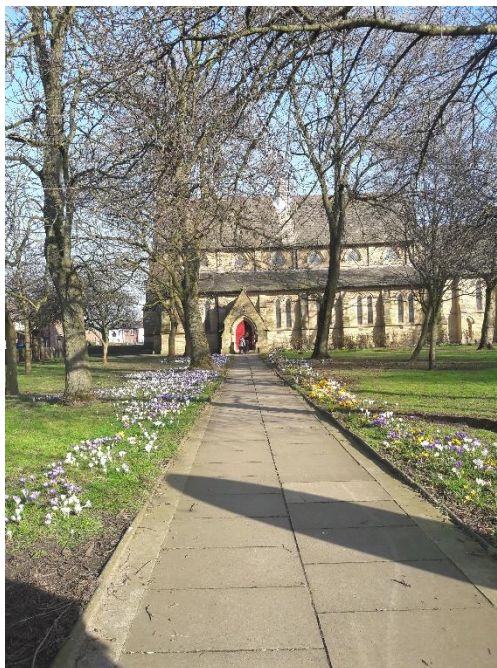


August 2020

THE DIARY OF ST MARY

DROYLSDEN

***A welcoming all-age community growing and sharing
God's love***



Associate Ministers

Reverend Nancy Alexander 371 9667

Reverend Sue Ball 682 1439

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall 370 0039

Beth Cutler 285 1472

for I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord"

Services – August 2020

**Morning Worship in Church 10am each Sunday and
as announced**

**Face coverings must be worn, and social distancing
observed**

**Services during August can also be found on YouTube on
Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 10am.**

(Google YouTube then search St Mary's Droylsden)

**Any changes and updates will be announced on the website and
where possible Facebook**

Thanks from Bishop Mark Davies (and me)

On Sunday 19th July, we were delighted to have a last minute visit from Bishop Mark. Due to the strict limit on numbers allowed in Church, we could not publish this widely.

At the beginning of his sermon he thanked our congregation for the work we have been doing during lockdown. You might think that doesn't apply to you personally and be ready to move on to the next page. But without each and every one of you, the work of building God's kingdom in our area would have stopped when the doors were closed.

There's an image doing the rounds on social media where God and Satan are talking together. The Devil boasts that he has finally managed to close the churches down. But God replies that the truth is, in fact, that He has opened one in every home. Yes, our acts of public worship might look and feel different at this time. And we have all had to learn new ways to go through our days; accessing services on line or down the phone, socially distanced contact with others, old fashioned letter writing.

Each and every time you have picked up the phone to call someone, run an errand for a neighbour, sent a card or text, smiled and said 'hi' to a stranger. Each time you have grieved with a friend or stood on the kerb as a hearse passed. Each time you have prayed with all your strength, not knowing what to say in your despair, you have spread God's love.

Thank you.

And may God continue to richly bless you, may you feel Jesus always by your side and may the Holy Spirit inspire your words and actions.

Rev Sue

The Book of Ephesians #1

A number of years ago, I, like Paul, had an awakening - my own road to Damascus experience if you like. I'd always called myself a Christian. But when I sang the words of the chorus to King of Kings, Majesty (I lay my all before you now) one particular Sunday, I realised that I really meant it. Not everyone has such an experience; some have always known Jesus as Lord, for some it's a gradual process and for some it's a single moment. Anyway, the first book of the Bible I read after this experience, alongside a wise friend for guidance, was Ephesians. It's become my 'go to' whenever I need anything at all. In six short chapters, Paul explains pretty much everything there is to know about what following Christ means for our lives.

If you don't mind, I'd like to share some of what makes this letter to a first century church so central to me. Some of my comments you will agree with, some you won't. I welcome your thoughts. Also, you may wonder why a particular verse seems important to me when clearly another strikes you much more when you read the text (which I encourage you to do). We often refer to the Bible as God's 'living word' and it is just that. It seems to change with every reading, words coming sharply into focus one day that at other times simply pass us by.

Chapter one.

Paul opens his letter with a greeting to the members of the church in Ephesus, in modern day Turkey. All the letters Paul sent began with "grace and peace to you" sometimes adding "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". This way, the reader knows that whatever comes next - guidance or chastisement - it comes from a place that is rooted in the love of God.

Verses 3 to 14 outline the development of God's chosen race. Before the world was created, God knew the plans he had for his people. The Hebrew nation were, through birth, children of God. Then through Jesus, everyone who accepted His teaching was adopted into God's family. Through believing, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin and we have "the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us." Now Paul spreads this more widely, out of the area around Jerusalem. As the people of Ephesus heard and believed the word of truth, they too were included in God's family. They had been "marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

The next couple of verses show how much it means to Paul that more and more people are becoming followers of Christ. You can hear his energy: "I have not stopped...", "I keep asking..." Even though the church has been established, he knows there is still more to be done to know Jesus better.

Perhaps my favourite part of the whole book is verses 18 and 19. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." The eyes of your heart. The knowledge of God's love isn't in your head, it's in your heart. Yes, you can read and learn, but God's power in our life is felt by our whole being. That power, says Paul, is far greater than any other deity we can call on. The power that raised Christ from the dead and placed him at God's right hand with everything at his feet.

To summarise chapter one, we see the beginning of the spread of Christianity through the Eastern Mediterranean. Being an heir of God is no longer a birthright, but freely given to all who embrace the love of Christ. Through Paul's eagerness to proclaim the Good News we, the reader of today, become infected with his desire to know Jesus for ourselves.

Rev'd Sue

St John's

After 150 years St Johns finally came to an end in June.

The work in Moorside started in the 19th century the very early days are recorded, and I copy below

December 1869

'Cottage lectures are now being held every week, Mondays at Mrs Birk's Moorside Lane'

February 1870

A Sunday Evening Service has been commenced in the Castle School near Lum Station for the benefit of the inhabitants of that portion of the Parish'

1885

Mission Church from St Mary's opened in two cottages on Moorside Street

And so the seeds were planted, in 1888 the foundation stone for a new Mission Church was laid and the building opened in February 1889 almost twenty years after the first seed. It was 1890 before the name St John's Mission was first used.

St Johns became a local hub in Moorside, both the congregation and the community were involved

In 1944 the arrival of Rev S. F. Irwin caused quite a shake up; he did not like the Church facing west, the entrance was awkward and there were other problems. It was decided plans should be drawn up to turn the Church round, the door to be along the path The 60th Anniversary Service and celebrations in the 'new look' Church were on 15th December 1945. They continued improving by buying an organ in 1949.

St John's had a field on Jack Lane which was also used by many in the community, but this was compulsorily purchased in 1949 for the building of Hawthorn Road South flats, the council later bought the sports pavilion in 1951.

In 1952 it was decided to purchase the piece of scrap land, where the building now stands for £250. Plans for the new school were drawn up by Mr R Waite who gave his services for free.

Fundraising started in earnest which included collections from the local community on a regular basis and an estimate for a shell was sought, sadly there was shortfall but this didn't deter them and work commenced. However a major problem arose after the foundations for the hall itself had been laid and it was announced a new main water pipe would be going up the side (Haweswater) as a consequence all the rooms on the side had to be reduced by about

four foot. Much of the internal work was undertaken by volunteers and the rest as funds could be raised.

In 1970 the Diocesan Pastoral Committee felt that either the Church or the Hall must close and after much discussion it was decided the Church would close. The hall became a dual purpose building with the first service there in 1972. By 1979 it was decided to turn round once again, the stage was lowered and became a Sanctuary with doors to close it off when not in use. This is how many remember it.

The Parish decided to cease services but the building continued to be used, Church organisations the Band and Mums and Tots continued, it was the area polling station, first aid courses for childminders, local meetings and even children's parties plus other events as arranged.

Now it has a new owner who are planning services and community work.

Susan Marsh

Sound for the Times

Ann Holland was listening to the radio to the Mike Shaft Service on Sunday morning 12th July when she heard Natalie Grant sing this beautiful hymn. And the words really touched her heart...for as Ann thought...they seemed more relevant to the times we are now living in than ever.

[Psalm 69:30](#) ESV. I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

I Praise You In This Storm

I was sure by now
God you would have reached down
And wiped our tears away
Stepped in and saved the day
But once again, I say amen
And it's still raining
And as the thunder rolls
I barely hear your whisper through the rain
I'm with you
And as your mercy falls
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives
And takes away

Chorus
And I'll praise you in this storm
And I will lift my hands
'Cause you are who you are
No matter where I am
And every tear I've cried

You hold in your hand
You never left my side
And though my heart is torn
I will praise you in this storm

I remember when I stumbled in the wind
You heard my cry you raised me up again
My strength is almost gone, how can I carry on?
If I can't find you
But as the thunder rolls
I barely hear you whisper through the rain
I'm with you
And as your mercy falls
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives
And takes away

Chorus:

I lift my eyes unto the hills
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth
I lift my eyes unto the hills
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth

Chorus:

Isaiah 43:2 ESV / 141

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Ann Holland and Jean Gaunt



Normally, at the beginning of August we would be looking forward to attending the Eucharist Service and afternoon tea at St. George, Mossley where we would be meeting up with members of other branches in the Ashton Deanery. But nothing is normal at the moment. Because of Covid-19 all MU meetings have had to be cancelled. I do hope it won't be long before we are able to take part in more of the simple things in life, meeting with our friends in church, worshiping together, having a cup of tea and a chat.

I am regularly receiving emails from Andrea at Mothers' Union office, Church House. She is keeping all branches informed of any changes which affect us as members and I will pass them on to you as and when I receive them. It would help me if those of you who have email addresses could send them to me. My email is brian.booth40@outlook.com

Recently Mothers' Union members have received an appeal from Sheran Harper, our World Wide President, for donations to help with the loss of income to the Mothers' Union caused by the disruption from COVID -19. I quote from the appeal:

"The Mothers' Union is not immune to the impact of the virus. In common with many charities, we are facing a significant shortfall in income, currently forecast to be well in excess of £1 million this year alone, despite all the cutbacks made at Mary Sumner House. For the Mothers' Union to be here at the end of 2020, we still need to plug that £1m shortfall in income.

I'm sure you feel, as I do, that we must ensure Mothers' Union can continue to serve God and show God's love, just as we have done for almost 150 years. I pray that, strong in our faith together,

we can continue the work that Mary Sumner began, both during this crisis and when the worst has passed, serve our loving Lord into the future."

After phone calls with Barbara, our treasurer, and some of our committee I have sent a donation from our Branch. Ashton Deanery has also responded:

"We would not like to think that all the good works the MU has done and does in this country and world-wide will come to an end."

Mothers' Union are streaming midday prayers on the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/MothersUnion. More online resources can be found on www.mothersunion.org

Mildred.

In the current controversial climate I find this poem very appropriate. Mildred

I dream a world where man

No other man will scorn,

Where love will bless the earth

And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all

Will know sweet freedom's way,

Where greed no longer saps the soul

Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,

Whatever race you be,

Will share the bounties of the earth

And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind
Of such I dream, my world!

By Langston Hughes

American poet, social activist, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri.

Lockdown Walking

Hello everyone

During lockdown Roy and I have been fortunate that we could have a daily walk and explore our local area. After a few days our preferred walking route became a walk along the canal from Droylsden Marina to just beyond the boat repair site, over the M60 link road, behind the Snipe retail park and back across Lees Park or vice versa. We've met and chatted with many members of our congregation and enjoyed the catch ups.

One of the blessings of walking along the canal has been watching the ducks and geese build their nests, lay their eggs, hatch their ducklings and goslings and watch them as they began their life on the water. There have been many awwws (from me!) and photos over the weeks. To watch the mother shield her babies under her wings is a memory that will stay with me.

I have also been catching up on YouTube with Sue and Nancy's services on a Wednesday and Sunday. Although we have now worshipped together in church it is wonderful to see their faces and listen to their familiar tones as we worship together in what has now become a new temporary way.

On Sunday 26th April Sue led a service from 'The Book of Uncommon Prayer. A reflection for ourselves'. She had warned us beforehand that this would be interactive. We had our coins and drew our spiders webs and prayed for our families, friends and ourselves. Towards the end of the service she asked us to spend a quiet time and imagine that we were being enfolded gently by comforting feathers soothing our mind and body. God's beautiful wings gathering us and nestling us in his arms. Were the feathers that comforted us bringing a safe darkness or a soothing light?

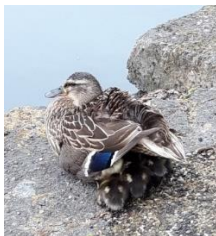
Our prayer that day to our comforting God-*Hide me in the shadow of your wings.*

At the end of her service Sue said that we could look out for feathers as we walked or spent time outdoors and be reminded of God's beautiful wings gathering us and nestling us in his arms.

Since the service I have noticed so many feathers on our walks, in the garden and even found them in the conservatory and house. Every feather found has brought me back to the knowledge that God is sheltering us and nestling us.

And so, to the blessings on our walks. The mother duck sheltering her ducklings under the shadow and security of her wings, the soft down of the nests and the many feathers found and God moments received and welcomed. The sight of the young ones growing and gaining confidence as they developed and grew.

I pray that you too will ask God to 'Hide me in the shadow of your wings'. That knowing He will always be there to encourage us, to shelter us and to lead us with confidence into the future He has planned for us, we will feel the light and warmth of His love.



Taken by me on 18 April 2020

Psalm 36:7 : How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!

And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Pat

Counting My Blessings

During these troubled times in lockdown, there has been plenty of time for reflection so I thought I would take this opportunity to list my blessings and say "Thank you" to my Heavenly Father.

I may no longer have my husband with me, but I have precious family. Two daughters, four grandchildren and three sisters all who keep in regular contact. I have a circle of friends all dear to me and of course my church family to worship and socialise with on a regular basis in normal times.

I may sit alone, but I have a home with all the comforts. I may eat alone but I have money to buy and enjoy food. I may not be going on holiday this year but when I do go I have family and friends to go on holiday with. Above all this I have my health and strength and most important of all I have my Lord, Saviour and Eternal friend Jesus Christ and he could be yours too.

Lots of love to everyone reading this today

Gaynor

News From St Mary's Scout Group

Due to ongoing personal commitments, my involvement with the group has remained minimal during 2019/20 so far and many of my responsibilities have been ably covered by Mags (AGSL) and Andy (DC) in my stead – thank you to both!

The sections have, unfortunately, reduced in membership over the past 12 months, although we have had some leadership changes and new leaders join us (just before Scouting activities were ceased in March), so hopefully we'll be raring to go with new and appropriately safe programmes once Scouting activities are able to resume!

The Group has run several successful fun events for parents/guardians as well as residents in the local community – quiz nights, camps, shows.

We have had several current and ex members of the group achieve some big awards over the last 12 months, with Nicholas Curtis becoming a Queen Scout and achieving his Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. Several impressive awards in the younger sections too – a fantastic achievement for our young members and a reflection of the hard work they, their families and their leaders have put in over the years!

Several Scouts attended the District Summer Camp to Dorset and Nicholas Curtis represented the Group and District as a member of the International Service Team at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in summer 2019.

Several sections are successfully managing to run some online activities with their members during the current period and others are assessing how they may be able to follow suit soon. We have also started a local advertising campaign in the hope to bolster youth membership (and maybe even adult volunteers) once Scouting activities are permitted to resume.

The Scout Hut is in a state of severe disrepair (so much so that if Scouting activities had not had to cease in March, we would likely have been searching for alternate accommodation over summer anyway). As such, we are currently trying to engage with local trades people to repair/replace the hut flooring, bathrooms and other items that have either broken or become so in need of replacement that they were becoming a health and safety risk. Much of the recent small business grant received from the Local Authority will be going towards sorting out the premises so they will hopefully be ready again before Scouting activities are able to resume. If you can help or know someone that could, please let us know!

If you would like to get involved and help arrange some fun activities/fundraise to help reduce the cost of activities, while being part of a fun and friendly team, in any way (occasional helper, fundraising committee, executive committee or on section nights), please let us know!

Yours in Scouting,

Chris Sampson
Group Scout Leader, 250th Manchester (St. Mary's) Scout Group

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

4 apostles	James, Simon, Thomas, Peter
6 books	Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Romans, Mark, Psalms
3 women of the OT	Naomi, Ruth, Esther
4 places in the NT	Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Cana, Galilee
3 letters	Philemon, Titus, Hebrews
4 men of the OT	Adam, Ham, Noah, Seth
4 Archangels	Michael, Oriel, Gabriel, Raphael
4 women of the NT	Mary, Martha, Elizabeth, Prisca

QUIZ SEARCH 2 - FOOD

T	A	Q	B	A	P	S	E	X	K	E	V	B	S	S	P	R
A	O	M	I	N	E	S	T	R	O	N	E	A	I	E	T	L
G	A	A	R	S	N	T	O	O	N	Z	G	M	A	O	A	I
L	M	D	I	T	N	P	S	N	I	E	E	R	R	T	R	S
I	T	H	A	I	E	B	E	Z	O	N	T	R	G	A	R	A
A	Z	Y	N	O	O	K	I	A	N	C	A	S	S	T	A	B
T	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	S	C	B	G	S	O	G	A
E	A	M	S	P	O	K	E	N	R	E	L	I	T	P	O	E
L	B	E	E	T	R	O	O	T	B	E	E	F	A	O	N	S
L	B	L	B	A	I	R	B	E	H	C	A	E	P	E	M	B
E	A	O	S	R	Z	M	I	N	T	Y	S	A	R	D	A	M
H	G	N	A	A	O	A	R	G	H	L	M	P	D	S	I	L
A	E	V	L	E	L	P	P	A	I	O	D	E	I	U	T	T
A	E	F	M	A	C	K	E	A	S	T	H	L	R	F	U	A
N	T	T	O	E	L	A	T	U	B	I	L	A	H	E	S	C
U	J	K	N	W	V	X	O	M	A	C	K	E	R	E	L	S
T	O	M	A	T	O	E	L	L	A	F	R	A	F	P	X	E

Answers will be forward backward up or down or diagonal but always in a straight line.

Find the following

4 meats
4 soups
4 curries
6 vegetables
3 types of pasta
5 herbs
5 fruit
5 fish

Something for the Future

We are planning to start a Community Page in the Diary. Perhaps you have a favourite recipe or knitting pattern you would like to share. Maybe you know of a charity fund raiser that needs some publicity. Have you some good news would like to share?

Please let us know. My contact details can be found below or speak to someone at the Service on Sunday Morning.

Christine

We would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this month's diary, without **you** there wouldn't be one

If **you** would like to contribute something to the diary, please contact:

Christine

christine.withers12@talktalk.net

Facebook

Enter St Mary's church on your FB page search bar and you will see our Facebook page

St Mary's Church Website is
www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk

Church Flowers and Bookstall - Details from Church

Mothers Union - Details from Church

Tots Time (pre-school) - Diane Heywood/Margaret McCracken

Lighthouse - Bubbles (3-5yrs), Splash (5-8yrs) 2nd and 4th Sundays in Church Room

St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Primary School

Head Teacher, Miss K Hampson - 370 3948

250th Manchester Scout Group

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - 07973739041

5th Droylsden Brownie Guides - 339 0016

Rainbow Pack - 301 4251

St John's Band - 285 3583