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# February 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*

## February Services 2025



**2<sup>nd</sup> February - 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Malachi 3: 1-5 and Luke 2: 22-40**

**9<sup>th</sup> February - 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Isaiah 6: 1-8 and Luke 5: 1-11**

**16<sup>th</sup> February – 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Jeremiah 17: 5-10 and Luke 6: 17-26**

**23<sup>rd</sup> February – 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end and Luke 8: 22-25**

**24<sup>th</sup> February – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy  
Communion**

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

## **Letting the Light Shine**

As we get into February many of us find ourselves tired of the dark mornings and evenings, and the cold, rainy weather, and we long for warmer, brighter days of Spring with the bulbs and blossoms to cheer us on our way.

Jesus said he is the Light of the World, but he didn't leave it at that – he also said that we are called to be lights shining brightly, like cities in a hill (or the bright lights of Manchester), so that others will see God's goodness through our lives and give praise to him. (Matthew 5: 14 – 16).

If you find yourself feeling that weariness this month, and longing for some sunshine, why not stop to consider where there is darkness and light around us in the world and pray for God's light to come into that situation. Maybe somewhere in the world, such as Gaza, Ukraine or Sudan, or perhaps a situation closer to home that others wouldn't know about. Then go out and let God's light shine through your life.

Together we can be lights shining in the world to bring the light and life of Christ to others who may not know where to find the world's True Light.

***Revd Cath***

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## An Update from Lifeshare



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We hope everyone had a merry Christmas yesterday! 🌲

Thanks to everyone who donated towards our Christmas project this year, we got to serve nearly 500 meals throughout the day to nearly 200 guests 🧡

A huge thanks to our incredible team of volunteers, giving up their time over the holidays to make sure that our clients had a wonderful day. We truly can't thank you enough 📺 and thank you to the security staff, barbers, vets, entertainment, local businesses and everyone else who donated time, goods, or services to spread a bit of Christmas magic! With your help, we made [#LifeshareChristmas2024](#) a day to remember ✨

[#manchester](#) [#endhomelessness](#)



**Lifeshare at Christmas**

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Thank once again for supporting the homeless and rough sleepers in Manchester.

With the donations from church and St John's Castle band concert I bought

90 hats

65 pairs of gloves

80 pairs of socks

5 scarves

54 pair of boxer shorts

80 toilet rolls.

Which were very well received.

The project served 4,000 meals over the Christmas period, as well as providing a warm safe shelter during each day.

So once again many thanks for your generosity.

Barbara



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 January will be at 12noon on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

February's service will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 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**



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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.

The group that meets on Thursday afternoon at 1.30pm is meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January to have a chat about what we would like to have a look at next. It's the ideal time to come along find out what goes on if you would like to.

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).



### **Theme for 2025-2027**

#### **Join Us and Join In**

The meeting in February marks the start of the new theme for the next two years. **Join Us and Join In.**

The Mothers' Union supports lots of causes and one in particular is to make up toiletry bags for anyone admitted unexpectedly to Tameside Hospital. Each bag contains soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, tissues, deodorant, a comb, facecloth and for gentlemen a razor.

The meeting on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** will be all about making the toiletry bags up (we are short of combs and toothbrushes) and looking forward to the coming year. If you are interested in joining us everyone

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is very welcome – **the meeting starts at 7.30pm**. Throughout the year we have lots of interesting talks and activities, have a chat with Pat or Maureen if you want to know more.

Just a reminder for current members, subs are due by the end of January, please give Barbara Walton £30.00 (not £31.00 as in last month's diary.)

### APCM Reports

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. If you usually prepare a report for the meeting can you let me have it by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the latest please?

Thank you

Christine

### God's Blessings

Start the year  
With joy and laughter  
With gratitude for God's blessings  
And with courage for the journey.

God shows us how much He loves us through the goodness of a friend.  
God fills our lives with His joy and our homes with His love.

Most of the blessings in life aren't the big ones, they're so small that they're easy to miss.

Joy doesn't usually come blazing in all at once,  
it shows up a little at a time.

Take time today to thank God for the small blessings in your life.

There is joy within each person. Who knows how priceless they are to God.

Ann Holland

## Droylsden & District Foodbank 2024

Droylsden & District Foodbank has now been in operation since December 2013.

During the year the Trussell Trust, from which our foodbank was seeded, changed its name to Trussell and its logo. That is the only change and we remain a part of their organisation.



As a reminder this is what we do:

### **We exist so everyone can be free from hunger.**

Trussell is an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks. We work together to ensure no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive, while providing food and practical support to people left without enough money to live on.

For Droylsden & District Foodbank 2024 has seen a steady number of vouchers fulfilled and the number of people fed.

During 2024 we fulfilled 660 vouchers from 377 unique households. The average number of visits from each household was therefore 1.75. From this average figure we can see that for many families we are the answer to a short-term crisis. There are some households that need longer term support, but this is in exceptional circumstances. There were 282 first time referrals and for these families making the initial step to ask for support will have been a big decision. The referral agency they spoke to will have understood their individual circumstances and offered additional support where appropriate.

The total number of people fed was 1724 which included 726 children.

The main reasons for clients requiring the support of the Foodbank continues to be changes and delays to welfare benefit payments. Other

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reasons include low income, debt, ill health, homelessness and domestic abuse.

To help clients receive additional appropriate support Droylsden & District Foodbank is working alongside Tameside South and Longdendale Foodbank to offer the services of an advisor from Citizens Advice. Appointments are made with clients when they receive their food for a CAB advisor to ring them and help in the areas of housing, debt, benefits, bereavement etc. This is a voluntary scheme but clients who have used the service have benefited and, in many cases, no longer need to use the foodbank.

The permanent collection point in Tesco Droylsden is well supported by shoppers and the annual national collection at the store provides a boost to our stock levels.

The local churches continue to support us with donations as do the local schools at harvest time and Christmas. Businesses and individuals also donate food and personal hygiene items during the year. A local company donates toilet rolls on a regular basis.

During the year the foodbank has received a generous grant to purchase food to support our work in the local community.

The stock recorded into the warehouse during 2024 was 12,311 kgs and stock out was 9,589 kgs. The weight of food purchased was 4,812 kgs.

One of our major challenges during 2024 has been the status of the warehouse where we both store our food and distribute to our clients. The rear of the unit, which is the distribution area, has suffered from a badly leaking flat roof. We have, and are continuing to, work with Tameside MBC to find the source of the leak and hopefully rectify the problem. This has not been an easy task, but we are grateful to the various Tameside departments and Droylsden Councillors for their support. Environmental Health visited to confirm that there is no impact on our food stock because of the water ingress.

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We are also working with the landlord of our unit to find an alternative site for our warehouse and distribution centre which we hope will remain within Droylsden precinct.

After 11 years the Droylsden & District Foodbank continues to be supported by the community and remains an integral part of emergency food provision throughout the area

2024 has been a challenging but rewarding year for all connected to the foodbank. Wider publicity has thrown a spotlight on food poverty and the cost-of-living challenges. Droylsden & District Foodbank has met these challenges and will continue to serve our community.

A huge thank you goes to our many volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the weekly service we provide to our clients. Their dedication, support for each other and sense of humour defines our sessions and without them 1724 people, including 736 children, would not have been fed.

Alongside Trussell we look to a future where all can afford the essentials and there will no longer be a need for foodbanks in the UK.

Thank you to all at St Mary's who have supported us in any way during the year. Please continue to pray for our work, clients and volunteers.

If you know anyone who may be in need of support with food, please ask them to ring the 'Help through Hardship' freephone number **0808 208 2138**. '**Help through Hardship**' is a collaboration between Trussell and Citizens Advice to offer food and additional support to those in crisis.

Pat

## Scout Group Millenium Time Capsule



Some people might know that for many years I was a Beaver Leader with St Mary's Scout Group and along with many thousands of other people in 1999 we filled and buried a Millennium time capsule. Each section of the group put something into it before it was buried and I'm not sure if the sections knew what each of the other sections had put in.

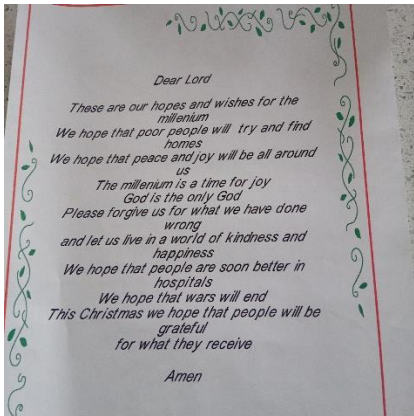
Fast forward to 2024 and Margaret, the Assistant Group Scout Leader thought it might be a good idea to unearth the capsule and reveal the contents as there was now probably only two or three people still with any connections to the group who knew about it.

The big reveal was on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January during a quiz night held at the scout hut. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to be at the quiz night but have since been able to look through the contents of the capsule.

Inside the capsule were photographs of the Beaver Scouts, some scout badges, the Cub Scouts had written about themselves and their families as well as what their dreams were. There were lots of budding footballers and a golfer. There was a map of Droylsden and Audenshaw with everyone's houses marked on it too. Daniel, one of the Beaver Scouts had written to the late Queen telling her about Beaver Scouts and a copy of the letter he received in reply was found inside the capsule. There was a copy of the Church Magazine for December 1999 inside together with a prayer that one of the Cub Scouts had written to mark the millennium and you can see it in the photograph below.

Lots of people attended the Quiz Night and the ceremonial opening of the capsule, there is a thought that another may be put together to be opened in 2050 so watch this space!

## Christine



## Thank You

Just to say “thank you” to the people who sent me chards whilst I was in hospital. They were much appreciated.

Doreen Horton (Choir)

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Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

2pm – 4pm

Crafts, Bible Stories and Simple  
Worship followed by  
refreshments



All Primary School age children  
welcome with their parents or  
carers

**Coffee Mornings for 2025**

**February – Mothers' Union**  
**March – Embrace The Middle East**  
**April – The Bible Society**  
**May – The Children's Society**  
**June – Open Doors**  
**July – Christian Mission Society**  
**August – MAF**  
**September – Christian Blind Mission**  
**October – Operation Christmas Child**  
**November – To be confirmed**  
**December – Christmas Fair**

St Mary's Church, Droylsden

**Coffee Morning**

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Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to Mothers' Union

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

**Jesus Calms the Storm  
Spot the Difference**

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



**Read Luke 8: 22-25**

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:***

**[christine.withers12@talktalk.net](mailto:christine.withers12@talktalk.net)**

***Telephone 0161 371 8825***

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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