

9th August 2026



I am with you always

I wonder if you have ever felt discouraged; felt that you are on your own in trying to live the Christian life; that the whole world has turned its back on God; that somehow God is not there anymore with you and the task is hopeless. Elijah had just experienced a “mountain-top” experience on Mount Carmel, when God had defeated the prophets of Baal. However, on threats to kill him by Jezebel, Elijah had fled and now, in hiding, he feels he is on his own, he is useless and life was not worth living. But he had got it all wrong - God was following him all the time. Not only did God send an angel to provide him with food and water, but God came to him to assure him that he was not alone. God did this in an extraordinary way. He demonstrated to Elijah his terrifying power in a hurricane, in an earthquake and in fire; but it was not in these things that God revealed Himself to this terrified and defeated man, but rather in a gentle whisper, bringing him consolation and calm.

Here, if I may, I would like to put my own slant on how God greeted Elijah: “It’s God, Elijah, I know all about how you feel. I’ve been with you all the way, I’ve not left you for a moment, I care for you; so what are you doing here thinking you are all alone? Come on, I am with you and there is still work for you to do for Me. Besides you are not the only one who has not bowed down to Baal, there are many more”.

If you have felt discouraged and think God has abandoned you, you are not the only one. David, in the Psalms, said these well-known words: “My God, my God why have you forsaken me” (words which Jesus repeated on the cross), and there are many other instances in the Bible where God’s faithful servants express similar thoughts. At times God may seem distant, but this is just our failure to believe His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus said to His disciples just before He ascended to heaven: “I am with you always”. Jesus keeps His promise and, if we listen carefully, we will hear His gentle whisper saying exactly the same to us.

David

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.



Please pray for...



Helen Hughes; Dean Price; Sue Norman; John Panter; Pam Clarke; Hazel Haskayne, John and Ray Reynolds.

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 Pat or Margaret 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 Event

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: 1 Kings 19.9 – 18 Matthew 14.22 – 33

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 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/

Phoenix Group (for the bereaved)



August meeting 21st at Festival Drayton 10.30 as normal. September 18th a trip out to Sunnycroft National Trust near Wellington. To book a place, a deposit of £5 is required.

Times and transport details will follow.

Word for Today

Copies of the Word for Today for Autumn 2026

are now available at the Welcome Desk.



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

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

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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.