St MARY'S CHURCH Market Drayton

Becoming Dementia Friendly Church 2026-7

22nd November 2026

Beatitudes for St Mary's

A few Sundays ago I preached a sermon on the Beatitudes (Matt. 5: 1 – 12) and I took the liberty of adding a few more Beatitudes relating to our Values at St. Mary's. Catherine has asked me to reproduce these for the Newsletter. However, let me first also reproduce a little of the introduction I gave in that sermon. The meaning of the word "Blessed" incorporates immense happiness and joy being experienced, and it is a happiness and joy that can be experienced in the face of pain, hardship and grief. It is an underlying happiness and joy that is constant in all circumstances because it comes from the indwelling of Jesus in our lives. Also, one thing that is very important to understand when we read the Beatitudes is that they are written in the present tense. What we read is what is being experienced now, not just a future hope. Taking these things into account helps us to understand the Beatitudes, and may the following additional "Beatitudes" related to our St. Mary's Values encourage us as we seek to serve and follow Jesus.

How happy and joyful are those who are **passionate for God,** for they know and experience the presence of God in their lives.

How happy and joyful are **the outward-looking,** for to them is revealed the vision of what God is wanting to do in the community in which they live.

How happy and joyful are **the generous,** for they receive the joy of God's bounty as they open their hearts to the needs of others.

How happy and joyful are **the loving,** because in loving others they experience something of the greatness of God's love for them.

How happy and joyful are **the welcoming,** for in welcoming the stranger Jesus is saying to them "I was a stranger and you invited me in".

How happy and joyful are **the courageous,** for because of their courage they daily experience the joy of seeing God work in unexpected ways.

David

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.



Please pray for…



Scott Reay, Helen Hughes, KC & Annamma George (parents of Cherian), Pauline Bickley, Iona Alexander, and Pam Clarke. We pray for the family and friends of John Panter and Jessie Bloor.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list, which is reviewed and edited regularly.

Christmas Choir – 'tune singers'



Just a reminder that all singers should come to 'Christmas Choir' practices at 7.30pm from this Thursday, 26th November.

Warm Spaces: Games Café…



Next **Tuesday 24th November 2-4pm**.

Everyone is very welcome to drop in for a FREE cake and drink and enjoy some sociable time together. Feel free to bring your own games. If you are able to help out, then do sign up at the back of church.

Iona Communion



Join us for a quiet, contemplative communion service in the round. This **Sunday 22nd November at 6.30pm** Reading : Psalm 93

Carol singing opportunities



Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us leading carol services at Woodcroft, Tunstall Hall and Joules Place, and carol singing at Mercian Court. All residents really value these visits.

14th December at 11am – Woodcroft

16th December at 4pm – Tunstall Hall

21st December at 7pm – Mercian Court (outside)

22nd December at 11am – Joules Place

Gift Service 13th December

You can bring your Christmas gifts for the mums and children in the Women's Refuge at Newcastle to either of our services on the 13th December. Suggested items - toys, books, sweets etc. for children and toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves and chocolates for mothers. Thank you

Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion With Baptism

Readings: Ephesians 1.15-23, Matthew 25.31-46

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

Free afternoon Christmas Concert and singalong at 1pm on 12th December

Come and join A Choired Taste singing festive favourites: enjoy hearing the choir singing Christmas songs and sing along with traditional carols. Donations to church funds.



Concert @ Christ Church

Market Drayton Choral Society Concert on 28th November at Christ Church, from 4pm.

Book of Prayers…

The Diocese of Lichfield has produced some booklets containing prayers, many of which written by those touched by Dementia. These booklets are all offered for public or private prayer, in support of anyone journeying through dementia.

Please feel free to take one from the Dementia display at the back of church.

Foodbank

Urgent or low stock items:

Cartons long life fruit juice (Urgent); Tins of Spam, Ham & Chicken; Pouches of wet dog food; Men's deodorant/shaving gel; toothpaste; Anti-bacterial sprays/bleach

We have plenty of: Baked beans, Dry dog food.

See the Foodbank website for more details. https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/ The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Advent Retreat

Ashley Methodist Church

Saturday 12th December 10.00am-3.00pm, led by Rev Rob Cotton (Ashley & Market Drayton Methodist Churches) and Rev Obeth Thevanesan (Audlem & Nantwich Methodist Churches). This will be a day of prayer, quiet time and guided reflection, giving an opportunity to pause in what can be a very busy season. Cost £20 / person, including lunch and refreshments. You can book by email at retreats@ashleymethodist.co.uk or online via https://ashleymethodist.co.uk/retreats/

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Interim Office Administrator: Fane Cook
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