortly.

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 Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 55.1 – 5 Matthew 14.13 – 21

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NfMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

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 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.



Messy Church

There is no Messy Church in August. It returns on Tuesday 1st September.



Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required: Soup; tinned fruit; toilet rolls, washing-up liquid; shaving foam.

Low stock Items:

Pasta sauce; fruit juice; rice pudding; custard; jam; biscuits; shampoo; toothpaste; men's deodorant.

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

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Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

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Children and Families Worker: Carol Preston

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Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

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Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

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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.