St MARY'S CHURCH Market Drayton

15th November 2026

Becoming Dementia Friendly Church 2026-7

Safeguarding Sunday 'Love Protects'

Let's be honest, when you hear the word "safeguarding," what comes to mind? Policies? Paperwork? Training sessions that eat into your Saturday morning?

For many, safeguarding can feel like something imposed from the outside - a box-ticking exercise to keep the Diocese happy. But what if we've been looking at it all wrong? What if safeguarding isn't about compliance at all, but about the very heart of what it means to follow Jesus?

Put simply, safeguarding is the protection of those in our care. In 1 Corinthians 13, we're told that love protects. Safeguarding isn't an external pressure or 'thing to do', it's an act of love. And love is central to our faith.

Paul knew this when he wrote those famous words in 1 Corinthians 13. Right in the middle of his description of love, alongside patience and kindness, he says, 'love protects'. Always. Not sometimes. Not when it's convenient. Always. As Christians, we're called to love others as God loves us (John 13:34-35). Not because we're naturally brilliant at it, but because He loved us first (1 John 4:19) and he shows us how to do it. And if God's love protects, then ours must too. Jesus tells us 'love your neighbour' (Matthew 22:39). And when questioned, he reveals that "neighbour" means everyone (Luke 10:25-37). Your neighbour isn't just the person who looks like you, thinks like you, or makes you comfortable. It's everyone - the confident leader and the quiet newcomer. The teenager who's finding their feet and the elderly member who's been with you for decades. The person who's easy to love and the one who isn't.

Throughout Scripture, God consistently shows special concern for those most at risk: children (Matthew 18:6), widows (James 1:27), the foreigner (Leviticus 19:33-34) and the fatherless (Psalm 82:3). He pays attention to those who need protection, and if we're serious about following Him, then so must we. There are no loopholes. His love protects everyone, and so should ours.

thirtyone:eight
Creating safer places. Together.

Deadline for newsletter articles Wednesday noon.



Please pray for…



Scott Reay, Jean Arbon, Martin Lomas, Helen Hughes, Pauline Bickley, Barry Salter, KC & Annamma George (parents of Cherian), and Pam Clarke. We pray for the family and friends of Phil Hickman, Angela Bridge and 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 – singers still needed!



'Christmas Choir' practices continue on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Tune singers join from 26th November. It is not too late to come along. Everyone welcome, every note is taught. Elaine

Warm Spaces: Games Café…



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

Everyone is very welcome to drop in for a cake and drink and see what is going on!. If you have a game you would like to bring with you please do. It's a perfect chance for those from all our congregations to meet, mingle and make new friends!. Bring a friend or neighbour with you too.

Regards Avril

Note of Thanks

Just a note to say thank you to everyone that helped at the Remembrance service last week.

Donations to St Mary's



Services

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

Sunday

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, Matthew 25.14-30

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

Christ Church Film Club



Thursday 19th November at 12pm. 'My Sister's Keeper' Everyone is welcome for a film, light lunch and a chat. Free.

Phoenix Group



The next Phoenix meeting is at the Festival Drayton Centre for coffee and a chat **Friday November 20th at 10:30am**.

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/

Shropshire Council Local Transport Plan

Find out how to have your say at:
https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-transport-plan/ **Closing date for responses is noon Monday 16th November.**

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.

Open Church Coordinator

Barry Salter has done a fantastic job of making sure there are people in church to welcome any visitors who come on Wednesdays and Saturdays (11am-1pm). Sadly, for health reason, Barry will be stepping done from this role at the end of the year. We'd like to thank Barry for everything he's done.

Those who help on Wednesdays and Saturdays will tell you of the many visitors who come to the church when it is open, to have a look round or simply to sit quietly. Many are local, but others come from all parts of the country, or indeed the world.

Having the church open is an important part of our outreach and mission to our town, so please consider whether you could take on the role of coordinating our great group of volunteers. Speak to Elaine Cook, Catherine McBride or Barry for more information.

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:
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