

March 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

Church is to reopen on Sunday 7th March with Archdeacon David preaching Services – March 2021

**Sunday Services during March will be Holy Communion at 10.30am
and can also be found on YouTube on Wednesdays at 6pm and
Sundays at 1pm. Face masks must be worn and social distancing
observed**

**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 website and
where possible Facebook**

Isaiah 43

There are many memorable verses in the writings of Isaiah. We use a lot of them during the season of Advent as they signpost the coming of the Messiah. He wrote during the times when the Hebrew nation was under threat first from the Assyrians and then the Babylonians. He predicted that Jerusalem would fall but that God would restore His chosen nation from exile.

The beginning of chapter 43 is reassuring even today, no matter what troubles we are facing.

But now, this is what the Lord says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze. (Is 43: 1-2)

During the extended periods of lockdown we have experienced over the last year or so, it has seemed that we are like the exiled nation. We are scattered, fearful and lamenting. Yet we know that God is at work in our lives. Through the Spirit we have given and received His love. The vaccine programme has given real hope of closer contact with others in the coming weeks, a return from exile if you like. Isaiah declares that this is God's will.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made." (Is 43: 5-7)

But what will we be returning to? The Assyrians stripped the Temple in Jerusalem of all its riches. When the Hebrews returned from Babylon, the Temple had been completely destroyed. Worship was completely changed for many years. In fact, the rebuilt Temple was quite different from the one Solomon had constructed. And so it will be for the Church in Manchester.

You are probably aware that there is a financial crisis in Manchester Diocese, made worse by the current global situation. The leadership is conducting a consultation process to discern the best way to emerge from the lockdowns. There is a document available to read <https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5fbd76bf103bd/content/pages/documents/1601907221884358987.pdf> which shares the vision with the wider church community. But it is a lengthy document and not everyone can access it easily. So, I'd like to outline the main points for you all to consider.

The Church wants to

- be a church for everyone, reflecting diversity, reaching all ages, bringing new believers into God's family.
- Be a church focussed on discipleship and evangelism, outside the building, at different times, on different days, in different styles.
- Be a church that serves the community, having a high profile, reaching out to work with other agencies and faiths, working closely with schools, seeking social justice.
- Be a church that is fit for mission in a changed world.

In order to achieve this, the idea of Mission Communities is being discussed. As well as the changes to the Deaneries this year, parishes will be grouped into Mission Communities. It is envisaged that these communities will each serve around 60,000 people and have an average weekly attendance of 400. There will typically be 3 full time stipendiary priests as well as curates, unpaid clergy and lay leaders such as readers and ALMs. It is proposed that St Mary's joins with the other churches in Droylsden as well as those in Audenshaw, Denton and Haughton Green.

This is still the beginning of a long (and possibly difficult) journey and there is not much more to report as yet. For us, the main thing is that our vacancy will probably not be filled until this process has been finalised. We will pass on new information when it becomes available.

I return to Isaiah

This is what the Lord says—

he who made a way through the sea,

a path through the mighty waters,

17 who drew out the chariots and horses,

the army and reinforcements together,

and they lay there, never to rise again,

extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

18 "Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

19 See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland. (Is 43: 16-19)

God's Church has been in existence for over 2000 years. It has taken many forms. But it has always been best served by those who trust a God who has a plan for His creation. Here we are urged to 'forget the former things', not to 'dwell in the past'. God is doing a new thing in Manchester and we should trust and work together to make 'a way in the

wilderness'. Using the Manchester tagline, we will emerge from this process as a 'church for a different world'.

Revd Sue Ball

March readings

7th March 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 and John 2: 13-22, **14th March (Mothers' Day)** 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 and Luke 2: 33-35, **21st March** Hebrews 5: 5 – 10 and John 12: 20-33, **28th March (Palm Sunday)** Psalm 118: 1,2,19-end and John 12: 12-16

Roof Repairs

You will know by now that during lockdown the church building has been blighted by dry rot in the Emmaus room and the challenges we have had in getting effective repairs completed.

The initial dry rot was treated but we subsequently discovered that water was still getting into the affected area.

Repairs were made to the Emmaus room roof but still the water appeared. We then turned to our architect for further guidance and further repairs have been made. We hope this has now cured the leak, but time will tell.

We also discovered a leak in the roof above the font. And if you ever wondered if God had a sense of humour – yes, he does. The water was dripping directly into the font!!

All of these additional repairs come at a cost. Unfortunately, as they come under 'wear and tear' we are not covered by insurance. The cost of the additional repairs is £1,446.57.

We trust that when we it is the right time for our services in the building to resume, we will be sure of a dry welcome.

Pat

Looking ahead

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Tuesday 20th April 2021.

If you want to propose or second anyone for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) your name must be on the Electoral Roll. The last date for adding your name to the current Electoral Roll is 4th April 2021.

If you would like a form to add your name please contact Rev Sue, Rev Nancy, Pat or Beth.

Because I am not online.....

How I find church services on Sundays.

I start my worship with Radio Manchester's Morning Service 8am -8:30am. Then on to Radio 4 to listen to 15 minutes of their Service. 8:10am-8:45am. Later on I watch Songs of Praise at 1:15pm to 1:45pm

Other times at my leisure I go to Daily Hope (0800 8048 8044) free number. Here I find 10 options.

- (1) Hymns we love
- (2) Hymn line on loop.
- (3). Messages I'd Daily Hope)
- (4). Chair exercises
- (5). More options.
- (6). Weekly Service.
- (7). Morning and evening prayers.
- (8). Covid help and support.
- (9) Mothers Union

There is also an added option for those like me, finding sleep hard to find. Press hashtag key and listen to four reflections.

The Daily Service on 7th February which can be found any day and any time of the week, they told us of a Poem by Amanda Gordon.

It is a moving poem; it tells of coming out of the shade and into the light. When you start a new day, you could be in the shade, but to come into the light (light of Hope)! So why not phone someone you think might be in the shade and speak to them? This will help bring them into the light and bring more light to you. For Light lives through the Resurrection (a very moving poem.)

We used to have a Service on BBC 1 between 10:30 am and 12 noon., but it has been taken off. Gaynor rang me about it not being on. I have written to the BBC Points of View but as yet have had no response.

I go to Daily Hope and do my weekly service and pick whatever I want that day. I hope this will help others who are not online.

God Bless,
Ann Holland.

‘Jesus cannot be locked down!’

So long it seems since we climbed those stairs,
to sit upon those well-worn chairs.
Where once we sang sweet songs of praise
to feel our hearts and spirits raise.

Though empty now the church it stands,
our voices raise and so our hands.
For no building ever imprisoned the One
Who died for all ...God’s Precious Son.

In our hearts and homes, we pray
as we await that wondrous day.
When once more the church bell will peal
and from this virus all will heal!

The pews will fill and every chair
as we give thanks to God in prayer.
We’ll chat and laugh, we’ll dance and sing
and hail with joy our Heavenly King.

Jean Gaunt.



Recently I received a letter from The Children’s Society that I thought may be of interest.....

At the moment, it's so important that we find the positives wherever we can, and I trust that knowing you our supporters are bringing hope to so many vulnerable young people raise your spirits in these hard times. Below is a message from one supporter perfectly encapsulating the comforting thought that even in the darkest moments there is always hope. It's our job to make sure that every young person in this country feels the same way.

Words of Hope

When I was young, I heard a story about a little girl who used to play the “glad game”. That was over 65 years ago so I can’t remember the whole story.

This little girl was always thinking about or counting the things she was glad about. “Oh, I am glad I am wearing my favourite jumper today” or perhaps “I am glad the sun is out that makes me feel brighter”, just everyday thing to be thankful for.

It has been a tough year, but now we can all be “Glad” – that there are vaccinations available against this horrible Coronavirus. When most of us have had them, we can gradually get back to a normal way of life.

So, look forwards to the better things happening in 2021 and never forget to play the “glad game”. There’s always something to be glad about.

Jill



2021 World Watch List

2021 is the 20th year in a row that North Korea has been the country where Christians face the most extreme persecution. And yet Covid-19 has made it even worse. Though the North Korean authorities claim that the pandemic has had little impact in the country, North Koreans call it the ‘ghost disease’ – because people are so malnourished already that they die very quickly from Covid-19. The pandemic has led to tighter security at the Chinese border, and a stranglehold on the black market, which many used to survive.

When the Watch List was published at the start of the year, Myanmar was 18th on the list but following the military coup, concerns are growing although it is not just Christians that are finding things difficult, the Rohingya Muslims in the country are still being persecuted too. When you look at the full list, it is surprising which countries are on it. Included on the list are Mexico and Kenya which in my obvious ignorance I thought were predominantly Christian countries.

Please pray for people all over the world who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord God, it is hard for us to imagine life where Christians are persecuted for trusting in You. But thank You that You will never abandon Your children, and that You are with them whatever they suffer. Please help all believers not just to survive but to be joyful, despite

everything – prepare a banquet for them in the presence of their enemies. Tear down the strongholds of those who persecute and replace them with prayer and praise. Amen.

Christine



Bedding Plants

Unfortunately, in 2020 the 250th (St Mary's) Scout Group annual Bedding Plant weekend was cancelled but happily it has returned this year with a few adjustments to make it COVID safe. Keep the dates, orders in by 25th April, bedding plant collections 15th May.

St. Mary's Scout Group's annual bedding plant sale is coming in May 2021 (final orders before end of April)!

To place your orders:

- [Online](https://orders.250mcrcscouts.org.uk/) (at <https://orders.250mcrcscouts.org.uk/>)
- Email (to beddingplants@hotmail.com)
 - when ordering by email, please include the following information:
Name, telephone number, email address (this will not be passed to any 3rd parties), time slot – 10am – 1pm, 1pm – 5pm or anytime as well as your plant details, this will ensure we can quickly process your email and generate your order.
- Telephone (number in the attached form)

As with many organisations, we have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and have to make some adjustments to our Bedding Plant sale this year:

- we're currently limited to collection-only orders
- payment methods have changed to card/mobile payments (contactless) where possible, we are hoping to include PayPal transfers as well
 - cash will be accepted, but the correct amount will be required.
- our collection times have been extended throughout the sale day and we will be requesting customers arrive at a pre-allotted time to collect their plants, which will be agreed closer to the sale day
- a one-way system will be in place during collections at the Scout Hut, hand sanitiser will be available, and all volunteers and customers will be requested to follow the current COVID-19 guidance, e.g. social distancing, wearing a face covering, etc.

If you would like to order plants this year, then we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks for your continued support!

The Scout Group is also looking for a Treasurer, unfortunately Graham Curtis a long time valued supporter of the group has decided it's time to step down. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Graham for the considerable time and effort he has put into supporting the group over the years – some may remember last year he “walked from Audenshaw to Bournemouth” to raise funds for the group because the Bedding Plant Weekend was cancelled. If you think you can help out please get in touch using the number on the contacts page of the Church Diary.

Yours in Scouting,

250th Manchester (St. Mary's) Scout Group

** If anyone wants a copy of the order form and hasn't had one please let me know and I will forward one on to you. If anyone isn't able to order online please also let me know and I will help you out with that too also if you want plants and are unable to collect due to age or infirmity the same applies – Christine

Before The Beginning

'Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.' (Genesis 1:2)

*Before the beginning there was a blank page,
an empty space onto which would be written
a story more astonishing than you could dream of.*

*Before the beginning there was an image,
a vision of generosity and power
and inspiration and compassion
and mercy and beauty and grace
– an image in whose likeness you are made.*

*Before the beginning
there was a singularity of possibility,
an infinitely small dot, heavy as the bones of God,
pulsating with the shining imagination*

*of potential, of all that could be,
of all that was and is and will be:*

*all of the mystery and the mud,
all of the smiles and the stars,
all of the wildflowers
and the dark matter
and the bleeding hearts,
all of the rage and the ruin
and the redemption and the dancing
all of the fingers entwining
and the galaxies colliding
and the birth and death
and laughter and grief and salvation.*

*Before the beginning
there was an intake of breath,
the divine lungs filling with hope and fire
and the shaking multitude of souls,
there was a pause, a grin,
and then a word – begin.*

Gideon Heugh

Submitted by Doreen



Community Page

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.

March Quiz

- (1) Proper name for the “funny” bone? _ _ _ _ _ (7)
- (2) Surname of the 44th president of USA _ _ _ _ _ (5)
- (3) What is the name of the battle that is considered the first of the twelve Skirmishes that came to be known as “the war of the Roses?”
The Battle of - - - - - / - - - - - (5,6)
- (4) What group became known as the ‘fab four’? - - - / - - - - - (3,7)
- (5) What is the name of the treaty that established peace after the great war - - - - - (10)
- (6) What pop group had a ‘tartan army’? for fans - - - / - - - / - - - / - - - - - (3,3,4,7)
- (7) What is the authors name of 50 shades of grey? - / - - - - (1,1,5)
- (8) Who hosted ‘love your garden’? - - - - / - - - - - (4,10)
- (9) What is the name of the bird famed for its red breast? - - - - - (5)

- (10) Name of the largest planet in our solar system? - - - - - (7)
- (11) What celestial body orbits the earth - - - - (4)
- (12) 4th Book of the Old Testament - - - - - (7)
- (13) Name of period before Easter - - - - (4)
- (14) Name of David Bowie alter ego, Ziggy? - - - - - (10)
- (15) Name the author of the lion witch and the wardrobe? -/- - - - - (1,1,5)
- (16) Who sat on the wall and had a great fall - - - - -/- - - - - (6,6)
- (17) Who sang 'Rawhide' - - - - -/- - - - - (7,5)
- (18) Who claimed the throne after the Battle of Bosworth field? - - - - -/- - - - -
(5,5)
- (19) What is the capital of Malta - - - - - (8)
- (20) What is the currency of Sweden - - - - - (5)

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

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) 2nd and 4th 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