

OFFICIAL

# March 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*

## March Services 2025



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

**Exodus 34: 29-end and Luke 9: 28-43**

**5<sup>th</sup> March – 7.00pm – Ash Wednesday Holy Communion**

**Joint Service at St Martins**

**Isaiah 58: 1-12 and Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

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

**Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 and Luke 4: 1-13**

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

**Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 and Luke 13: 31-35**

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

**Isaiah 55: 1-9 and Luke 13: 1-9**

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

**30<sup>th</sup> March – 10.30 – Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday**

**1 Samuel 1: 20-28 and Luke 2: 33-35**

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

## Whose bag are you carrying?

If you've ever been on a hike, you'll know that you want to carry a bag that is just big enough for some water, a packed lunch, a rain jacket, and a map. But if you have to carry a tent, sleeping bag, camping stove and tins of food you might just need someone else to help share the load!

Paul tells us in the letter to the Galatians to 'bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ'. Throughout our lives we all go through hard times when the lot we have to carry feels like a huge rucksack that's really too heavy for us to carry on our own. So, Paul is saying, when you see each other facing hard times, our call to follow Christ in the way of love means to offer the kind of support that helps them keep on going. It might mean offering a listening ear, or just sitting with someone, so they're not alone. It could be cooking meals or going shopping for someone facing ill-health or struggling with the demands of a young family. It can be giving, praying or helping out in our community.

Whether we are someone who could carry some extra luggage or whether we need someone to come alongside us at the moment, we will all grow together and learn what it is to follow Christ in his way of love.

*Revd Cath*



## **Act on Poverty - Lent Course**

There will be a Lent Group meeting on Wednesdays for 5 weeks, starting on Wednesday 12th March. Based on the Christian Aid Act on Poverty course, I hope we will be encouraged, challenged, inspired as we read the Bible, listen and watch video clips from around the world, and discuss our response together. We will meet at the Rectory, on Dunkirk Street (see Cath for directions). On 12<sup>th</sup> March we will meet at 2pm, but on the weeks following we will meet at 11am and share a light lunch following the session.

## **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 24<sup>th</sup> February.

March's service will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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).

## **Thursday Study Group Update**

The Thursday study group is starting a new type of study and instead of using a video study aid, we have become a “Bible Book Club” for the time being. The idea is to choose a book from the Bible and read it between meetings, leaving the very last chapter to read together at the next meeting.

There is discussion guidance notes to go along with each book we read.

If you think this may be something that interests you, please have a chat, everyone is very welcome to come along.

Christine



**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**7.30 in the Church Room**

**An Evening about Shrove Tuesday**

**(and perhaps a pancake or two)**

This month's meeting falls on Shrove Tuesday and there will be a talk about the traditions of Shrove Tuesday and who knows there may be a pancake or two flying around.



Everyone is very welcome to come along,

## **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

## **Electoral Roll**

To be able to vote at the church Annual General Meeting (APCM) members of the congregation are required to be entered on the electoral roll of the church.

This year the whole of the electoral roll must be renewed so please listen for announcements in church for information on what to do and when.

The electoral roll must close to new entrants 14 days before the APCM takes place. This year the electoral roll will close on 24<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to be included in the roll, or even if you are not sure if you are on it or not, please have a word with Pat, Beth or Lindsay Artingstall.

## **Welcome to Spring**

The air is feeling fresh and clean

The birds begin to sing

And we feel hope and happiness

To welcome in the spring.

So many green shoots everywhere

And new buds in the trees

The sound of young lambs in the field

Now carried on the breeze.

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The winter time has slipped  
With all new year could bring  
And we go forward cheerfully  
To welcome in the spring  
Submitted by Ann Holland

### Thank You!

As most of you know, I accidentally fell on Boxing Day and I broke both of my elbows; not one to do things by halves! What a challenge it's been!!

I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has sent cards, flowers, prayers & best wishes or food parcels. The prayers were especially welcome when I underwent the two operations I needed, as I won't deny that I was a little nervous after a previous bad experience of general anaesthetic. Knowing that I was in your prayers was a great comfort.

I'm gradually on the mend - I'll need lots of physio as I am unable to straighten my arms as yet, but progress is being made (I can feed myself and brush my own teeth now!) and I hope to be able to worship with you all again soon.

The love we share as a church family is joyous and I am grateful for everyone's kindness.

Love and God Bless.  
Charlotte xx



## **250<sup>th</sup> Manchester (St Mary's) Cub Scout Pack**

Let me begin by introducing myself, my name is Danielle, and I am Akela with the Cubs at St Mary's. I have been Akela for almost 10 years and have loved every minute of it, although I am now feeling old when I see Cubs, I started with, out on the town. 😊

Recently, we have been enjoying many new activities and completing many badges. Since returning to Cubs in September, we have created a new code of conduct that all the Cubs agreed to and signed, making sure that all Cubs are treated fairly and respect each other. We took part in some team-building exercises as part of our teamwork challenge badge and allowed newer members of the group to get to know each other. We canoed, built rafts, and completed some pioneering challenges. We then started our navigator badge, looking at map reading skills and being able to pinpoint special symbols on a map, we will be completing the final part when the weather gets better by going orienteering at Daisy Nook.

We built birdhouses, and each cub had a turn sawing the wood and hammering in the nails, they then worked as a six to decorate their birdhouse, these will be put in the Scout Hut Garden when we can get out there and it is drier.

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For bonfire night we celebrated by creating our own edible sparklers and having a small campfire, we also enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows.

We joined the Droylsden remembrance parade, and I was immensely proud of how all the Cubs looked so smart in their uniforms.

We made Christmas decorations and celebrated Christmas with a fun game's night and snacks.

So far this year we have celebrated Chinese New Year; by making our own spiral snakes and trying prawn crackers and we each took a fortune cookie home.

Finally, this week we have had a special visitor Flight Officer Thomas Winwood-Rooney, from the RAF, came and discussed all things air-related to help us achieve our Air Activities badge. He brought helmets and a flight mask to show the Cubs, they made paper airplanes, discussed and learnt to spell using the phonetic alphabet, pinpointed RAF bases on a map, talked about what it's like to fly in a military plane and a civilian plane, what it's like to work in the military and finally all the Cubs raced their paper airplanes to see who's would fly the furthest.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our Cubs section and if you have a child in your family, aged between seven and a half and ten who would like to join us, then send me an email at [danielle.ives@ntscouts.org.uk](mailto:danielle.ives@ntscouts.org.uk)

Danielle Ives

Akela



As a Christian development charity, we partner with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities. Where there is a need – for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights – we, with our partners, respond. Our goal is to contribute to a culture of human flourishing in a troubled region.

Ours is a vision of love in action. It is rooted in, and inspired by, Christ's invitation to care for those most in need.

We currently have 40 courageous, inspired, creative and skilled partners in the region, providing education, healthcare and community support. All are working to transform the lives of those most forgotten and on the margins; all are inspired by the Gospel. We feel deeply privileged to work in partnership with Christians in the Middle East and honoured to be able to bring their witness closer to people in this country.

Unsurprisingly, Christianity in the land where Jesus walked dates back to the days of the Apostles. In Arabic, Christians are known as *Nasrani* (from the Arabic word for Nazarene) or *Masihi* (from the Arabic *Masih*, meaning Messiah). In Hebrew they are *Notzri*, which also means Nazarene.

Approximately 45,000 out of the West Bank's Palestinian population of 2.7 million are Christian. Before the outbreak of the current conflict around 1,000 Christians live in Gaza (0.05% of the population). In Israel there are around 120,000 Christians. These are made up of indigenous Arab citizens of Israel, Christians who have emigrated to the country, and a growing number of Messianic Jews.

The two largest churches in Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank are Catholic (made up of Melkite Greek Catholics 27% and Roman Catholics 19%) and Greek Orthodox (40%). In smaller numbers, but also a significant presence, are: Assyrians, Syrian Orthodox, Copts, Russian Orthodox, Lutherans, Anglicans, and Baptist evangelical groups.

***“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”***

**— Matthew 25:40**

***Merciful God,***

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*We praise you that you are a God of light and in you there is no darkness. Thank you that you have called us out of darkness and into your wonderful light.*

*Thank you for the light that emanates from Embrace's partners in the Middle East. As they support marginalised people to flourish, may you cause ripple effects to spread across neighbourhoods and communities.*

*Thank you for Embrace's committed and generous supporters. We thank you for their solidarity and faithfulness; may you continue to bless them.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*



St Mary's Church, Droylsden

# Coffee Morning

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room

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All Welcome

Proceeds to Embrace The Middle East



**A Picture to colour**



Read Mark 1:13

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