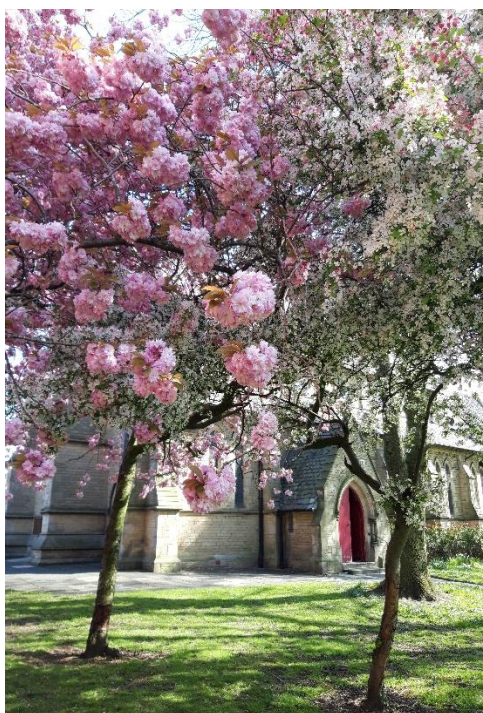


May 2021
THE DIARY OF ST MARY
DROYLSDEN

***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 – May 2021

All other Services for May 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



Hard to believe it is the “merry month” of May already. The daffodils and spring flowers are fading, and the days are noticeably longer and warmer and the trees are in full bud. Summer is on its way.

When I was a little girl, I used to think that this was my month because I was once the May Queen in my church - I was in fact the last May Queen for my church so I never actually retired. Hence, May in my child's mind was my month. It makes me smile when I turn the calendar every year.

May brings with it two Bank Holidays at the start and end of the month.

May Day Bank Holiday is usually the first Monday of May and is an ancient festival of Spring that many European cultures still celebrate. Since the 18th Century many Roman Catholics observed May and May Day with devotions to the Virgin Mary, and statues of Mary would be adorned with flowers in a May crowning. Perhaps the best known modern May Day traditions include dancing around the maypole and crowning the Queen of the May (May Queen) a young girl who dressed in white to symbolise purity and a crown and walked at the head of a procession to begin the celebrations. It has faded in popularity since the late 20th Century, but many areas still keep this tradition alive and the oldest unbroken tradition is in Hayfield, Derbyshire just on our own doorstep.

The second Bank Holiday started out as the Monday after Pentecost in the Church calendar and was known as Whit Monday but was later moved to the last Monday of the month by an Act of Parliament in 1970. Whit Sunday or Pentecost Sunday is a major festival in the Christian Church. It falls on the seventh Sunday or 50 days after Easter. The name is derived from the Greek word “pentekoste” which means fiftieth. This year it falls on Sunday 23rd May and it is a day on which the Church observes the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. It also marks the beginning of the witness and mission of the Christian church as recorded in the book of Acts (Acts 2). The name Whit Sunday or Whitsun simply means White Sunday and reflects the clothes the newly baptised would wear on that day. I do remember that it was a tradition that my Sister and I always had a new dress, hat and gloves on Whit Sunday, and we would go round to our relatives to show off our new clothes.

That year I was May Queen for my Church, along with girls from other Churches, I proudly paraded behind the band in my lovely white dress, a full train and train bearers and wearing a glittering tiara, leading the procession on the annual Whit walk. My recollections of those Whit walks were always of days of blazing sunshine, the sound of multiple brass bands, my Dad and men of the Church taking it in turns to carry the huge Church banners, stopped traffic and crowds of people watching as all the local churches came together for the Annual whit walks around the Parishes. Sadly, today there are far fewer whit walks than in the past and the tradition has definitely waned although the Cathedral still walks in the City Centre, it is no longer the spectacle it was. How times have changed but the memories remain. Please share your Whit Sunday memories with me when you next see me. I would love to hear them.

God Bless

Rev Nancy <><

Readings for May

2nd May Acts 8: 26-end and John 15: 1-8 **9th May** Acts 10: 44-end and John 15: 9-17
Thurs 13th May Ascension Day Acts 1: 1-11 and Luke 24: 44-end **16th May** Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end and John 17: 6-19 **23rd May Pentecost** Acts 2: 1-21 and John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15 **30th May Trinity Sunday** Romans 8: 12-17 and John 3: 1-17

Easter 2021 at St Mary's

I'm really glad we are back in church following the eight weeks closure after Christmas. Last year I had to celebrate Easter at home but this year we were, happily, in church. This means a lot to people like me with no computer, internet or Zoom services.

The Good Friday service started with the hymn There is a Green Hill Far Away and I thought it was my lucky day! I've always loved the words and music of this hymn and, in the past, have always felt cheated if it was not included in the service.

The music that affected me most this year, was the choice of Peter's Denial from one of my favourite musicals, Jesus Christ Superstar. As I listened to it, I could visualise the act taking place and the emotions shown. It felt real. With the other choices of music and words the whole service felt special. It was lovely to see Charlotte back with us after her illness too.

The moving Easter Morning Communion had a twist in the tail, as at the end we were escorted outside to put daffodils on the cross. Then we, socially distancing, sang In Christ Alone accompanied by Matthew on his trumpet. It felt great.

Thank you, Sue, Nancy and the team for making Easter so special to me.

Jill

Something Shared

A pal shared this via social media. It was just what I needed on that particular day. Perhaps you need to read it too...

"My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." - Thomas Merton

Rev Sue

Church Grounds

Both before and during lockdown, we have been grateful to the people who have worked regularly to maintain our church grounds. Keeping the rose beds tended and ready for the winter and latterly the spring. For removing litter whether accidentally dropped or blown about. The care of the outside shows the respect we hold for the interior of our church building.

As we move slowly to being able to open up to more activities and welcome community groups it would be good to flood the grounds with love and care and revitalise the area.

On Saturday 22nd May 2021 we will hold an outdoor grounds maintenance day.

Some of the jobs we would like to complete are:

Reinstalling the notice board (holes to be dug, cement to be poured, heavy lifting)

Removing the ivy from the Ashton Road gate area (gloves, secateurs)

Feeding the roses (bags of rose compost to be bought and dug in-transport needed, spades)

Litter picking (gloves, litter pickers, bags)

Car park tidying (gloves, litter pickers, bags)

Plant flowers in the community tubs (compost, plants, trowels)

22nd May is Whit Saturday when in past years we would have walked through the community in the Whit Walks, or in the latter years held a family fun day in the church grounds. This year we can witness to our community that we care for our environment and want to welcome them to share in our love for our church and its surroundings.

We will start the day at 10am and hope to finish mid-afternoon.

If you feel you can help at any time that day please email:

pat.a.catterall@gmail.com

or add you name to the list in church.

As the saying goes- The more the merrier- so hope to see as many of you as possible to help out. Please feel free to share with friends and family!



Thank you

Pat

Spring Dawn

A rooster crows to greet the dawn,
At the breaking of the day
Whilst golden rays seek shadows out
And chase them all away.

The sun begins her lazy arc,
across a clear blue sky
And birdsong fills the morning air,
As they prepare to fly.

The fragrant scent of flowers in bloom
Is carried on the breeze,
As nature wakes from slumbering
With a rustling of the trees

And so unfolds another day
Bathed in dawning light,
The suns warmth heats the waiting land,
And dispels the cold of night.

By Kathy Dickinson
Submitted by Ann Holland

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.

Answers to Easter Quiz

1. The Anglo Saxon goddess Eostre 2. James II 3. Simon of Cyrene. 4. Peter 5. Simnel Cake 6. One for each of the disciples excluding Judas 7. Because it was discovered on Easter Sunday 8. Passover 9. Edinburgh 10. Faberge

Word Search Flowers and Vegetables

All the words are in straight lines may be backwards, forwards or diagonal

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| A | S | S | W | T | O | U | T | E | G | N | A | M | K | K | L | E |
| X | P | N | P | I | N | S | R | A | P | G | R | Q | A | E | B | F |
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| S | O | W | H | Y | A | C | I | N | T | H | E | L | U | L | E | A |
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| G | E | P | E | S | D | B | G | A | L | S | I | E | T | Y | D | T |
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| L | I | P | C | S | S | I | O | I | O | P | I | E | N | N | K | E |
| O | D | E | O | G | D | P | B | E | O | A | O | E | I | T | M | O |
| N | A | R | Q | O | Z | E | E | W | S | N | N | O | P | H | T | T |
| G | R | S | F | B | O | A | L | Y | S | S | U | M | M | E | I | A |
| A | W | F | Y | A | E | S | I | P | U | Y | D | A | W | M | T | T |
| M | A | F | H | T | U | R | A | T | U | L | I | P | R | U | U | O |
| D | A | I | S | Y | L | I | L | O | I | D | A | L | G | M | S | P |

Alyssum Bluebell Crocus Chrysanthemum Daisy Daffodil Dandelion

Gladioli Hyacinth Lobelia Magnolia Pansy Rose Tulip Snowdrop

Broccoli Carrots cabbage Kale Leek Mangetout Onion Parsnip Peas Peppers
Potatoes Radish Sprouts Swede Turnip

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