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May 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

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May Services 2026



3rd May - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Acts 7: 55-end and John 14: 1-14

10th May - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Acts 17: 22-31 and John 14: 15-21

17th May – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Acts 1: 6-14 and John 17: 1-11

24th May – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Acts 2: 1-21 and John 20: 19-23

29th May – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion

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

Everybody Matters

Recently someone told me of their reaction to prayers for ‘doctors, nurses and teachers not because we shouldn’t pray for them, but because we tend to stop there. Their point was, what about praying for construction workers, truck drivers, shop workers and posties?’ (And the many other roles within our communities.) This made me think about how easy it is to take for granted, our dependence on so many people in our daily lives. During the Covid lockdowns we heard of the importance of ‘frontline workers’ which included the shop assistants and bus drivers as well as doctors and nurses. Whilst it is good to be thankful and to pray for those with particular caring roles that can make so much difference to our lives, we maybe ignore the significant place many others play in our lives and communities. Maybe we’re not even sure that God is concerned with the more mundane, or even technological aspects of life – but he really is.

It’s good to have the reminder that we depend on many people and many different skills for the smooth running of our lives, that God cares about them and the work they do. (Of course, he also cares about those who think don’t have any role).

We could look for people in our daily lives whose work is often overlooked, to say thank you for what they do. We might think of praying for them too.

Rev Cath

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7pm – Monday, 27th April 2026

Ascension Day – 14th May

7.00pm – Joint service at St Martin's Church, Greenside Lane, Droylsden

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 May will be at 12noon on Monday 25th May (Bank Holiday Monday)

The service in April is Monday 27th April

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 5th May

Speaker – Peter Douthwaite

His Story of St John's Brass Band

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

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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.



**Children's Society boxes are now due in, if anyone has one,
please pass it to Rosemary**

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.

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.



St Mary's School Experiences Easter

On Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March, Year 5 ran 'Experience Easter' in our Church for all pupils. Six bases were prepared, which explained the main events in the Easter Story for Christians.

Palm Sunday-hopes and dreams

Year 5 shared the story of Jesus arriving on a donkey. The crowd waved palm leaves and shouted, 'Hosanna in the highest heaven.' Each child was encouraged to share a hope or dream that they have for their future before writing it on a palm leaf.

Servant King-helping each other and Jesus

Year 5 invited the children to sit down before explaining to them that in Jesus' time, you would welcome a guest into your home by washing their feet. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show them that no one is more important than anyone else. Each member of the group had their hands washed before writing ways in which they can help others on a handprint.

The last supper-remembering Jesus

On the floor of Church, the group of Year 5 children set up a cloth with 13 places. Each place had a plate and cup. They shared with pupils the importance of the Passover meal and how Jesus ate this with his disciples before sharing wine and bread to represent his blood and body. The children each took a piece of bread and had some

blackcurrant juice to replicate this act. The group discussed special things they had learnt about Jesus through Bible teachings.

Gethsemane-being afraid

Year 5 talked the pupils through the events after the last supper. Jesus and his disciples walked up to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus went off to pray to God and his disciples fell asleep.

The children were asked to talk about their friends and how they help and support them. Each child wrote the name of one of their friends and their positive qualities on a strip of paper. These were then joined to make a friendship chain.

Good Friday-suffering

The Year 5 children, supported by Mr Quinn, sat around a wooden cross. They gave an explanation of the crucifixion and how Jesus asked for the criminals around him to be forgiven. The pupils talked about things that they might have done that needed forgiveness and each hammered a nail into the cross.

Easter Day-new life

After visiting each base, the class came together by the Altar where there was an empty tomb with the stone rolled away and the word 'Resurrection' written above. Mr Quinn talked the children through the story of Jesus rising again and how it serves as a reminder that Jesus is beside us every day, walking with us and guiding us.

Emma Quinn
Assistant Headteacher





Church grounds working party

Monday 4th May is Spring Bank holiday and what better way is there but to spend the day helping tidy our church grounds?

We know that our own gardens look a little untidy after the winter weather and need a little TLC to get them ready for the summer sunshine.

It is the same with our grounds. Tameside will cut the grass but there is more work needed to make it looking bright and beautiful.

We have 3 weddings this year and we would love it if our couples felt they could take photos in our grounds to remind them of their special day, our beautiful building and its surroundings.

We will gather about 10am and finish by 1pm. If you feel able to pop along for all of the morning or for half an hour, your help will be appreciated.

There is ivy to remove, weeds to dig up, bushes to be pruned, paths to be swept and perhaps planters to be regenerated.

Please bring gloves and any gardening tools you feel would be useful.

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Children are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

We hope to see you on 4th May.

Pat



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.

Violet, along with Jesse loved the outdoors and was a keen hiker, continuing to enjoy walks well into her 80s. The area around Chatsworth and the Peak District holds many happy memories for us as a family so it will be a special day walking, laughing, reminiscing and occasionally huffing and puffing. We will, however, be powered on by smarties and smiles.

At Alzheimer's Society they're working towards a world where dementia no longer devastates lives. They do this by giving help to those living with dementia today and providing hope for the future.

If you would like to sponsor us, you can either do this by going to our page on justgiving

https://www.justgiving.com/page/thegirlstrek26?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL or pass your donation to Pat, Chris or Emma and they will add it to our total. We will keep you updated as we start our training.

Thank you for your support.

Pat, Chris, Sue and Emma



Lighting the way for
generations to come



Our 150th Anniversary celebrations are moving on apace. On Tuesday afternoon 19th May MU members and some of the children from St Mary's School are getting together to start to pack the first of the (hopefully) 150 emergency toiletry bags to take up to Tameside Hospital together in July. The children have been fundraising to help to provide some of the items that are going into the bags and are said to be very excited about the venture. We still need to provide:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

- Facecloths

If you are able to help out with any of these items, please pass them on to Pat, Maureen or Christine.

At the end of June, we hope to be able to hold an afternoon cream tea and invite members of our congregation together with the congregations of St Martin's and St Andrew's as well as the church neighbours and the parents / carers of St Mary's School. Watch this space for more details.

As you can imagine, this is going to take some organising, if you think you are able to contribute in any way, bake a cake or just come along and chat to our visitors please let Pat, Maureen or Christine know.

St Mary's Mothers' Union

Help for Tinnitus Sufferers

I'm sure lots of us suffer from Tinnitus (ringing, hissing or just general odd noises in our ears) and simply just put up with it or get little or no help when visiting the doctors. I've learned that even some blood pressure medication (and it's the most common one) can cause Tinnitus!

Below you will find some information that may be helpful.

- Don't suffer in silence (forgive the pun) go to the doctor and insist on a referral to Tameside Hospitals Tinnitus Clinic. Don't be fobbed off.
- Tameside Hospital Audiology Department are very helpful, Tel: [0161 922 6381](tel:01619226381) Email: hearing@tgh.nhs.uk they'll point you in the right direction for all sorts of things.

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- Tinnitus UK has lots of useful information and self-help suggestions. Website: tinnitus.org.uk, email: helpline@tinnitus.org.uk, helpline: 0800 018 0527
- **Manchester Tinnitus Support Group** Manchester Deaf Centre Crawford House, Booth Street Manchester M13 9GH United Kingdom
- **Phone: 01204391924 Email: manchestertinnitus@gmail.com**
- Hearing Matters in Ashton can offer help and advice email info@hearingmatters.co.uk Phone: 0160 339 1481

There are lots of things you can also do for yourself while you are waiting for your appointment at the Tinnitus Clinic.

- Relaxation (easier said than done sometimes!). Relax your muscles, sit in a warm, quiet place, with no distractions, close your eyes and begin by focusing on your breathing, breathing slowly and deeply. Go from head to toe relaxing each part of your body.
- Exercise – go for a walk when the noise is getting too much.
- Take up a hobby, knitting, jigsaw puzzles, write a letter, draw or paint, colouring for adults is a great way to relax
- I like the sound of this one, an aromatic river rock foot bath! Place a layer of smooth, rounded stones in the bottom of a large bowl or basin. Cover the stones with warm water and add a drop or two of your favourite essential oil or some bath product you like. Place the basin on a towel in front of a comfortable chair. Sit in the chair, place your feet in the basin and move your feet back and forth over the stones, rolling them under your feet. Focus on how they feel and the textures as you do so.

If We But Believe

If we put our problems in God's hand,

There is nothing we need to understand

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It is enough to just believe,
That what we need,
We will receive.

Ann Holland



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St John's Castle Band, Droylsden

An *inclusive, friendly* brass band welcoming players of *all ages and abilities!*

Who are we?

A non-registered, fourth section band.

What do we do?

A good mixture of concerts, walks and local contests spread throughout the year.

We are currently seeking players in the following positions...

- 2nd Euphonium
- Trombones
- 2nd Baritone
- Eb bass

Rehearsals take place at 7:45pm


every **Tuesday in Droylsden**. For further information, please contact our MD Peter, and visit our social platforms to find out more about us!




CONTACT US

Note: All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

 peter.douthwaite@virgin.net

 0161 285 3583

 Droylsden St John's Castle Brass Band

 www.stjohnsdroylsden.org.uk

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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**



Our campaigns for children

We campaign alongside young people so they can overcome the toughest challenges of modern life and face their futures with hope and confidence.

We're fighting so young people can get mental health advice when they need it. So that families are properly protected through the cost of living crisis, and so that child refugees arriving in the UK alone have a trusted adult looking out for them.

Our current campaigns to help children

Right now, too many teenagers are struggling unnoticed. They're at crisis point. It's up to all of us to turn the tide and build the future young people need.

We are campaigning for all care leavers to be exempt from council tax – relieving a huge burden as they begin their adult lives.

Right now, hundreds of thousands of young people need mental health support. Many are left on waiting lists while their mental health gets worse.

And for young refugees arriving in the UK alone, life isn't easy. Many don't have anyone by their side through the complicated and often re-traumatising asylum process.

The change we make

We drive change at a local and national level. We influence national legislation and make sure local councils look after those who have it toughest in their communities.

Sometimes it takes years to create change. But we keep going. With our amazing campaigners and supporters, we have made a real difference to the lives of children and young people.

Please pray for the work of The Children's Society

Loving God,

We thank you for the work of The Children's Society.

Bless all who support, protect, and stand alongside children in need.

***Give hope to every young person who feels afraid or alone,
and guide us to play our part in building a fairer, kinder world.***

Amen.



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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd May

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to The Children's Society



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A picture to colour for Ascension Day



Read Acts 1: 4-11

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

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St John's Band - 285 3583