

OFFICIAL

June 2026 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

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall 0161 370 0039

Beth Cutler 0161 964 9106

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

OFFICIAL

June Services 2026



7th June - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 4: 13-end and Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

14th - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 5: 1-8 and Matthew 9: 35-10: 23

21st June – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 6: 1b-11 and Matthew 10: 24-39

28th June – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Romans 6: 12-23 and Matthew 10: 40-end

29th June – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion

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

Hearing with our Hearts

When Jesus taught parables, he sometimes ended with the odd-sounding phrase 'whoever has ears, let them hear'. In our everyday communication we can probably all think of times when someone has heard the words we said, but seemingly not understood at all what we actually meant. To listen well, we try to also be aware of the tone of voice and the body language to understand more fully what is being communicated.

On the Day of Pentecost Jewish people from 'every nation' heard in their own language the message of freedom and life for all who turn to Jesus. Thousands heard and responded. This is a whole new way of hearing: not just with our ears to hear the words, and with our eyes to see the body language, but with hearts opened by God's Spirit to understand and to respond.

What message of Love is God saying to our hearts? What would it mean to listen to others with our hearts opened by God's holy Love?

Pentecost

By Malcolm Guite from his book Sounding the Seasons

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

Praying for the wind, fire and water of the Spirit to work in our hearts and lives.

Revd Cath

Prayer Tree

If you are new to church, our prayer tree is 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.

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 someone new.

Fellowship and Holy Communion



The fellowship lunch and Holy Communion Service for June will be at 12noon on Monday 29th June



The service in May is Monday 25th May (Bank Holiday Monday)

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.



OFFICIAL

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).



There is no meeting on 2nd June, however, check out the article later in the diary.

Everyone is very welcome – you don't have to be a woman or a mother!

The Sunday Group

The Sunday morning children's group is now running on two Sunday's a month, the 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

All children of primary school age are welcome to come along. Sessions will be held in the Church Room at the back of church.

Kathryn



Craft Group

OFFICIAL

The Craft Group is a friendly group, meeting every Monday during the school term time in the Emmaus Room from 1.30pm.



Novice knitters are always welcome so if you'd like to learn or improve a new skill for the new year, please have a chat with Rosemary or Rev Lorraine.

The group support the Mothers' Union by knitting dozens of beanie hats and blankets for the neo-natal unit at Tameside Hospital – thank you ladies.

Church grounds working party

On Monday 4th May, the Spring Bank holiday we were blessed with a wonderful team help tidy our church grounds.

We hoed, pruned, dug and pulled.

The path edges were neatened, the rose bed cleared of weeds and overgrowing plants. The ivy was removed from the gate post, perimeter wall and tree.

The difference to the grounds was remarkable and we are now ready for our summer photos.

If anyone has an hour spare on a regular basis perhaps we could start a gardening club to keep the grounds looking spick and span. If you would like to be involved speak to Pat

A few photos from the day



The team



Thank you to everyone who joined us for all your hard work

250th Manchester (St Mary's) Scout Group

Recently the Scouts and Explorer Scouts were making posters and saying why they liked to go to Scouts. When they speak about going to church, it refers to the St George's Day Parade in April. These are a few of their thoughts:

Squirrels love:

- Watering our plants
- Cooking
- Playing "Peas in the Dark"
- Getting messy
- Playing games
- Having fun with friends

Being a Cub Scout means making friends and being a good leader to each other. Going on adventures and having fun! Cubs is a very friendly place for children to learn things such as how to be a good friend, leader

and good sport. We went to a church as a group and some people had a speaking part.

Grace, Cub Scout Secondar

Being a Cub Scout means learning a lot of new things that will be very useful like learning how to do a mandage or learning how to do the recovery position. One time we went to The Chill Factor and it was soooooo (her word) fun.

Amelia, Cub Scout

Being a Cub Scout means getting badges, making friends, learning, playing and adventuring. Going to church and parades and finally bonfires. That's why I go to Cub Scouts.

Deacon, Cub Scout

Being a Scout is:

- Lots of fun
- Learning things but it's not like learning at school
- Going skiing in the middle of a heatwave (last year and we're going again in July)
- Making lots of new friends that don't go to the same school as me
- Gaining lots of confidence
- Reading a part in the story of St George and reading the Scout prayer at the St George's Day Parade

Finley, Scout

I come to Scouts because I get to learn new things and make new friends. I get to go camping and try new activities like skiing and canoeing. Being a Scout in my perspective, is that I learn to respect others and be loyal. It makes me feel proud and almost diciplined. It makes me also feel inspired and encouraged to come here. I keep coming here as a weekly thing and it keeps me motivated in life.

Eleana, Scout

Being an Explorer Scout is great because I am able to meet new people and learn life skills that will help in later life. It is also good because I can socialise with other groups on camps. I also enjoy representing the group on parade. I enjoyed The Chill Factor which was great fun. Winter Camp was good because I was able to do archery and axe throwing which are handy skills. I am also a young leader where I am able to help out at younger sections which led me to get my leadership badge.

Christopher, Explorer Scout

I always enjoy coming to Explorer Scouts because I enjoy learning new things that will be useful in the future, such as Duke of Edinburgh Award or camping. To be an Explorer Scout you need loyalty to the group, society and to always be kind and fair to all that are around us. I keep coming to Explorer Scouts because it allows me to socialise and learn subjects that would have never been open to me before, for example nature survival. That is what being an Explorer Scout means to me.

Ben, Explorer Scout

Brownies Treasure Trail in Manchester

On Saturday 21st March - 8 of our Brownies and 4 of our leaders joined other Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Trefoil Guild members from across the North West for a Treasure Trail across Manchester.

We started in St Peter's Square at the Emmeline Pankhurst statue completing a quiz about women's voting rights and taking a photo then moved across to the Friends Meeting House to learn how to doodle and how to make an origami bee.

We also made sandcastles outside Great Northern Warehouse (where we had a lunch stop) plus visited the Museum of Science and Industry having fun in the Experiment section and the Power Hall.

All activities were located on an app, and a question was asked to prove the activity was completed. We also had lots of questions to answer

OFFICIAL

including 'When did Chopin visit Manchester?' (statue on Deansgate). 'How many concrete balls are in St Anne's Square?' plus we had to take lots of photos including Paddington in Spinningfields plus the Town Hall Clock.

A good time was had by all and many, many steps walked!

Brownie leaders



THE GIRLS

Pat, Chris, Sue & Emma (The Girls!) are joining members of Nordic Walking Tameside to take on the Alzheimer's Society Trek26 Peak District Half Marathon taking place around the Bakewell and Chatsworth area on 27th June 2026.

We will be walking in memory of our beloved Mum and Grandma, Violet, who developed dementia in the last few years of her life.

We have all been training a little. Even Chris, who managed to twist her knee walking her friend's dog, but all good now with a little strapping.

Thank you for all your generous sponsorship so far, but if there is anyone who still wants to support us the link is:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/thegirlstrek26?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



On 19th May a group of MU members and pupils from St Mary's School Ethos Group joined together to pack emergency toiletry bags for Tameside Hospital Medical Assessment Ward. The children had raised some money to provide some of the items to go into the bags and they had made 150 cards to put in each one. Thank you to all the members of our congregation who had provided lots of the other things including flannels, toothpaste, combs, soap and shampoo.

The children were amazing and we managed to pack 150 bags in all in just 45mins, without their help it would have taken us ages. Well done

OFFICIAL



everyone. Later in the year some of the children will come to the hospital to hand over the bags.



Our next event for this 150th Anniversary year is to be a Summer Refreshment Picnic to which everyone is invited on 30th June from 1.30pm. St Mary's School Choir will be there to entertain us and there will be a display of MU activities down the years. Invitations will also be going out to the congregations of St Martin's and St Andrew's as well as our neighbours and the parents / carers of St Mary's School pupils.

If you think you help in any way cake, delivering a our neighbours or on the day, us know.



may be able to by providing a few invitations to helping to set up please let one of

Pat and Christine

A Woolly Tale

At the end of April, Malcolm and I had a holiday in a beautiful, rural area on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and the Lancashire Forest of Bowland.

On Sunday afternoon, we went to a '**Lambing Service**' at the appropriately named **Church of the Good Shepherd in Tatham Fells**. In her opening article in the May magazine, Revd Cath spoke about not ignoring, in our prayers, the significance groups of people may play in our lives and this community church, in a sheep-farming area, couldn't be accused of that.

OFFICIAL

Two frisky, two-week old lambs, both of them the third lambs of triplets and therefore needing to be bottle-fed, were brought into church for the service. Part-way through the service, children were asked if they wanted to help bottle feed them, so several children, who were only toddlers themselves, settled on the floor trying to hold onto wriggly little lambs. Our faces were all wreathed in smiles at the sight, especially when the lambs escaped and trotted up the aisles!

We sang hymns, one with appropriate words to the tune of 'We plough the fields and scatter.'

*For herdsman and for shepherd, we ask a special prayer,
That every gentle creature committed to their care,
May live in quiet comfort supplying all our need
And never be exploited to satisfy man's greed.*

Our final prayers included:

*O Creator God, who has made us to live together,
to love one another and to love the land on which we live;
we pray for ourselves,
that we may have the grace to preserve,
for those who come after, the beauty of our landscape
the traditions of our people
and the strength of our local community.
Amen.*

We were made very welcome and invited to tea and cake in the parish hall afterwards, which had formerly been a small school. We enjoyed chats with some of the congregation and the Vicar Jane, who covered churches in Leck, Melling, Lower Tatham, Tunstall, Tatham Fells and Wray. Her ministry role took her many miles each month!

Whenever we can, we like to visit a local church service whilst on holiday and this one will live long in our memory. We wish this farming community all the best for the future, in what's not an easy life.

Later in the week, we visited a local woollen-wear company who used locally- sourced wool from seven local farms. They paid a fairer price for

OFFICIAL

the fleeces and had a profit-sharing scheme. The owner told me that for some local farmers, the cost of shearing a sheep, which is necessary for the animal's welfare each year, is more than they receive for the fleece and sadly it's cheaper for some of them to dispose of the wool than transport it for sale. A sobering reflection of our times.

Revd Lorraine

Meeters and Greeters Wanted

Are you of a cheerful disposition, chatty and happy to speak to people? Perhaps you might consider being a meeter and greeter before our services on a Sunday morning and taking the collection during service. Commitment is on a rota basis - the more people that get involved the better.

Please have a chat Barbara Walton



Sunday

I love my Sunday morning,
From the moment it is dawning.

OFFICIAL

Then to church we go to meet,
other people who we greet.
With smiles upon our faces
we sit down in our places
We pray, we sing.
Give our offering.
The Lord above fills our hearts with love.
A coffee or tea for you and for me,
a piece of cake or a bun, it's been fun.
Then, goodbye to our friends.
I hope this never ends!!

Pray

Pray when you're unhappy
and when your eyes are teary.
Pray when you are tired,
and when you are weary.
For the good God in his wisdom,
will help and comfort you.
For the Lord is a friend,
honest, tried and true.

These poems were written by Rhona Hopwood, a member of our congregation who sadly passed away recently. They were read at her funeral and the family agreed that printing them in the diary would be a lovely tribute.

RIP Rhona Hopwood

Lord Bless My Friends

OFFICIAL

Lord, you called your Disciples friends after you had risen,

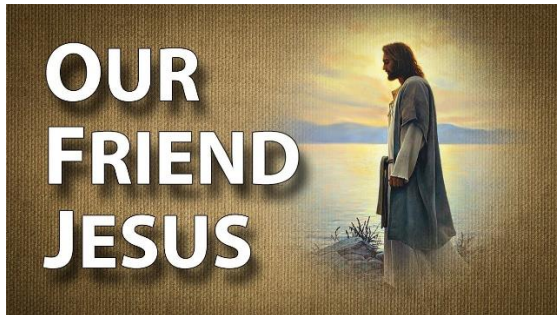
When you cooked breakfast for them at the lakeside.

How I would wish for my friends to know your friendship to share your
joy your life.

Bless all my friends, Lord, all those I treasure be with them,

For the greatest gift I could give them Is the gift of knowing you.

Ann Holland



OFFICIAL

FRAUD AWARENESS

Come along to our fraud event to find out about the latest scams and how to protect yourself and others.

WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS:

- Latest scams / frauds
- Keeping safe from scams
- Famous stories / cases
- Online safety
- Free materials
- How to report fraud

Location:

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Droylsden

Time:

Monday 13th July 2026

10am – 1pm



reportfraud.police.uk



THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY
GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE
ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT

OFFICIAL



Tuesday 2nd June

From 11am – 12.30pm

Messy Pentecost



**Come along and join in with free crafts, songs
and light refreshments**

**All Primary School children welcome with
their parents / carer**



From cleaning homes to building churches

Asia-CMS partners are equipping new leaders where followers of Jesus are a minority

The change we make:

Based in Southeast Asia, co-mission partner Patrick* works with a local institute that provides training for local mission workers and rural church leaders on topics like discipleship, evangelism, and church planting.

In 2025, Patrick worked with many inspiring individuals, including a woman named Pastor Grace.* She was sent to the institute Patrick works at to attend some training modules, which is how Patrick learnt about Grace's testimony.

She first learned about Jesus at the age of seven from her grandfather. At 13, Grace was unfortunately hit by a car in an accident that witnesses said was un-survivable. Yet, she walked away with minor injuries, describing a man in a white robe protecting her.

Growing up in a remote, jungle village, Grace faced hardship. She dropped out of school at 14 to help her family farm rice and a few years later, she went to Malaysia to work as a housekeeper. Before leaving, she prayed specifically to be placed with a family of exactly four members.

"I had no control over the agency, but I had control over my prayer," she shares.

OFFICIAL

Grace was assigned to a household of that exact number and miraculously, despite the agency she worked for trying to ban her Bible, the Christian family she was placed with intervened, allowing her to keep it!

She worked in Malaysia for several years, constantly growing her faith through reading and prayer. After a while, Grace felt the Lord telling her to return to her country for a new plan. She settled back in her village and attempted to work odd jobs wherever she could find them.

“For the next two years, Grace grew very unsure of her next move. She spent a lot of time questioning what God’s plan for her was and why she had to come back home,” shares Patrick.

It was only when Grace got involved with ministries at her small local church that she understood the reason for her return. She realised how deeply the people in her district needed Jesus and began praying that God would use her!

After spending many months serving among her local community, Grace’s superiors recognised her potential and sent her to Patrick’s training institute, so she would be better equipped to lead others who wanted to follow in her footsteps.

As of today, Grace is now a pastor who is training 25 leaders in her church. Together with her team, she travels to surrounding villages to evangelise and run programmes that benefit the children and youth of those areas.

*Names changed to protect privacy

Please pray for – The safety and logistics for ministry and events there are long distances to travel, protection and provision for ministers and volunteers. The effectiveness and impact of Patricks institute.

OFFICIAL

St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th June

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to Church Mission Society



A picture to colour, Jesus preaching in the Synagogue



Read Acts Matthew 9: 35

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:

Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers

Sides People

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

Treasurer: Kathryn Hampson, 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

OFFICIAL

St John's Band - 285 3583