

OFFICIAL

# April 2025 THE DIARY OF ST MARY'S DROYLSDEN



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

**Rector**

**Reverend Cath Hewison      0161 370 1569**

**Associate Minister**

**Reverend Nancy Alexander      0161 371 9667**

**Church Wardens**

**Pat Catterall      0161 370 0039**

*Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your souls before him;  
God is a refuge for us.*

*Psalm 62: 8*

## April Services 2025



**6<sup>th</sup> April - 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Isaiah 43: 16-21 and John 12: 1-8**

**13<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am – Palm Sunday Holy Communion**

**Isaiah 50: 4-9b and Luke 13: 1-9**

**17<sup>th</sup> April -7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

**Exodus 12: 1-14 and John 13: 1-17, 31b-35**

**18<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30am – Good Friday Devotional Service**

**19<sup>th</sup> April – Joint Easter Vigil at St Andrew's**

**20<sup>th</sup> April - 10.30am – Easter Day Holy Communion**

**Acts 10: 34-43 and John 20: 1-18**

**27<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Acts 5: 27-32 and John 20: 19-31**

**28<sup>th</sup> April – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion**

**Please join us for Tea and coffee in the Church Room after the service**

## **Peter's Story**

It was amazing going into Jerusalem with Jesus! All the crowds cheered and waved palm branches. We thought the time had finally come when he'd be revealed as the Messiah, and everyone would know.

Just a few weeks earlier, he'd asked us who everyone thinks he is, so we told him that not everyone believes, but some people think he's a prophet. But I said, "I know who you are, Jesus. You're the Messiah, the one sent by God to save us." I was as sure of that as I've been of anything. He said something about setting his face to Jerusalem, and how he'd have to die. We didn't really know what he meant back then. But Jesus was funny like that - just when we thought we'd got it, we'd realise that we really hadn't at all.

That first day, we had a relaxing evening at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Jesus liked going there as they were always so welcoming, and so eager to listen to his teaching about God's kingdom. But then, after that, things got really strange so that we never knew what to expect from one day to the next! First, there was the visit to the temple when Jesus made a whip out of ropes and started shouting and knocking the traders' tables over! He drove them right out of the temple! After that he even cursed a fig tree. Funny that, a fig tree was always a special tree, a symbol of our people and our special relationship with God.

Then, the highlight of the week: the Passover meal. Some of the others had got everything arranged, the women had prepared the food, and we were looking forward to celebrating together. In all the busyness there was no one to wash our feet when we came in, so Jesus knelt down and did it himself. I could hardly bear it! I said some silly thing about having a whole bath! But Jesus said it was only my feet that needed a wash,

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and that following him made us clean. He always could make everyday things connect with God's ways.

After we'd eaten, we went out to the hillside to pray and sing in the cool evening breeze. But just then, Judas, who'd somehow left the meal earlier, turned up with a company of temple guards and Jesus was arrested. I got my sword out to protect Jesus, but found I'd got it wrong again. Jesus healed the young man and agreed to go with them. I followed and watched them take Jesus right into the High Priest's house. I tried to keep a low profile while I waited to see what was going to happen, but pretty soon they'd cottoned on to the fact that I was from Galilee and must be with Jesus. I was so scared I denied it! How could I? I knew he was the Messiah, but it all just went so quickly. I panicked and said I didn't even know him. Then I heard the cock crow. How bitterly I wept! Such a coward! After all the good I'd seen Jesus do for others!

The next few days went in a blur. We heard he was going to be crucified. John and some of the women went out with Mary to the hillside to be with Jesus. I couldn't bear it. If only I could have spoken up for him at the high priest's house. Maybe I could have saved him! But we hid away, wondering if they'd come after us too.

That was a few of days ago, and now, one of the women, Mary Magdalene, said she's seen him alive! She said the tomb was empty, but she saw him alive, and he spoke to her! She said she was especially to tell me as well. I wonder what he'd have to say to me, after all the mistakes I've made? We thought he was the one! What will happen to us now...?

*Why not join us as we journey through the Easter story again, and see what God might say to you.*

and learn what it is to follow Christ in his way of love.

*Revd Cath*

## Easter Services



**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30am**

**Palm Sunday Holy Communion**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm**

**Messy Church**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 7.00pm**

**Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30am**

**Good Friday Devotional Service**

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**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April – 10.30am**

**Easter Day Holy Communion**

## **Prayer Opportunities**

### **During Holy Week**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April - 4.30pm**

**Evening Prayer - St Mary's Church**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April - 4.30pm**

**Stations of the Cross - St Martin's Church**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April - 4.30pm**

**Evening Prayer - St Andrew's Church**

**Everyone Welcome to any or all of the prayer sessions**

**Mothering Sunday**

*I realise this should have been in the March diary but as most of us will be picking this edition up on Mothering Sunday, I thought it was still appropriate. Christine*

Mothering Sunday was originally a time when people returned to the church in which they were Baptised or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent and did not eat sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering



Sunday and many people prepared a simnel cake to eat with their family on this day. A simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and sometimes, Jesus Christ.

In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1907 by Anna Jarvis (an American). The first Mother's Day Service being held in a church in Grafton, West Virginia and it is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May in most countries of the world – the UK seeming to be the exception to this as we celebrate "Mid-Lent".

Ann Holland



## Beauty in Brokenness

During Lent I chose to read one of the Church of England led daily reflections.

One day, after a particularly bad news bulletin, I read that day's passage and reflection. It was titled 'Beauty in brokenness'. The bible passage was Psalm 147 v 1-7.

The reflection spoke of a church in Graveney where there is a cross. Not unexpected in a church. However, this cross is made from 121 rusty nails from the old church door and set into Perspex to form a cross. What was apparently broken and useless became something beautiful and meaningful.

In Psalm 147, the psalmist praises a God who heals the broken hearted, lifts the humble, restores those who trust in him and offers healing.

That day's news bulletin included wars, famine, benefit cuts, knife crime and very little positivity. Where was the beauty in the brokenness? How can we exchange brokenness for beauty?

As I reflected a song came to mind. One which I shared on Facebook and in our bible study group. Graham Kendrick had expressed the vision of Beauty for Brokenness perfectly.

Trust in the Lord and perhaps we can make the broken into something beautiful.

Beauty for brokenness Hope for despair Lord, in the suffering This is our prayer Bread for the children Justice, joy, peace Sunrise to sunset Your kingdom increase!	Refuge from cruel wars Havens from fear Cities for sanctuary Freedoms to share Peace to the killing-fields Scorched earth to green Christ for the bitterness His cross for the pain
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Shelter for fragile lives Cures for their ills Work for the craftsman Trade for their skills Land for the dispossessed Rights for the weak Voices to plead the cause Of those who can't speak  <i>God of the poor Friend of the weak Give us compassion we pray Melt our cold hearts Let tears fall like rain Come, change our love From a spark to a flame</i>	Rest for the ravaged earth Oceans and streams Plundered and poisoned Our future, our dreams Lord, end our madness Carelessness, greed Make us content with The things that we need  Lighten our darkness Breathe on this flame Until your justice Burns brightly again Until the nations Learn of your ways Seek your salvation And bring you their praise
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Pat

## **St Mary's Church**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Monday 7th April – 7.30pm**

**In Church**

**Everyone Welcome - you need to be on the electoral  
roll to vote at the meeting**

Prayer Tree

You may have noticed that a new prayer tree is now located at the back of the church, next to the Book of Remembrance. There are pens and cards to write your prayers and prayer requests on. Please be assured every card left is prayed over with faith, courage and strength that each one is heard no matter how small.



## **Sunday School**

Sunday School activities are now available during term time, in the Church Room every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday for children in year one and above.#

## **Tea and Toast Drop In**

Tea and Toast Drop In. Every Wednesday morning from 9am during term-time. Everyone is welcome, come along for a chat and a chance to meet new people.

## **Fellowship and Holy Communion**



The fellowship lunch and Holy Communion Service for March will be at 12noon on Monday 24 March.

April's service will be Monday 28<sup>th</sup> at 12noon, everyone is very welcome. If you know of anyone who would like to come to this service, please let them know.

## **Bible Study Groups**



Bible study groups meet in the Emmaus Room twice a month on Tuesday evening or Thursday afternoon to which everyone is welcome.



These are informal groups and the studies usually include a video to watch then questions for discussion followed by a brew and a biscuit or slice of cake.

If anyone is interested in joining one of the groups, or would like more information, please have a chat with Charlotte or Stephanie (Tuesday group) or Christine, Pat or Jim (Thursday group).

### **Thursday Study Group Update**

Our new type of study – The Book Club – seems to be going very well. At the moment we're looking at books in the Old Testament, ones that are often overlooked or that we know the story but are not necessarily thought deeply about.

We've looked at the Book of Ruth and Jonah (yes, the one with the whale) and we are currently looking at Daniel (of the lion's den).

We didn't really know much about Ruth before we looked deeper and of course we all know that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, but we didn't really realise that he comes across like a spoiled child who stamps his feet and tells God he doesn't want to what he's being asked.



Everyone is very welcome to join us. Let me know and I'll email you with the details of the reading and support materials.

Christine

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
**7.30 in the Church Room**  
**Annual General Meeting**

The April meeting is our Annual General Meeting with Holy Communion and this year we are delighted to welcome two new members during the service.

Our March meeting was an interesting look again at Shrove Tuesday and Lent and included pancakes and a brew at the end. Thank you Pat and ladies.

**The Craft Group**



The craft group meets on Mondays between 1pm and 3pm in the Emmaus Room. When it first started, different handicrafts were made to raise money for the church. Now we are knitting for different charities. I asked the group why they like coming to the craft group and this is what they had to say: Rosemary

*I have been coming to the craft group since it started about 30 years ago by my auntie Irene (Irene Smith) and Betty Howarth. I started making cross in your pockets which sold very well in church and I am still making them after all these years. I have been making baby blankets and hats which are donated by the Mothers' Union to the NICH Unit at Tameside Hospital. We are a very nice group of people who all come to share patterns etc and anyone wanting to join us will be made very welcome.*  
JS

*As with most groups, the hardest step is the first one, but once inside the group is welcoming and can appeal to all.*

JW

*I enjoy coming to craft club and enjoy the interesting stories and laughter.*

C

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*Everyone makes you so welcome and shows love and care for each other, I knit baby hats.*

V

*I enjoy coming to the craft class and I have been with the class for about 20 years, I have met some lovely people.*

SD

*When I finished work, Jill said come along to the craft group which I did and I enjoy the laughter, fun and friendship but most of all it is the fellowship from everyone I enjoy from everyone. I enjoy doing cross stitch and making things from felt.*

RJ

*I like to come to the craft group because I like the company and I do a lot of knitting for the homeless and shoeboxes and baby hats and blankets.*

J

*I've always been interested in all kinds of handicrafts, so I spoke to Jill when I heard there was a craft group at St Mary's. Most of my knitting now is for charity and it's good to all sit together and exchange ideas and patterns. It's a small group but we always welcome anyone who would like to join us.*

L

We look forward to welcoming new members who like to try new things or just come for the fellowship.

From all the craft group

**Update from 250<sup>th</sup> Manchester (St Marys) Scout Group**

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Since my last update, we are proud and privileged to announce we have re-started our Dover's Explorer Section. We currently have five explorers looking very smart in their new uniforms and neckers.

We also attended the Winter camp at Linnet Clough Scout Camp, we took eleven young people, and they were all amazing, doing activities such as ziplining, air rifle shooting, laser tag, and learning survival skills. The temperature dropped below freezing on both nights, so all who attended have been awarded their GME Polar Badge.



Also, this month the Cubs attended a climbing session at Sky High Adventure, they all got to climb, play and enjoyed pizza to end the night. The Cubs are currently working on their Backwoods cooking badge and have been practising their fire lighting skills.

Finally, five leaders took part in Monopoly run Manchester and had a great day, they had to search Manchester for special points they were given and gained points for each place they visited. All this was recorded by sending photographs into the judging panel. They managed to finish 25th out of forty-nine teams and came fourth in the mini-District competition. Well done all!



Danielle Ives (Akala)

**A Scout Group "PS"**

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Lots of you are aware that my grandson, Finley, is now a scout and I've updated you along the way from Beavers to Scouts with his exploits, well I've had a couple of exploits myself recently! What lots of you won't be aware of is that I was a Beaver Scout Leader for about 20 years! I am now the Church representative with the Scout Group and go along and collect their rent (all of 5p) each year at their AGM.

Now, back to the purpose of my story. Earlier in the year, I received a text from the Scout Troop Leader explaining for one of the badges that the scouts are working towards required a visit to church. That's fine no worries; I sent a quick email to Rev Cath and the wardens explaining and offering to take the scouts round as I was dropping Finley off anyway. I let the scouts know that it would be fine, let them know my availability and asked when they wanted to visit. The reply was the following week and could I nip in to the hut and they would explain what was required. It turned out that they needed to know about Christianity not just a tour of church! (The phrase was "*all about Christianity*" actually).

Panic mode sort of set in then – I was going away for a few days, how do you explain Christianity to a group of young people? What was the best way to try and do it? I emailed Kathryn, spoke to my son and his partner and eventually put together a slide show (fortunately a friend is head of RE at a local high school) and prayed that I'd got it right.

Happily, all went well and I hope the young people learned something.

The next message I received was from the Squirrels Leader (the section for children between 4 and 6 years old). They were doing a Community Impact Badge and were asking some Community Hero's to come along and speak to the children! I have to say, by the end of that message I was laughing out loud! Community Hero, me? I don't think so! However it turned out that they just wanted me to explain about all the volunteers giving up their own time, it takes to keep the church running smoothly. The wardens, sides people, PCC, the cleaning team, the worship team, Messy Church team, the list goes on and when you really think about it the list is extremely long. Everyone giving up their time just like the scout group leaders do.



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I'd had a lovely couple of evenings, both different, the one with the scouts, serious and reflective, Derek and I had spent our weekend away counting up how many churches there were when we were young in Droysden and we got 14! The other with the Squirrels, although it had a serious message, it was an hour of children running round having great fun whilst not realising that they were learning important skills for life.

The scout group are now in the midst of their biggest fundraiser of the year Bedding Plant Weekend, if you think you can support the group, there are bedding plant order forms at the back of church. If you do want to order some plants, please try to order online, if you can't do it online, pass the completed forms to me and Finley will take them into Scouts.

Christine.

### **Save The Date**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – VE Day Exhibition

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – The congregation are invited to a Garden Party

At the Scout Hut in Ellen Street from about 12noon

(more information to follow)

### **VE Day Celebrations**



To celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, there will be an exhibition commemorating the lives of the young men of the parish who are remembered on the panels behind the choir stalls and we would like everyone to take part.

There is a list of the names in the church room and if you would like to take part, choose a name and put your name against it then research as much as you can to add to the display that will be put up in church during the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

## RESEARCHING THE NAMES ON THE CHURCH MEMORIAL PLAQUES

### WW11

The main website for gathering information is from Commonwealth war graves commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>

Input the surname and first name ( or initial) and then tick Second world war.

This will result in a listing of matching names

As we know all our searches relate to our parish the Droylsden name is a match. In this case there is an additional forename for the deceased. If you click on the MORE DETAILS button you will then find out more details about when and where they died. It may also give more information. There will certificates etc that you can print off.

If you want to find out more information about where they lived etc you can look at census although the info may be limited. There may be some baptism records in our church registers.

**We need to be sensitive in our searches as it is likely that relatives of the deceased are still living locally.**

**Last name** [Help](#)  
Enter the last name of the casualty

**First name** [Help](#)  
Enter a first name

**Initials** [Help](#)  
Enter initials

**Key** [Help](#)  
Enter

**or**

Match this search term exactly

Match this search term exactly

Match this search term exactly

**Service Number** [Help](#)  
Service numbers can contain numbers, letters and symbols

**Regiment** [Help](#)  
Find records that relate to a particular regiment

Match this search term exactly

Match this search term exactly

**Served with (country)** [Help](#)

**Served in (army etc)** [Help](#)

**Served With** [Help](#)

**Served In** [Help](#)

**War** [Help](#)  
Select War  
 First World War  Second World War

### ADDITIONAL FIELDS

Select additional options to add them to your search criteria

- Country (commemorated in)
- Cemetery or Memorial
- Unit
- Bank
- Secondary Regiment
- Secondary Unit
- Age at Death

Results that match or are similar to all of the words you have entered into the search boxes. This includes spelling variations.

### SHOW 3 OF 3 WAR DEAD

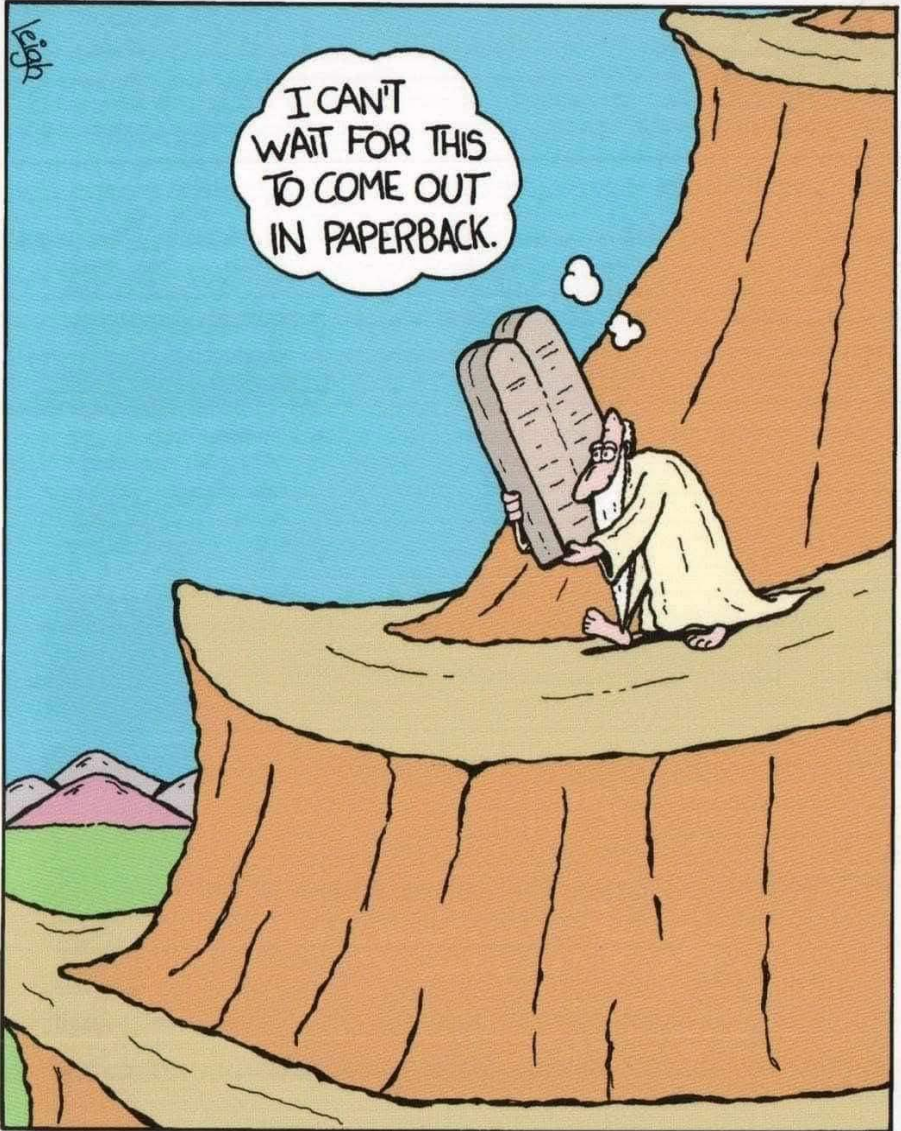
Results per page 10

Download all results Sort by Relevance Refine Results

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, County of Service	Date of Death	Commonwealth at
<b>ROBERT ERIC KAY</b> Private Service Number: 36558993	<b>1st Bn.</b> South Lancashire Regiment United Kingdom	<b>Died 25 October 1940</b> 23 years old	<b>DROYSDEN CEMETERY</b> Sec. I, Grave 382. United Kingdom <a href="#">Save to My List</a>
<b>JAMES ERIC KAY</b> Flight Sergeant Service Number: 1546932	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve United Kingdom	<b>Died 14 July 1944</b> 23 years old	<b>FAYD WAR CEMETERY</b> 2. E. 20. Egypt <a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My List</a>
<b>ERIC KAYE</b> Corporal Service Number: 13041521	ALUS United Kingdom	<b>Died 24 November 1945</b> 42 years old	<b>LEDS (GELDERD ROAD) ENGLISH HEBREW CEMETERY</b> United Kingdom <a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My List</a>

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Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
2pm – 4pm

Messy Easter

Crafts, Bible Stories and Simple  
Worship followed by  
refreshments and look out for  
some chocolate too!

All Primary School age children  
welcome with their parents or  
carers



When we read the Bible, we find out more about God, more about ourselves and more about the world. That's why Bible Society invites people to discover it for themselves.

We translate the Bible and make it accessible in people's heart languages. We bring it into public spaces where its voice can be heard. We tell its stories and encourage people who've never thought the Bible was for them to explore it for themselves.

Many people in the United Kingdom don't think the Bible is relevant to them. We're determined to change that. We're developing resources that help local churches to engage more deeply with Scripture and sending thousands of volunteers into primary schools to share Bible stories with a generation almost entirely unfamiliar with them. And in politics, the media and the arts we're bringing the Bible to life in fresh, exciting and relevant ways. A Bible has been developed for people who suffer from dyslexia to read.

- Both St Mary's study groups use resources supplied free of charge by the Bible Society.
- The Bible Society had a garden at the RHS Tatton Show in 2023 based on Psalm 27 and won a silver medal

A prayer for the Bible Society

***God, you created all there is by the power of your word and you renew us daily by your life-giving Spirit. We give thanks for the Scriptures in which you give us the wisdom leading to salvation through Jesus Christ, and that teach, train and correct us. We pray for all involved in the translation, distribution and production of the Bible worldwide, and for all who help people understand and live by it. Lord, so shape your people by your word that we will bring life and hope to all around us through Jesus, your living Word. We ask this for your glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.***

***Amen***

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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

# Coffee Morning

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to The Bible Society





## **An Easter Quiz**

### **Answers**

- 1. Roast Lamb**
- 2. J.S. Fry & Son (Fry's)**
- 3. Beans**
- 4. Simnel**
- 5. 200million**
- 6. New life and rebirth**
- 7. 11 (representing 12 disciples, minus Judas Iscariot)**
- 8. False**
- 9. Red**
- 10. Raisins**
- 11. 1873**
- 12. Sunday**
- 13. Bonnet**
- 14. Cadbury Crème Egg**
- 15. Pancakes**
- 16. Beatrix Potter**
- 17. Bambi**
- 18. Pocket Watch**
- 19. Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-Tail**
- 20. Jessica**

## A Picture to colour



Read Luke 13: 1-9

Deadline for the diary is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the month unless there are school holidays when articles are required as soon as possible please.

*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this diary, without YOU it wouldn't be possible. If you would like to contribute to future publications, please contact me by email:*

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Who we are:

St Mary's Church Website is

**[www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk](http://www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk)**

Parochial Church Council:

Pat Catterall and Beth Cutler (Wardens), Charlotte Burrows, Joyce Cox, Paul Davies (Secretary), Kathryn Hampson, Ann Holland, Jim Smith, Barbara Walton.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Susan Marsh, Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers

Sides People

Maureen Allison, Elaine Burrows, Carole Clayton, Joyce Cox, Gaynor Kirby, Stephen Marsh.

Treasurer: David Artingstall, Electoral Roll: Lindsay Artingstall

Church Flowers and Bookstall - Details from Church

Mothers Union - Details from Church

St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Primary School

Head Teacher, Mr C Quinn - 370 3948

250th Manchester Scout Group

Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - 07973739041

5th Droylsden Brownie Guides - 339 0016

Rainbow Pack - 301 4251

St John's Band - 285 3583