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March 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

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

March Services 2026



1st March - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 5: 1-11 and John 3: 1-17

3rd March – 6.00pm – Informal Holy Communion

8th March - 10.30am - Holy Communion

Romans 5: 1-11 and John 4: 5-42

15th March - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Colossians 3: 12-17 and John 19: 25b-27

22nd February – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Romans 8: 6-11 and John 11: 1-45

Monday 23rd February – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion

29th March – 10.30am – Palm Sunday Holy Communion

Philippians 2: 5-11 and Matthew 2: 1-11

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

‘Let us do good to all...’ (Galatians 6:10)

We hear lots about how powerful people use and misuse their power. There is a saying that ‘absolute power corrupts absolutely’. It seems to have been the same throughout history, that once people get some power in their society or community, the temptation to use that for our own benefit is often all too easy and is sadly often at the expense of others.

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was also tempted to use his power for his own good – and we might think it wasn’t unwarranted. He was hungry, he’d been fasting for 40 days preparing to begin his ministry after his baptism and God’s wonderful words of affirmation ‘You are my beloved son with whom I am well pleased’. So, surely just turning a few stones into some bread to eat would be alright, wouldn’t it? Jesus’ firm answer was No! We need more than bread to live. We need to listen to God’s words and follow him for true life. No! I won’t use my power and authority to meet my own needs (even legitimate needs for food).

Imagine how different Jesus’ life and ministry would have been if instead of miracles to change others’ lives, Jesus had simply used his power to demonstrate greatness and to ‘miraculously’ look after himself.

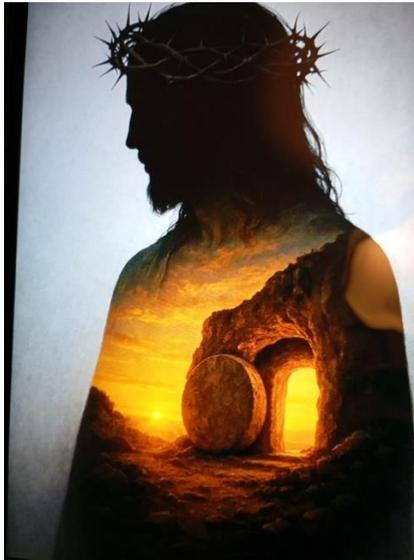
Instead, we see Jesus providing food for thousands who’ve been following and listening to his teaching so long they have gone hungry. He is moved with compassion for those who are sick and bereaved, he reaches out with kindness to those who are outcasts in their community. What a beautiful picture of power used for the good of others.

What about us? As we continue our Lenten journey, let’s follow Jesus in using the power or position we have (even as friend, neighbour,

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spouse...) to serve and seek the good of others, and also to pray for those who have power in the Church and in society, to be able to withstand temptation and to use their position for the true service of others.

With love and prayers, Rev Cath



Easter Services

(At St Mary's unless otherwise indicated)

**29th March – 10.30am – Palm Sunday Holy
Communion**

30th March – 4.30pm – Prayer Meeting

2nd April – 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

(At St Andrew's Church, Edge Lane, Droylsden)



Friday 3rd April – 10-30am – Good Friday Devotional Service

Sunday 5th April – 10-30am – Easter Day Holy Communion

Mid-Week Holy Communion

An informal mid-week service of Holy Communion is being held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6.00pm. **The next service will be on Tuesday 3rd March**

Everyone is very welcome, especially those who find attending services at the weekend difficult. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending, please pass on the information.

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 February will be at 12noon on Monday 23rd March.

The service in February is on 23rd February.

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).



Next Meeting – 7pm Tuesday 3rd March

Speaker – Rev Cath Hewison, speaking about visiting Uzbekistan (This meeting will be in the Emmaus Room)



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Everyone is very welcome, this is a great opportunity to find out about the work of the organisation.

Please keep an eye out for things that are coming up to celebrate our 150th anniversary on the new notice display in the church room near the kitchen.

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

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

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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.



Lifeshare are so short on foodstuff for their crisis parcels, they made an appeal through facebook.

As I reported last month there was money left over from the Christmas collection, so I did a food shop which they were very grateful for and gave me a certificate which I have put up in the church room.

Many thanks again

Barbara

APCM Reports

Please remember all APCM reports must be with me by March 1st at the latest.

Thank you.

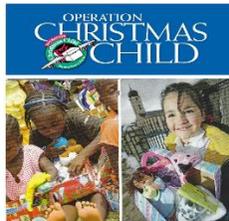
Christine

Flowers in Church

The flower fund was set up to receive donations in memory of loved ones and for those donations to be used to purchase flowers which are then arranged and displayed in church throughout the year.

Donations can be made at any time to remember loved ones on the anniversary of their birthdays, death or other notable date.

For more information, please have a chat with Pat



In February, I found the web-link for where the 2025-26 UK OCC shoeboxes were taken. Many would have been with Eastern European children by 6th January, which for them is Christmas Day. Shoeboxes bound for Africa would arrive by mid-January. For many of these children, it may be the only present in the year that they receive. To see the countries where the UK boxes went, the web link is - samaritans-purse.org.uk/2025-shoebox-destinations

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I then received an email from the Samaritans Purse Rep for the Northwest area. It read - I'm delighted to let you know that the 70 shoeboxes from your church were taken to Burnley, where Northwest shoeboxes were processed. Altogether, we processed 15,438 shoeboxes and loaded two lorries—one headed to Moldova and the other to a persecuted church country in Eastern Europe. Nationally, the UK total for 2025 reached 232,844 shoeboxes. And Globally 12,205,900. - That is good news.

Thanks go to all who supported OCC with their shoe boxes, donations, box fillers, checking and loading the boxes. The Coffee Morning was well attended and enjoyed. Thank you to our faithful few who set up the tables and stalls, serve us, and always have a variety of lovely goods for sale to help raise funds for the charities.

John Sporne

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THANK YOU!

Christmas 2025

Samaritan's Purse sends special thanks to
St Mary's Church Droylsden
70 Shoeboxes and £294.11 Donations

for packing Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts and sending
Good News and great joy to precious children around the world!

Nick Cole

Nick Cole, Director of Operation Christmas Child UK

 Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF | UNITED KINGDOM

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse
Franklin Graham, President | 63208 552 1800 | samaritan-spurse.org.uk/occ
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UK Charity No. 1001349, Scotland SC0390251
Company No. 2462257

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Save the Date!

As most of you know, Andrew and I are due to get married later this year and we would like to invite the entire congregation to join us in church for the ceremony. There is one very special person who we cannot have with us on the day, my Dad, but walking down the aisle, surrounded by my church family, our friends and our families will make his absence that bit more bearable. We would love to share our special day with as many of you as possible so if you're free, please do come along and share in our joy.

Reverend Cath will be marrying us on **Saturday 29th August 2026 at 2pm**. We would ask that you're seated by 1:45pm and that you bring your best singing voices!

Charlotte x

Young voices

How many of us enjoy a good sing along. Even if we may not be the most tuneful when surrounded by a large crowd, we can sing our hearts out.

At the Coop live arena on a very wet evening in February, I was surrounded by a VERY large crowd.

Young voices host the largest children's choir concerts in the world, bringing together primary schools from across the UK in a truly electrifying experience.

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Through these unforgettable events, children discover their voices, grow in confidence, and feel part of something extraordinary – all while inspiring a lifelong love of music.

St Mary's C of E primary school choir of 41 were a part of this amazing experience. They had learned the songs in school and on the evening were a part of the 7,874 strong children's choir.

What an experience both for them and for the families there to support them. We were able to pick out our school choir because they had created a banner to hang over the rails so that we could spot them.

The songs they performed ranged from sea shanties, through films to modern songs I had never heard of but they knew them!

There were other singers there to support the evening including Alex from Droylsden and a dance group.

It was a loud concert with amazing lighting, parents dancing and very enthusiastic singing and actions from the children.

A wonderful experience for the children and an exhausting day for the staff supporting them.

Well done everyone and keep those voices in good order for later in your 150th year.

Pat



..... and Then Four Come Along at Once!

Everyone should know by now, our church and school have big anniversaries this year, Mothers' Union is 150 years old and so is St Mary's Primary School.

The first of the big Mothers' Union Celebrations is a celebration service at Manchester Cathedral on 14th March. We hope to be able to work with the School Ethos Group on a project later in the year and all information will be in the diary as we get it.

MOTHERS' UNION Province of York

MOTHERS' UNION Province of York

Mothers' Union Province of York
invites you to join us as we celebrate
150 years of Mothers' Union

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the 150th year of our International movement of around 4 million members in 84 countries founded by Mary Elizabeth Sumner (née Heywood) born in Swinton, Manchester.

Saturday, March 14th, 2026
2.30pm
Manchester Cathedral
Victoria Street
M3 1SX

Please kindly reply by February 9th 2026
ppmuyork@outlook.com

150 YEARS Join us, Join in
"Transforming lives through faith, community and action"
www.mothersunion.org
150 YEARS Join us, Join in

Information about the school celebrations will follow as and when I get it.

What you may not know is that the scout group attached to our church – 250th Manchester (St Mary's) Scout Group is celebrating it's 110th anniversary this year and plans for lots of celebrations are well in hand.

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Look out for information about a summer celebration to which you will all be invited for starters. In addition to that North Tameside District Scout Division is celebrating 100 years (although called something else before Tameside came into being). Every scout group is part of a scout district just like every church is part of a diocese and lots of the districts have dedicated camp sites connected to the district. The North Tameside District Scout Camp is based at Linnet Clough near Mellor in Stockport and as a former Beaver Scout Leader spent quite a few days attending district events there with my Beaver Colony.

Every scout group has to take part in a census each year and report to the district how many members there are in their group. Having collected all the information, it appears that that North Tameside District has approximately (don't forget numbers fluctuate during the year) 450 so as part of their celebrations have decided they would like to give every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer a memento of the occasion. Now here's the rub It seems it has been decided to ask people to knit a Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer which initially will be part of an art installation at Linnet Clough Camp Site then one given to every member of the district.

I've been sent a pattern that is printed below and if there are any knitters out there who would like to help out our own scout group please do. If the pattern is too difficult to read, I've printed a few out so just ask. The only changes to the pattern are as follows:

- If you are knitting a Squirrel Scout: **The jumper needs to be in red**
- If you are knitting a Beaver Scout: **The jumper needs to be in turquoise.**
- If you are knitting a Cub Scout or Scout: **The jumper needs to be in dark green**
- If you are knitting an Explorer Scout: **The jumper needs to be in fawn**
- **All trousers need to be in dark blue**
- **The neckerchief (scarf) needs to be in light green**

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- DON'T KNIT THE CAP FOR ANY OF THE SCOUTS

My clever sister has knitted one already and I'm having a go next – we're sharing wool - (I can knit but it's definitely not my pastime of choice)

Please pass any knitted scouts to me and Finley will take them into scouts.

While we're speaking about Finley, he's still enjoying scouts and has just completed his Local Knowledge Badge. He designed a postcard advertising local attractions, found out about Fairfield Moravian Settlement and Robertson's Jam Works. They also went on a walk in the dark around Droylsden and completed a "visual" scavenger hunt.

Please look out for everything that's going on this year, it should be an exciting year for everyone.

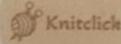
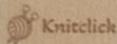
The Scout Group have planned their Bedding Plant Weekend, there will be order forms in the church room, please order online where possible or let me have the completed order form and again Finley will pass them on.

Thank you in advance for your support of all the celebrations happening this year.

Do you know a young person aged 4-5 who might like giving scouting a try? The Squirrell Scouts section has vacancies. They meet on Wednesday evening between 5pm and 6pm. For more information email Julie.artingstall@nts.org.uk or ring 07973739041

Christine

Scout orange cover or 15cms toy



Materials

3.25mm needles

Oddments of double knitting wool in blue, green, beige, yellow, brown and black

Small amount of stuffing

Abbreviations

inc – increase; dec – decrease; k – knit; p – purl; sl – slip; st st – stocking stitch (1 row knit 1 row purl); tog – together; gs – garter stitch (knit); B and T – bind and tie by threading your wool end on a tapestry needle and passing it through the stitches on your knitting needle. Draw up the stitches and tie off; alt – alternate

Body

Using 3.25mm needles and blue wool cast on 25 stitches. 1st row: increase in every stitch (50 sts). Beginning with a purl row stocking stitch 9 rows. Change to black wool and gs 4 rows. Change to green wool and st st 10 rows.

Shoulders

Next row: K2 tog to end of row (25 sts), then P 1 row. Change to beige wool.

Head

Increase for head: k1, (inc 1, k1) to end of row (37 sts). Beginning with a purl row stocking stitch 17 rows. Next: k1, (k2tog, K1) to end (25 sts). Next: P1 then p2tog to end of row (13 sts). B and T. With wrong side facing sew up head and body seam. Fill head with stuffing, gather around neck stitches, pull up tightly and fasten off.

Arms (make 2)

Using green wool cast on 10 sts and st st 12 rows, then gs 2 rows. Change to beige wool and st st 6 rows. B and T. Stitch row ends together. Fill with stuffing and secure to body at neckline.

Feet (make 2)

Using black wool cast on 12 sts and st st 8 rows. Next row: K2tog to end (6 sts). Next row: P2tog to

end (3 sts). B and T. Stitch row ends together and fill with stuffing. Secure feet to the base of the body 2 cms apart

Hair

With brown wool cast on 12 sts and using garter stitch throughout. 1st row: K. 2nd row: K. 3rd row: Cast off 2 sts, k to last 3 sts, turn. 4th row: Knit to end of row. 5th row: Inc in 1st and 2nd st, k to last 5 sts turn. 6th row: k to end. Repeat these 6 rows 14 more times. Cast off. Stitch cast on and cast off edges together and gather around the short set of row ends. Secure hair to the top of the head.

Neckerchief

Using yellow wool cast on 49 sts. 1st row: K2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog. Repeat the last row 21 more times (5 sts). Next row: K2tog, k1, k2tog (3 sts). Next row: K3tog. Cast off. Wrap around neck and secure. Bind a piece of white wool tightly around the neckerchief, 1cm from the ends.

Hat

Begin at lower edge and using green wool cast on 46 sts then gs 4 rows. then st st 8 rows
13th row: (K3, K2tog) to last st, K1 (37 sts). Then P 1 row
15th row: (K2, K2tog) to last st, K1 (28 sts). Then P 1 row
17th row: (K1, K2tog) to last st, K1 (19 sts). Then P 1 row.
Next row: (K2tog) to last st, K1 (10 sts). B and T tightly.
Stitch row ends together.

Hat peak

Using green wool cast on 18 sts and st st 2 rows. Next decrease 1 st at each end of next 2 rows (14 sts). Next increase 1 st at each end of next 2 rows (18 sts) then st st 2 rows. Cast off. Stitch cast on and cast off edges together. Stitch the peak to the centre front of the hat and secure the hat to the head.

Face

Using black wool make two vertical stitches to form the eyes. Next make two stitches in a "v" shape to form the mouth. Using beige wool make a horizontal chain stitch to form the nose.

Finishings

If you are making this as a cover for an orange this is all that is needed. However if you want to make as a toy, make the base pattern below. Fill the body with stuffing and place the base inside the knitted body and stitch in place.

Base

Cast on 6 sts. Knit 1 row. Working in garter stitch throughout, inc 1 st at each end of next and following 5 alt rows (16 sts) then work 17 rows. Next row: dec 1 st at each end of next and every alt row until 6 sts remain. Cast off.

Dark Shadows

Sickness and sorrow come to us all
but through it we grow and learn to stand tall.
For trouble is part and parcel of life
And no man can grow
Without struggle and strife.
And the more we endure
With patience and grace
The stronger we grow,
And the more we can face.
The treader our love,
And with love in our hearts
We are more conscious of the pain
And sorrow in lives everywhere
So it is through trouble
That we learn how t share.

Amen

Ann Holland

Useful Information!

Have you ever had the feeling you don't know where to turn? During a telephone conversation with a friend whose husband has sadly recently been diagnosed with dementia, I wondered if people knew where to go for help and support.

Fortunately, my friend is a pioneer in setting up the dementia and camerata partnership cafes and has even been abroad developing the idea in other countries so is as prepared as she can be for what is to happen. She made the point that often people are worried about sharing the diagnosis or to proud to ask for help so I wondered if sharing information here in the diary might be useful? The list I've got together isn't exhaustive, but perhaps people would be willing to share news of help and support as we go along? We could offer help on other subjects'

month by month and add to the previous month if anyone knows of something else that might be useful.

This month is information on help and support connected to dementia, next month is for carers.

Kathryn

Several dementia cafes and music-based support sessions are available in the Tameside area, focusing on providing a welcoming space for people with dementia and their carers to socialise and participate in activities.

- **Dementia Music Cafes (Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind & Manchester Camerata)**
- These free weekly sessions, run in partnership with Manchester Camerata, focus on using music, rhythm, and song for communication and emotional expression.
- **Ashton-under-Lyne:** Returns to **Broadoak Community Centre** (Olive Street, OL6 8QH) on Wednesdays from 10 to 12:00 pm. gemma.cooper@togmind.org or phone: 07770 263266..
- **Stalybridge:** Held at **St Andrews House** (50-52 Market St, SK15 2AB) on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. melissa.tomlinson2@nhs.net or phone 0161 393 2976
- **Gorton:** The Visitors Room, **The Monastery** (M12 5WF) on Wednesdays from 1030am to 12:00pm music. It is free to attend for all people with dementia and their carers, with tea, coffee &

biscuits included. No music experience required!
JParkes@manchestercamerata.com

- **Willow Wood Hospice Dementia Cafe**
- **Location:** Willow Wood Hospice, Wainwright Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne. 0161 330 1100 and ask for Nic Lavery, our dementia nurse says, “Anyone caring for someone with dementia can call in for advice, support or just for a coffee, cake and a chat in a friendly atmosphere. You can come by yourself or with your loved one and sometimes just meeting and chatting to others in a similar situation can be all you need. However, our trained volunteers and I will be here to offer any assistance or guidance you may require.” The café is held on the **second and fourth Friday** of every month, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. **Activities:** Offers a mix of music, crafts, food, and socialising for people with dementia and their carers.
- **Shree Bharatiya Mandal - Tameside (Memory Cafe):** A specific memory cafe for South Asians in Tameside, run in conjunction with Sahara Asian Dementia support (Alzheimer's:30 am
- Society). **Location:** 103 Union Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8JN. 0161 470 6048



Our work in England and Wales

Many people don't think the Bible is relevant to them. We're determined to change that.

In many parts of the world, the key barrier to people engaging with the Bible is availability.

At home, it's simply that many people don't think the Bible is relevant to them.

We're working across society to help people recognise the value of the Bible

We're developing resources that help local churches to engage more deeply with Scripture and sending thousands of volunteers into primary schools to share Bible stories with a generation almost entirely unfamiliar with them. And in politics, the media and the arts we're bringing the Bible to life in fresh, exciting and relevant ways.

We have developed a range of activities and resources in Wales and the Welsh language.

Prison Mission

Bible Society has a rich history of working in prisons and alongside prisoners, dating back to our very foundation in 1804. Bible Society's founders and early leaders included William Wilberforce and the Earl of Shaftesbury, and many of them – members of the Clapham Sect of

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evangelical Christians – were committed to prison reform and changes to the penal system.

In fact, the Earl of Shaftesbury's success in improving the care of those detained for mental health reasons under the 'Lunacy Laws', as they were known, is arguably one of his greatest, yet least-known, achievements. Another early figure in the life of Bible Society, Thomas Fowell Buxton, was an influential campaigner for prison reform, particularly around improvements in conditions for prisoners. Buxton was a keen advocate for the work of renowned prisoner reformer Elizabeth Fry, 'the angel of prisons', and even featured alongside her on the back of the Bank of England £5 note issued from 2002–2017, in a painting of them visiting Newgate Prison in 1816.

Bible Society is committed to carrying on that legacy. Working with prison chaplains, and prisoners directly, we aim to improve access to Bibles and Bible engagement materials in whatever language prisoners need, in the belief that by engaging with the Bible their lives can be changed, for good.

Please pray for those working for the Bible Society in with prisoners.

Loving God, we lift up to you all those from the Bible Society who serve in prisons, sharing hope and your word with those who need it most. Grant them wisdom, compassion and courage as they work alongside chaplains and prisoners and help them to be instruments of your peace and transformation. May their efforts bring light into places of darkness and may the lives they touch be changed for good.

Amen.

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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th March

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to The Bible Society

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A picture to colour for Palm Sunday

Read Matthew 21: 8-9



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:

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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

St John's Band - 285 3583