

OFFICIAL

November 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

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall

0161 370 0039

Beth Cutler

0161 376 9407

*Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your souls before him;
God is a refuge for us.*

Psalm 62: 8

November Services 2025



2nd November - 10.30am – Shoebox Holy Communion

Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18 and Luke 6: 20-31

9th November - 10.30am – Remembrance Sunday

Holy Communion

Job 23-27a and Luke 20: 27-38

Wednesday 12th November – 6.00pm – Holy Communion

16th November - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Malachi 4: 1-2a and Luke 21: 5-9

23rd November – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 and Luke 23: 33-34

Monday 24th November – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion

30th November – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 13: 11-14 and Matthew 24: 36-44

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

Drawing Aside with Jesus

In September I spent a few days with the sisters of the Society of the Sacred Cross, just outside Monmouth.

The convent I went to is a contemplative order, so the sisters live mainly in silence – though they would quietly ask how I was getting on and make sure I had what I needed. Even meals are eaten in silence. Of course, they pray and sing in chapel, and they will talk about aspects of work and hold meetings with one another for the care and smooth running of the community. As well as prayer and worship together and individually throughout the day, the sisters cook, clean, and work on a large kitchen garden with some delicious homegrown fruit and veg in the meals! Once I had adjusted to it, I found that the silence fostered a real sense of peace and prayerfulness.

The lack of conversation was not cold though - it was very evident that the sisters live together with warm relationships, and heart-felt welcome for those who stay with them whether for a few days or a few months. And in the quietness, punctuated with prayer, there really is a rich sense of God's loving presence and his invitation to draw close.

In the space that I found there, I spent time each day reflecting on some of the passages in Luke's Gospel of Jesus' encounters with individuals. I was deeply struck by the compassion of Jesus for those he met. For Jesus, they were not 'yet another person with more needs', or another opportunity to show off his power, but he saw each one as an individual, understood their true needs and concerns, and responded to each one with compassion in words and actions.



It is truly wonderful that our God is full of love and compassion for us and all his world and sees each of us as we are. It also reminds us to move beyond difference and division to see people as they are, and to respond to each with compassion.



Rev Cath

Mid-Week Informal Holy Communion

An informal mid-week service of Holy Communion is being held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6pm.

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

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.



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 November will be at 12noon on Monday 24th November

October's service will be Monday 27th October 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.

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).



Tuesday 4th November 7pm

Speakers – Kathryn Hampson

Christmas Crafts

Wanted for emergency toiletry bags for Tameside Hospital:



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- Small tubes of toothpaste
- small bars of soap.

Please speak to Pat, Maureen or Christine

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



TESCO

Droylsden & District Foodbank will be taking part in the annual Tesco foodbank collection **27th to 29th November** at our Droylsden store.

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Volunteers are needed between 9am and 5pm on all days to support customers of the store as they donate items.

If you can spare an hour on either day please speak to Pat to enable us to receive as many donations as possible over this important weekend.

Many thanks
Pat



Barbara received this message from Lifeshare following delivery of the Harvest Festival gifts.

Please pass on our thanks, and that of our guests, for much needed supplies for our food bank. Also thanks to you for organising it. God bless. Xxxx



Our Harvest Gifts for the Foodbank and Lifeshare

A heartfelt thank you for all the harvest gifts which were shared between **Droylsden & District Foodbank** and **Lifeshare**.



Droylsden & District Foodbank

A certificate of recognition for your generous donations is displayed in the church room.

We have been blessed to have received harvest donations from many of our local schools and churches. The donations have been very

welcomed as the regular donations have decreased as people's circumstances change.

Pat

Operation Christmas Child

Coffee Morning



A big thank you to all who attended the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 4th October, despite the gusty winds and pouring rain. It was encouraging to see several people there, including some mums with their children from St Mary's school who were interested and took boxes to fill, and friends whom we have not seen for a while due to difficulties or a busy lifestyle.

Thanks also to the cafe crew of Beth and Gaynor and to Jean and Ann on the stall with the many lovely items, books and cards to purchase.

The amount raised for OCC from the Coffee Morning was £129.51. In addition to this there will be the sum from the OCC Donations Box in the Church Room. The total amount, which should be known in November, is then sent to Samaritan's Purse for OCC in early December.

You can watch OCC videos at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child-videos>

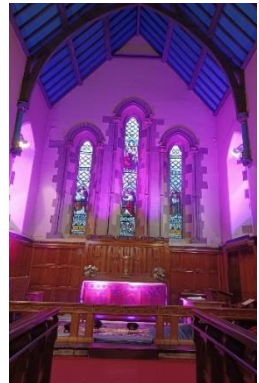
The completed OCC Boxes should be brought to church by the end of October and at the latest to the Presentation and Blessing on Sunday, 2nd November.

John Sporne

ISing Pop

On the afternoon 9th October, I was privileged to be able to attend a concert in church of seven faith-based songs, sung by St Mary's School. "*Surely the school choir?*" I can hear you thinking. No, THE WHOLE SCHOOL!

As you can see, from the photograph, the altar was flooded by pink light, the pews filled with parents, grandparents and carers as the children entered church clapping and smiling to fill the chancel.



The children's singing was beautiful, accompanied by dancing and actions and I'm sure there wasn't a dry eye in the church (well there wasn't where Pat and I were standing!)

It was wonderful to see the church filled with such joy and I'm sorry I couldn't manage to get to the evening performance. As always, every child, from the smallest to the tallest was a credit to the ethos of St Mary's School.

Well done to everyone involved.

Christine

*Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the voices of children who sing,
laugh and praise you.*

Amen

A Nostalgic Look Back

Following our Heritage Day displays, Rev Cath received this email:

Hello,

Thank you for the photos on your website the photos brought many memories.

At 82 and as a campfire song says “getting old and feeble and getting past my prime” the site of my youth is comforting. I couldn’t tell if the organ gallery with its beautiful pipe organ still exists.

My family worshipped at St Mary in the 1940’s and 1950’s. My brother Keith was in fact married at the church, I was married in Ashton at my wife’s parish. Attached is a photo of a rose or may queen Gwyneth Jones around 1950 (I am left front train carrier).

As wartime rationing still in force, parents must have sacrificed a lot to dress us so smartly.

It is many years since I last visited the church as I made my home in Tasmania where I was active in the Anglican Church.

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May God bless you all and the work you do

**Colin Benbow
Shearwater
Tasmania**

Colin also attached the photograph that you can see on the following page



250th Manchester (St Mary's) Scout Group



On a bright Sunday afternoon volunteer leaders, families, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers aged between 4 and 17 joined together to take part in a Heritage Open Day at the Scout Hut on Ellen Street in Droylsden.

Volunteers and children had assembled displays of old and new photos to show how the Group has changed over its 110 years of existence. Logbooks dating back to 1930 gave amazing detail of the daily running of the sessions and camping trips.

The wider community came to share their memories of 250th Manchester Scouts. One lady found details of her grandfather in the register and told us more about his involvement with the Group, including how he had helped design the hut we know and love today.

During the afternoon, children and adults enjoyed indoor and outdoor games. A fantastic campfire was lit and s'mores enjoyed by all the children.

Inside the hut, children were asked to design a building they would like to see in Droylsden. Our Scout hut is on the Droylsden Master plan and the came up with some very creative ideas using recycled boxes, white paper and felt tips.

Chris Sampson, Lead Group volunteer said: *"I am very proud to be a part of the leadership team that keep the group running. It was wonderful to see all the old pictures of Scouts enjoying campfires, going on expeditions with friends and playing fun games. This spirit is still alive today and our present group is made up of children who each week learn new skills, feel a sense of belonging, make new friends, have fun and enjoy fresh air."*

Many thanks to all who supported our event including the Tesco Champion by providing tea and coffee and the wonderful baker who

made and served homemade made scones. It was a tremendous community event and the start of a year long celebration of our 110th year of Scouting here in Droylsden."

Julie Artingstall – Squirrels Leader

Why Do We Share It?

We talk about sharing The Peace. In some churches, this means greeting as many people as possible with the words "The Peace of the Lord" or similar words.

In some churches it is only done with those nearest to us in the pews, in this way The Peace is shared throughout the church because one person passes it on to the next person until it has gone all the way around the church until everyone has been greeted

This is quite a challenging part of our worship because it should be more than our church friends, it's more about having an opportunity to be reconciled to anyone we may have an issue with. Someone we may have been annoyed with, hurt by or even conflicted with making it a challenging part of the service

Being reconciled with someone and trying to mend a broken relationship is addressed in Paul's teaching about the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians verse 11 where he warns about receiving holy Communion in an unworthy manner. Ideally, we should prepare through prayer before the service.

Ann Holland

Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December

Gifts, Crafts, Books,
Tombola, Refreshments,
and much more.



All donations to any of the
stalls (especially the
tombola) are gratefully
received.

Do You Like Knitting?



There is still time to knit a poppy (or more) for our poppy display for Remembrance Sunday?

Here is an easy and quick poppy pattern

You will need: Red double knitting wool and a pair of 4mm (UK8) needles

Cast on 80 sts.

Row 1 to row 8 Knit every row

Row 9 Knit 2 together (K2tog) repeat to end (40 sts)

Row 10 K2 tog to end (20 sts)

Row 11 K2 tog to end (10 sts)

Cut yarn with a long end and thread a sewing needle through remaining 10 sts, pull up tight, sew up side seam and fasten off

Sew a black button or felt circle or use black wool to make the centre of the poppy.

Kathryn

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Monday 1st December

From 3.15pm – 5pm

Messy Christingle



**Come along and join in with free crafts, songs
and light refreshments**

**All Primary School children welcome with
their parents / carer**

Beautiful Embroidery

Some of you may remember from last year's photographic exhibition, photographs of some beautiful embroidery that was on display in Litchfield Cathedral. The panels showed the story of The Creation and were absolutely beautiful.



At the end of August, Derek and I were fortunate to be able to have a few days in Sheffield (when the grandchildren are away the grandparents will play) and when I was checking out what was on in Sheffield, I spotted that Sheffield Cathedral had an exhibition of embroidery on. I thought it was the same work touring different cathedrals.

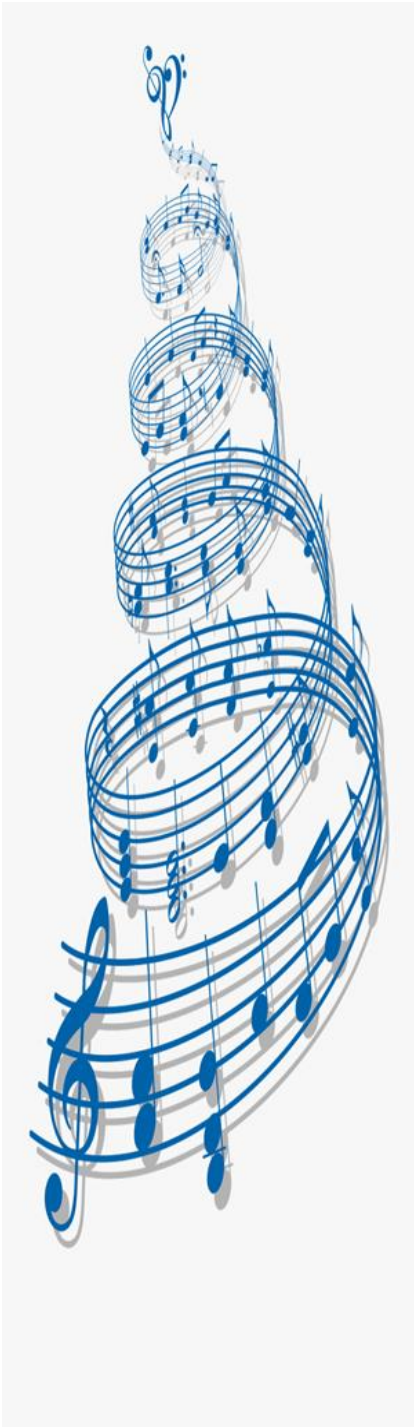
When we got there, the exhibition was different. This time it was the most beautiful panels depicting the Life of Jesus. The detail was breathtaking.

I don't know how this works, if there is a different exhibition each year in a different cathedral and we've just been fortunate enough to drop on it twice, but I'll be looking out next year when we're planning our little getaways.



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Christine



Christmas Band Concert

Saturday 20th
December 2pm

St Mary's Church
Droylsden

Tickets available
from Church soon
priced £5.00

including

Mulled wine and
mince pies after the
performance

See Pat



After months of extraordinary challenges delivering aid in Gaza, DEC charities and their local partners are now scaling up their work delivering desperately needed food, water, medical care and so much more.

Famine was confirmed in Gaza in August, and every day has been a struggle to find essential supplies. People have been dying from starvation and malnutrition. Safe and sustained access for humanitarian aid has never been more urgent.

In Lebanon, the ceasefire agreement at the end of last year meant some of the people displaced by conflict could return to their communities and start to rebuild their lives. Months on, many still have no home to return to and are cut off from basic services.

DEC charities and their local partners have been working tirelessly throughout the conflict in unimaginably difficult conditions. Each day has brought new and unexpected challenges, but they have constantly adapted their work to deliver whatever aid they can.

The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of humanitarian crisis overseas. DEC charities and their local partners have been working in Gaza throughout the crisis, scaling up their response whenever the situation allows to help provide lifesaving aid to Palestinians. They have decades of expertise in working in the region to help meet people's needs, despite all the challenges.

Following the ceasefire announcement in October 2025, aid is now getting through but much more is needed.

Support our coffee morning on 1st November to make a small difference.

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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st November

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to Disasters Emergency Committee

Appeal for The Middle East



A Picture to colour for Remembrance Day

Read John 15 v 13



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:

Susan Marsh, Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers

Sides People

Maureen Allison, Elaine Burrows, Carole Clayton, Joyce Cox, Julie Farrow, 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

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