

OFFICIAL

September 2024 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

*'Arise, shine; for your light has
come, and the glory of the Lord
has risen upon you.'*

Isaiah 60:1

September Services 2024



1st September - 10.30am – Family Holy Communion

James 1: 17 – end and Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

8th September - 10.30am – Holy Communion

James 2: 1-17 and Mark 7: 24 - end

15th September – 10.30am – Holy Communion

James 3: 1 – 12 and Matthew 6: 25 - 33

22nd September – 10.30am – Morning Worship

James 3: 14 – 4: 3, 7-8a and Mark 9: 30 - 37

29th September 10.30am – Holy Communion

James 5: 13 – 20 and Mark 9: 38 - 50

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

Bread of Heaven

Over the past few weeks through August the Sunday Gospel readings have been taken from John chapter 6, where Jesus, having fed the 5000, takes the opportunity to draw the attention of the crowds to his more significant purpose in bringing fulness of everlasting life, rather than merely providing lunch. We do truly give thanks to God for the blessings of home and family and friends, but he does also work in us to show us what God is like, to help us to live as his disciples, and to make us co-workers with him in the world.

I once heard someone explain evangelism as ‘one beggar telling another where to find bread’. This highlights to us that we are not the answer (and don’t need to have all the answers), but we are to point people to Jesus, as we ourselves have found him to be the Living Bread. I think perhaps ‘one person *sharing* bread with another’ is also a good way of thinking about our life as Christians. As we share our faith with others, we are not better than them – neither cleverer, nor morally superior. We are simply those who have received something good and choose to share that goodness with others (as we might if we had a loaf of bread and five fishes at a picnic...).

However weak we might feel, whatever questions we might have about our faith, if we have found Jesus to be the Living Bread, sent by the Father to give us life, we have something to share with others.

Serving our
befriending our
encouraging and
are facing difficulties are
goodness we have



communities,
neighbours,
praying for those who
all ways of sharing the
received from God.

Who can you share the Living Bread with this month?

Revd Cath

Prayer Tree

Please feel free to hang any prayer requests on the prayer tree at the front of church near the eagle lectern. Prayers may be asked for or thanks given.

You will find cards and pens there.



Sunday School

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

Tea and Toast Drop In

Tea and Toast Drop In will resume on Wednesday mornings in September. Everyone is welcome, come along for a chat and a chance to meet new people.

Fellowship and Holy Communion



The next fellowship lunch and Holy Communion Service will be at 12noon on Monday 23rd September

Please look out for the sign up sheet for catering purposes and of course everyone is welcome, please encourage anyone you know who you think might like to come along.

Photographic Exhibition

The display will be up in church on 5th October, please get your photographs to Christine as soon as possible, put your name and where the photograph was taken on the back of each picture, please

Photographs should be 6 x 4 size as far as possible and unmounted.

Thank you to everyone who has already given me photographs and I look forward to receiving more by **Monday 23rd September**. (If I'm not around there is a plastic folder in the vestry to put them in),

Bible Study Groups (Summer Update)

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.



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The group that meets on Tuesday is breaking for the summer and will start again on 10th September with a new study. The first meeting in September for the Thursday group will be on Thursday 26th

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

Michael & Eva's Wedding 2pm 20th July 2024

On a cloudy but dry Saturday afternoon, a group of us from St Mary's attended the wedding of our Chinese friends Eva & Michael. Eva's dad Will and mum Grace had told us about the wedding. We were not sure how many friends and relations would be with them for their day. There were many Chinese friends in the church supporting them, clapping and taking pictures.

Our Rev Cath took the Wedding Service. Before the commencement of the service, the Best Man spoke in Chinese, I expect to explain the procedure of the service and also after the Bible readings in English were followed in Chinese. There was a large choir called The Saddleworth Singers filling the Choir Stalls and an organist, so the hymns were sung with gusto.

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As the Bride came into the church with her father and three bridesmaids, she looked stunning in her long white wedding dress. The service continued faultlessly.



At the signing of the Marriage Document the choir sang John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' and the Benedictus by Phillip Stopford.

A joyful service and a happy supportive congregation.

After the service there were refreshments in the church-room. Then we all moved outside for the professionals to take the group photos.



John Sporne

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A Back to School Prayer

God our Father, we thank you that all children can now return to their school communities.

We entrust them to your tender care
May they know that you are with them each day,
in their joy, in their learning,
and when they are unsure or afraid.

We ask your blessing on all who will support and encourage them throughout the year.

Amen.



Tuesday 3rd September

Speakers – Meryl Crummack and Christine Withers

The History of Songs of Praise

(Meeting will be held in the Emmaus Room)

Everyone Welcome

For more information have a word with Maureen or Pat

Mothers Union – How You Can Help

For many years St Mary's Mothers Union have put together toiletry bags for people admitted to hospital unexpectedly. The bags are provided to the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) at Tameside Hospital and contain:

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A packet of tissues

A small block of soap

A comb

A small shower gel

A toothbrush

A small tube of toothpaste

and for the men, a small razor.

We have recently provided almost 50 bags to the hospital and now need to re-stock for our next batch.

The items we now need are:

Small shower gels

Toothbrushes

Small tubes of toothpaste

If you are able to help with this initiative, please place your donations on the small cupboard in the corner of the church room.

Thank you on behalf of the patients.

Pat

The Fall

Having not been to church regularly for some time now and having recently fallen badly and damaged my rib cage, well, it's given me time for thought.

I've remembered times past when, on retreats at various places, in groups or alone, some silent groups. Then other times church family weekends, or the walking group with Chris, the Monday craft class, the

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choir, the Mothers' Union meetings and annual meals, 'The Silver Services' so many memories have flooded my mind. It's been a time of reflection, so I guess it has become 'My Retreat!'

One of the memories that has stood out for me more than any other, is recalling the day when several of us joined Rev. Alison Bailie for a Prayer Walk around the church and surrounding area of Droylsden, as we came to finish that walk near to the side of Droylsden Pharmacy, a couple passing by, who none of us knew, asked if they could join us in prayer and I thought today how wonderful God's World would be if all people not just of our area but of His now troubled World, would do just that, hold hands together and pray. 🙏

As for me, well, from having had that big fall I'm now doing what the hymn tells us to do and take 'One more step along the road!'.....

I give thanks for the friendly phone calls that I've had, for the friendship too of Ann Holland who whilst being poorly herself, has checked up on me.

Oh and for the Monthly Monday Lunch Ladies and Rev Cath (I may only have made one Monday up to now, but I will be back!)

With Love

Jean Gaunt.



Droylsden & District Foodbank

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Thank you to all those who continue to support the Foodbank with donations.

For this month can we continue to donate carton fruit juices or cordial.

Thank you.

Pat

On a rather damp (read wet!) Thursday in August and intrepid band of helpers set up to encourage young people to think about God's creation of the world.

Lots of children turned up with their parents / carers and lots of fun was had making doughnuts that looked like the earth, a happy earth (God cheering on the seventh day), a brilliant fish and feathery parrot and also planted seeds in a sparkly plant pot.

A short service was rounded off with welcome hotdogs, cake and drinks.

Look out for the next Messy Church during the October half term.





What is Parish Share?

Parishes contribute to the work of Manchester diocese by giving Parish Share. Parish Share helps cover the costs of the clergy in our diocese – their stipend and housing costs as well as national insurance and pension contributions. Those parishes which can afford it, are asked to make larger contributions to help pay for clergy costs in our most deprived areas. This is one of the strengths of our Parish Share system – that together in our diocese and in partnership with the national church, we can make sure there is a Christian presence in every community, not just those who can afford it.

Over the last few years, like many parishes in the Diocese. St Mary's has been struggling to pay our Parish Share in full. The amount we had been asked to pay in 2024 was £29,731. In 2023 it was £28,091 and we were able to pay £20,165.

There are four elements that are used to calculate Parish Share:

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- A count of the members of each congregation that attend church at least 12 times per year, averaged over three years.
- The number of Parish Income Points, which is related to the annual incomes of regular members of each congregation, averaged over three years.
- The total amount of money to be raised by the Diocese via Parish Share.
- The number of children and young people that attend church on a Sunday at least 12 times per year.

The Diocese have recognised that in order to be able to budget more realistically they needed to discuss with parishes a realistic expectation for the amount of parish share they could contribute to the overall budget.

Earlier this year a discussion and agreement process began with representatives from St Mary's. At a meeting with a member of staff from the Diocese, together with an independent volunteer, we discussed:

- A review of the most up-to-date accounts
- Parish budget for the current year
- Details of any funds held in restricted or designated funds
- Total number of regular givers and an update on giving and generosity
- Cost of any outstanding repairs identified in the Quinquennial Inspection and concerns about the building

During this meeting, we reached an agreement on the amount of Parish Share that we would give in 2024, followed by agreements for 2025 and 2026. We then took the details to the PCC for approval.

Our revised Parish Share

for **2024 is £18,000**

for 2025 is £19,300

for 2026 is £20,600

I am sure that these amounts are much more realistic for us and with your continued generosity we will be able to fulfil our agreement to pay these amounts.

If you are a taxpayer and do not currently gift aid your contribution, please speak to Charlotte as 20% of your donation can be claimed from the government at no cost to you. Also, have you thought of setting up a standing order or direct debit? Have you increased your donation recently? All these little steps help massively in enabling us to pay our Parish Share in full.

And if we pay in full, we are able to access grants through the Diocese which will be a great help as we look towards reordering our church room.

The Bible talks a lot about our finances and God invites us into joyful, generous and sacrificial giving. That's a challenge for us all. Does this describe our giving - individually and as a parish?

Our work together grows out of Jesus's Great Commandment which is to:

'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:36-40)

We serve and worship a God who is abundantly generous with his grace, mercy and love, and therefore as God's children we are called to replicate this generosity in the way we offer ourselves in His service and that of the church. A part of our worship is giving and therefore the Parish Share is requested from each church community and at its heart, the

Parish Share is a part of our response to the extraordinary generosity we have received from God

Pat

Finley's Scouting Journey Continued!!

I'm sure most people know about my Grandson, Finley and his journey in scouting by now. I've written about his experiences in both Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts before and here's the latest!

At the end of July Finley reached the ripe old age of 10yrs 6mths and it was time to leave Cub Scouts behind and head to Scouts. After the final pack meeting, he rang me on his way home with his dad to tell me he's gained a special badge – his Chief Scout Silver award. After lots of "well dones" he asked for it to be sewn on his Cub uniform because he had to start Scouts in September wearing that until he got a Scout shirt. Simple? That's what I thought, it turned out that he had also got nine other badges on his last day too "and you will sew them on won't you Gran?" Of course I would, why wouldn't I?

Now here's the rub, Finley then said he wasn't sure about going to Scouts because he plays cricket on Wednesday evenings during the summer, loves it and is doing rather well – you try explaining to him that the cricket season is only from May to August and Scouts don't meet

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during school holidays and just look at how much rain there has been this year and how many games have been called off!

Eventually Finley saw reason, with the caveat “Don’t think I’m going to camp because I’m not!”

Finley has loved his time in the Cubs, he’s grown and matured, tried things none of us would have believed he would have, made lots of friends and is more than happy to join in as long as it’s not camping.

Thank you to the leaders who have endless patience and I’d encourage any young person to give it a go.

Christine

PS at the time of writing, the badges still need sewing on.....

Victor the Veteran Bear

At our 2023 Christmas Fare, I saw a bear with cap, uniform and displaying a medal. I thought Jill Kennaugh must have fitted the bear out with its uniform. I then thought it could be a mascot for our Tameside Veterans.

At the Veterans Day event held at Victoria Park Denton, on the last Saturday in June, I took the bear along hoping to find it a home so other forces veterans could see him. At the lunch laid-on for Tameside Veterans, I spoke with an official lady Marie Holland and asked if she could help find a home for the veteran bear.

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I gathered from Ann Holland that Jill had bought the bear from a local Barnardo's charity shop and given it to her during early Summer 2023 for St Mary's Christmas Fare. Sadly, Jill departed from us on 17th September.

The orphaned veteran bear is now at Droylsden Library. The Manager and I thought Victor was an apt name for the bear; seeing that Dr Tom Barnardo set up homes for orphans in Victorian times and that this bear was handed over for a new home at Victoria Park Denton.



If you would like to see Victor the Veteran Bear then just ask at the Droylsden Library desk.

John Sporne



Useful Re-organisation

I've been sorting music CD's out while being at home and came across one which was St Mary's School Celebration from the opening of the new school building about 20 years ago.

It was great to listen to and the very last track is called We're The Future of Tomorrow. It made me think, where are those children now, all grown-up adults? What great memories for those children making that CD.

Then I came across a nice piece of words and music from a lady from St Stephen's, Audenshaw and our church choir rehearsed it (but

unfortunately never sang it in church). The words are beautiful, and I'd like to share them with you all.

Lord, I come To You

Lord, I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the Grace that I found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

*Refrain – Hold me close, let Your love surround me
Bring me near, draw me to Your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like an eagle
And I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love.*

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living everyday
In the power of Your love.

Refrain

Ann Holland



Chrisian Blind Mission

For over 115 years, CBM has been transforming lives around the world. We work with local partners, making sure people with disabilities in some

of the world's poorest communities have access to healthcare, education and a future when they can thrive.

Our vision is an inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

We improve access to essential services, including education, healthcare and opportunities to earn a living. And when a disaster strikes, we're there providing emergency relief and supporting people with disabilities and communities to recover and rebuild. We are fighting to end the cycle of poverty and disability.

Worldwide, three out of four people who are blind don't need to be, and at least one billion people are living with a visual impairment that could have been treated or prevented.

In the world's poorest communities, millions of people are blind simply because they can't access or afford sight-saving treatment. Blindness robs people of opportunities like education, earning a living, and living independently.

We believe everyone deserves the chance to see the world clearly. Together with our local partners, we are providing sight-saving surgeries, treatments and glasses to improve sight across some of the world's poorest places.

- We help adults and children get the sight-restoring cataract surgery they need no matter where they live, often by running outreach camps in remote places where people might not have access to eye hospitals.
- We treat blinding diseases like river blindness and trachoma. Medicines to treat these diseases cost as little as 16p and can help reduce the suffering of those who have contracted these conditions.
- We support screening programmes that find people in need of eye care and enable them access to treatment. This helps to detect vision problems early and provide access to life-changing treatments.
- We train specialist doctors, nurses, and other health workers to identify and treat eye conditions. By equipping hospital eye

departments with resources and expertise, we help communities gain access to quality eye care services.

- We support governments in countries where we work to improve eye health services long-term. We're laying the groundwork for lasting change.
- We provide glasses and low vision devices to those who need them. These simple tools enhance vision and empower people to lead more independent lives.

Last year, we helped over a million people gain access to eye-related medical services and helped thousands of people to see again.

***Almighty God, bless all partners, staff and volunteers,
that they may serve with compassion and dedication.
May they see the fruits of their contributions in transformed lives
and communities.
Amen.***

Please don't forget I am happy to collect any unwanted spectacles and drop them off at Asda. Thank you to everyone who has already given me some they have been safely delivered. – Chrisitne

St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee



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Morning

Saturday 7th September

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room

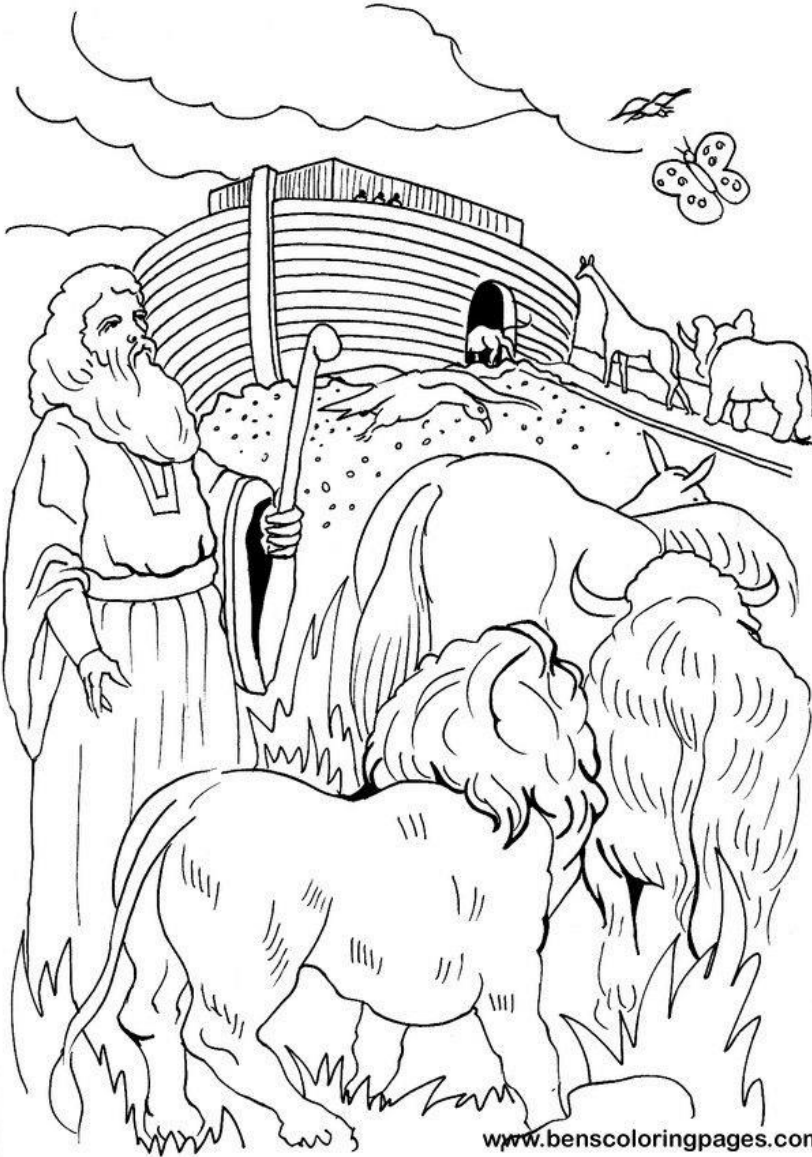


All Welcome

Proceeds to Christian Blind Mission



A Picture to Colour



Read Genesis 7: 8-10

Deadline for the diary is always the 2nd 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:

christine.withers12@talktalk.net

Telephone 0161 371 8825

Who we are:

St Mary's Church Website is

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

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Rainbow Pack - 301 4251

St John's Band - 285 3583