

OFFICIAL

January 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

January Services 2025



5th January - 10.30am – Epiphany Holy Communion

Isaiah 60: 1-6 and Mathew 2: 1-12

12th January - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Isaiah 43: 1-7 and Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

19th January – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Isaiah 62: 1-5 and John 2: 1-11

26th January – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Nehemiah 8: 1-3 ,5-6, 8-10 and Luke 4: 14-21

**27th January – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy
Communion**

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

Faith for a New Year

As we start another New Year (they do seem to come around so often now!!), we may have all sorts of hopes, dreams, and plans for the year ahead, but we really don't know what the year might hold for us – either personally or in the world around us. The verse I wanted to choose for this year was written many hundreds of years ago, but still rings true today. Since the earliest days Christians have learnt that God can be trusted through all the highs and lows of life. God promises to always be with us, to give us strength for each day, and to show his steadfast love to us.

Knowing that God is always with us doesn't mean we must always have a smile on our face, or that we must pretend to always be okay. Being real with God about the situations in our lives, and how we feel about them, opens our hearts to hear what words of hope he might want to bring to us, and gives us faith to believe that he is at work. As we do this, we will find that faith grows in us. The first step is just to talk to God, to pour out our hearts to him, in the normal, natural words we'd use with a friend.

So, whether you feel strong in faith or more than a bit wobbly, I encourage you to take that first step, to be honest with God, and then to listen, for a moment, to what words might come to you. I believe as we do this, we too, will be able to say with the psalmist 'God is a refuge for us.'

Revd Cath

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your souls before him;

God is a refuge for us.

Psalm 62: 8

A New Year Meditation

At this glad season, when there's joy everywhere,
Let us meet our Redeemer at the altar of prayer,
Asking Him humbly to bless all of our days
And grant us forgiveness for our erring ways
And though we're unworthy, dear Father above,
Accept us today and let us dwell in Thy love
So we may grow stronger upheld by Thy grace,
And with Thy assistance be ready to face
All the temptations that fill every day,
And hold on to our hands when we stumble and stray,
And thank You dear God, for the year that now ends
And for the great blessing of loved ones and friends.

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.

The old one hasn't gone to waste, it is now in St Mary's School for the children and staff to use.



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. 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 December will be at 12noon on Monday 23rd December.

On this occasion it will be a “bring and share” lunch instead of soup. Please see the sign-up list in church.

January’s service will be on Monday 27th January 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).



Police Surgery

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St Mary's Church 15th January 6.30pm – 8.00pm

**If you, or anyone you know, has a question or needs advice,
please come along and make use of the experts.**

This is a great opportunity so please take advantage of it.



December saw the Mothers' Union Christmas party. Before we enjoyed a splendid buffet, Kathryn instructed us all in how to make an angel tree decoration.



The Mothers' Union theme for 2025 – 2027 is Join Us, Join In. If anyone would like more information, please have a word with Pat, Maureen or Mildred.

There is no meeting in January but just a reminder, subs are due by the end of January, please give Barbara Walton £31.00.

Thank You

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Thank you to Mr Tranter for his donation of our Christmas tree in memory of his dear wife Mary, and son Robert.



Superstars

In December's diary we were told about St Mary's School netball squad, having the honour of leading out the England Netball Team. Two of the pupils who took part have written about their exciting experience for us.

Dear diary, a few weeks ago I was chosen to be a mascot for the England vs Jamaica netball match. When we arrived at the AO arena, we were given special lanyards and Bee Netball t-shirts. We had the opportunity to greet the roses as they arrived so we clapped and cheered. We met two future roses and we were able to ask them questions. Later, we met up with the players and held their hands, ready to run onto the court. There were lots of flashing lights when we ran with the players. We lined up in front of the players and sang the national anthem. Afterwards, we had our faces painted and went to watch the game. It was an amazing experience!



Last weekend, we were given the opportunity to be mascots at the England v Jamaica Horizon Series Netball Match - Game 1. At 2pm, we arrived at the backstage entrance to the AO Arena. We were given special lanyards and Bee Netball t-shirts. We welcomed both teams to the stadium as they arrived. We met two future roses and we were able to ask them some questions. We had a backstage tour of the arena before running out on to the court with the players. We lined up in front of them and sang the national anthem 'God Save the King'. We got our faces painted. Finally, we sat down to watch the game and we were all really excited. The final score was 49-49 after Jamaica scored in the final second. Everyone had an amazing time.

Not only are our school pupils sporting superstars, they are also singing superstars!

The school choir were invited to sing at and perform the switch on of the Droylsden Christmas lights.



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The beautiful display of Christmas trees in church are also courtesy of the pupils of St Mary's school, representing all things Christmas.

Here are just a few showing how hard everyone worked.



Just to Make You Smile



Operation Christmas Child

Another year is over for our part in Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and Donations. I believe November 2024 was our 30th year of sending gift shoeboxes and helping the local warehouse collect shoeboxes from around the Manchester area, check them and load large lorries. Although, for the past 4 years, we have not had a local warehouse, they are now taken to a large warehouse in Coventry; Samaritans' Purse's new HQ location.



Many of the boxes were transported and distributed in Eastern European countries with most of these boxes going to Ukraine. From a central



warehouse, the boxes would have to be transported to the many church links throughout the country and then taken locally to children in schools, hospitals, orphanages, churches, etc. As you read this in early January 2025, thousands of children will be receiving their shoebox gifts. Oh! but Christmas is over - not in

Eastern Europe as the Eastern Orthodox Church Christmas Day is the 6th of January. Then there will be thousands of shoeboxes going to several African countries by ship then long lorry or plane journeys and then distributing the boxes to children over a wide area. The planning, logistics and costs must all be put in place by people in the countries that send and those who receive the shoeboxes, so as many children as possible will receive a gift box.



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Each child receiving a box will be happy, I know many will want to know who sent the box, so they can thank them. Many of the children will be given a booklet, written in their language, for a course on learning and following Jesus in their lives.

To watch OCC Videos, go to YouTube and search Operation Christmas Child Videos

For our small part in OCC, we sent 67 boxes and £461.04 in donations. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported in any way.

John Sporne

Finley Is Now a Scout!

I told you a couple of months ago that my grandson Finley, was moving up from Cubs to Scouts and that he was a bit unsure about going.

After a little wobble on the first night, he's embraced the troop with such enthusiasm we can't but smile each Wednesday night when he tells us all about it.

Since September, he's cooked Mexican food, made a bird box (I can now help grandad with all his jobs!!!!) and he's made a paper mâché snowman. This took a few weeks, the first week when he go in the car he said "can you get this off my shoes?" When we go home the soles of his shoes were covered in sticky newspaper and it took grandad ages to scrape it all off.

Recently he came running out saying "it's been a great night, I've been invested!" He promptly gave me a handful of badges to sew on his scout uniform and asked when his old cub badges would be sewn on his blanket. I had to remove forty-six badges from the cub uniform and at the time of typing they are still waiting to be sewn on the blanket because you can't get to my sewing machine for stuff for the Christmas fair and Christmas presents.

Finley loves scouts and has grown so much in confidence, we're so proud of him and can't thank all the leaders enough.

Christine (Finley's proud gran)

**250th Manchester (St Mary's) Scout Group
Squirrel Drey**

Recently, it was a very exciting week at Squirrels. Mark Howarth, holder of the Kings Scout Award, was invited to join in the fun and games and tell the parents and children about his forthcoming trip to Madagascar in 2025. He is part of the Scout Network. We wished him a safe and exciting adventure and he promised to come and tell us all about it.

Julie Artingstall
Squirrel Drey Leader



A Picture to Colour



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Read Luke 2

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