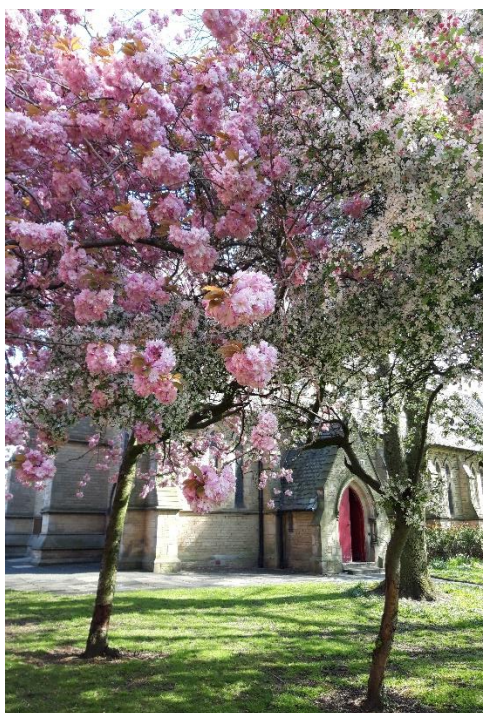


**June 2021**

**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**

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be  
constant in prayer"*

*ROMANS 12:12*

## **Services – June 2021**

**All other Services for June will be Holy Communion at 10.30 can also be found on YouTube on Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 1pm.**

**Face masks must be worn, and social distancing observed in Church**

**If you listen online and are having trouble with the sound, please try listening with earphones.**

**(Google YouTube then search St Mary's Droylsden)**

**Any changes and updates will be announced on the church website and where possible social media**

### **Why are the next six months 'ordinary'?**

It's that time of the year again: Ordinary Time. Seems pretty anticlimactic after the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Just what is the significance of Ordinary Time?

Contrary to what people may believe, Ordinary Time is far from boring and insignificant. It is the longest season in the Church's year. And just like the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, it takes us through specific events in the life of Jesus. During Ordinary Time, the Gospels include the calling of the twelve apostles, Jesus' miracles and parables, the sermon on the mount and other well-known biblical stories about Jesus' earthly ministry. Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation of our faith.

The word "ordinary" usually refers to something that is common or not exciting. So, if Ordinary Time is such an important part of the church year, why does it sound so trivial?

In the religious context, "ordinary" comes from the Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to an ordered sequence. Numbering the weeks in Ordinary Time (The First Sunday in Ordinary Time, The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, etc.) helps us keep track of where we are in the liturgical year.

*Ordinalis* stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. So, the numbered weeks in Ordinary Time are actually part of the ordered, rhythmic life of the Church. Just as in our everyday lives, the church has times of the year for celebrating and feasting (Christmas, Easter, and holy days), penance and preparation (Advent and Lent), and quiet growth and joyful expectation (Ordinary Time). Without the periods of growth and maturation, the special occasions throughout the year lose their meaning because we don't get a full glimpse of Jesus' life.

Ordinary Time has two parts in the church's calendar, but it's still only one season. The liturgical year begins with Advent and is followed by the Christmas season, which ends on January 6, Epiphany. The first period of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after Epiphany and goes until Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins, and the Easter season follows. The second period of Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, which ends the Easter season. This second period of Ordinary Time, which is the longest liturgical season, continues until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical year begins again.

Green is the liturgical colour for Ordinary Time. That's why, for the next six months, the church will be decorated with green altar cloths, stoles, falls and ribbons. Green is the colour of life and hope. In this time after Pentecost when the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, began to spread the Gospel, green is a great reminder that we, too, are called to share the Good News everywhere we go.

As with all seasons in the liturgical year, Ordinary Time is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Jesus, grow spiritually, and participate in the life of the Church. Perhaps you could start or end each day by thanking God for five ordinary things. However, you mark the long church season, don't let this be just another "Ordinary" Time - do something intentional to make it *extraordinary*.

Many blessings,

Rev Sue

## Readings for June

**6th June** 2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5:1 and Mark 3: 20-end, **13th June** 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 [11-13] 14-17 and Mark 4: 26-34, **20th June** 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 and Mark 4: 35-41, **27th June** 2 Corinthians 8: 7-end and Mark 5: 21-end

## Church Mission Partners

Andrea and Andrew Young are Church Mission Partners (C M S) working in Nepal. We as a church have agreed to support them both financially and through prayer.

They are pastoral carers for Ex-Pat Mission staff who often work in stressful and challenging situations, the role is to ensure their health and spiritual well being is looked after in order for them to have an effective Ministry in Nepal. Andrea comes from North Manchester and Andrew from North Yorkshire.

They came back to the UK in early 2020 with the intention of visiting those churches that had supported them on their journey as Mission Partners in Nepal. No sooner had they arrived here they found themselves in lockdown, and the pandemic has meant them continuing their ministry here in the UK. Working remotely has been a learning experience for them and they are thankful that their understanding of technology and use of zoom has developed enabling them to remain in contact with friends and colleagues in Nepal. Whilst in the UK, Andrew's

ministry has evolved, and he has become more adept at offering online worship and other services by way of support. Amongst other things Andrea is currently studying with the Tribhuvan University for her MA in Counselling Psychology, which will be useful in her pastoral support work.

Uncertainty has become part of their lives. When will they be able to return to Nepal? Will they be able to get a visa to stay? Nothing is certain for them, but the COVID vaccine roll out is giving them hope and they are hoping to be able to travel before long. Andrea and Andrew are pleased to have been able to visit many of their supporters here in the UK on zoom.

Please pray for their endurance at this trying time as they wait news of when they are able to return to the place of their calling.

Margaret McCracken

### **Ordinary Things**

I Bless Thee, O Father for all seemingly ordinary things,  
A cup of tea at rising  
A letter through the post  
A bunch of flowers for my vase  
I would not take for granted,  
Any gift which brings me joy  
Health and strength and good food  
A walk with another in the sunshine  
A favourite book passed on by a friend.  
With all the people of every generation  
I join in saying that there is nothing can separate us.  
Neither height nor depth  
Neither life nor death  
Thou are worthy of more love than I can bring.  
Accept what I do bring.

By Rita Snowden  
Submitted by Ann Holland

### **How Did You Occupy Yourself?**

How did you occupy yourself during lockdown? At first the weather was beautiful (spring 2020), I did lots of gardening, regularly filling both mine and my neighbours brown bin to the top. It's not been so good this spring, but I have managed quite a lot.

I used the fruits of my garden to make blackcurrant jam, as usual to my grandmother Kennaugh's recipe – all sold in aid of church funds. I've read a great many books and exchanged some with others – a favourite hobby at any time. I've knitted a lot! Both for shoeboxes and for Church when we can return to our coffee mornings and fairs. I've tried out some new patterns, some of which I've enjoyed and some of which will be one off's because they've been too tricky. I've bird watched in my garden and walked around Sunnybank Vale at the bottom of my road.

I'm looking forward to everything being back to some form of normality and although we had a little taste at the end of last year, we seem to have been restricted for ever. I feel sorry for people with no gardens or are in sheltered accommodation they must have found it really hard, so I'm not complaining, just hoping for better days ahead for us all.

I'd like to thank you for all the phone calls, folks I've really appreciated them.

Jill

## **Whit Walks**

After reading in last month's Diary about Nancy being a May Queen it brought back my happy memories of being a Rose Queen in 1956/1957 at St Martins Church.

I remember by name being picked out of a hat at the church which I had attended since I was 5 years old. Like Nancy I had a lovely white dress, a tiara, a full train of blue velvet and a bouquet of roses, for the annual Whit Walks on both Saturday and Sunday in June 1956. I was Rose Queen for 12 months, raising money for the church with social events and invitations to other Queens and their families and friends to our church.

All the Rose Queens during my reign were invited to The Free Trade Hall in Manchester in 1957 for a Festival of Queens raising money for National Children's Homes. I hope you enjoyed by memories of the Whit Walks in the 1950's.

Maureen Allison



**"I prayed".**

It was pouring down with rain (for a change) and I flicked through the TV menu to see if there was anything different to watch while doing my crafting. The European diving championships caught my eye, something I could tune in and out of as I concentrated on the blanket I'm making. Team GB had some successes with a few medals and some disappointments as our main contenders made small mistakes. I marvelled at the timing of

the synchronised divers and winced when their heads whizzed so close to the boards. How can you physically fit four and a half somersaults into such a short space of time and then be in a position to enter the water without breaking your back? Surely you would get dizzy and lose sight of where you were in space.

There was an interview with one of our medal winners that caught my full attention. Andrea was a 16 year old in her first senior 10m competition. She was simply there to get experience of a big competition. Yet she had come third and won an unexpected medal. The commentator told the audience about how her first dive had not gone to plan, and she had received quite a low score. He asked her how she had been able to move on from that to produce a series of dives that would see her on the podium. She gave a two word answer that prompted the commentator to ask her to elaborate further.

"I prayed," she said. That was all. When asked for more, she said she had asked God to fill her with peace and give her the courage to go back up the steps to use the gifts God has given her to the best of her ability. Her faith allowed her to put a disappointment to one side and come back stronger.

Jesus Said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24). Of course, God's answer may not be so immediate, nor might it be the answer we were hoping for, but we are assured that God hears all our prayers. Like Andrea, we should make prayer our reflex reaction in everyday life. Something goes wrong? Pray. Something goes well? Give thanks.

May I suggest another two word phrase? 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "pray continually".

Rev Sue



The Droylsden & District foodbank is here to help. For information on where to go for a foodbank voucher, please phone:

07473 452813

Your call will be treated with respect and in strict confidence.

### **Saints Quiz**

1. On what date is St Patrick's Day celebrated?
2. St Christopher's Day is 30<sup>th</sup> May, what is he the patron saint of?
3. Why is St Valentine known as the patron saint of romance?
4. Where was St George born?
5. Why is the saltire on the Scottish flag?
6. The Welsh city of St David's is known for being the UK's what?
7. Who is the patron saint of football?
8. What nationality was St Francis, patron saint of animals?
9. Who is the patron saint of lost causes?
10. Saint Paul, patron saint of London, is also the patron saint of what?

**Answers next month**

### **Diary Deadlines**

As always the deadline for the diary is the middle Saturday in the month unless there are school holidays looming and that means we need to alter it by a day or so to enable Beth to get into school to print the diary.

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](http://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) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**