

OFFICIAL

October 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

October Services 2026



4th October - 10.30am – Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15 and Luke 12: 16 - 30

11th October - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Philippians 4: 1 - 9 and Matthew 22: 1 -14

18th October – 10.30am – Holy Communion

1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10 and Matthew 22: 15 - 22

25th October – 10.30am – Morning Worship

1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8 and Matthew 22: 34 - 46

**26th October– 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy
Communion**

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

Changing Seasons

Here we are in October again – how quickly the months go by! When there is so much change and uncertainty in the world today, this turning of the seasons reminds us of things that are solid, unchanging, and dependable. The earth going round the sun; the turn of one season to the next: winter to spring, spring to summer, and now, summer to autumn.

Autumn reminds me of childhood walks in the fallen leaves, picking up conkers on the way home from school, and admiring the colours of the leaves on the ground. It gives me a warm cosy feeling despite the cooler temperatures.

The colour and fruitfulness of this time of year grounds us in the reality that no matter what is going on in politics, international affairs, or mind-spinning new developments in technology, we are here on earth, going round the sun, in a universe loved and created by God, just as we too are loved and created by Him.



If your head is spinning with the risks and dangers of the modern world, or the stresses of your own daily life, take some time to look up at the stars or the moon, or the changing colours of a beautiful tree. Stop, and take some time to remember that the world is huge, and God who made it all is even greater. We are just little people but known and loved by God who holds the whole world in his hands.

Revd Cath

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 October will be at 12noon on Monday 26th

October



The service in September is Monday 28th September.

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.

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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 6th October – 7pm

**We will be hosting a speaker from
The Commonwealth Graves Commission
Everyone is welcome, it should be a very
interesting evening, please pass on the
information to anyone you think may be
interested.**



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



Meeters and Greeters Wanted

Are you of cheerful disposition, chatty and happy to speak to people? Perhaps you might consider being a meeter and greeter before our services on a Sunday morning and taking the collection during service. Commitment is on a rota basis - the more people that get involved the better.

Please have a chat Barbara Walton



Harvest Festival



Over the summer we have continued to see new clients referred to us because they are facing a financial crisis. Maybe it is new school uniforms, a broken appliance, increased utility bills and until they can resolve the crisis we can support them with

food to release funds to help.

We anticipate that in the lead up to Christmas and over the winter period our support will continue to be much needed.

- Donations of food are not currently meeting the demand and we are regularly purchasing items in bulk to fill our shelves.

At our church service on 4th October, we will accept the harvest gifts from our church family which will once again be shared between the Droylsden & District Foodbank and Lifeshare



Both organisations support those in crisis locally and throughout Greater Manchester and rely on donations to be able to carry out their services.

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But again, this year is proving to be as tough as ever. Economic uncertainty has fuelled the growing need for support for those in crisis at the same time as households are seeing a squeeze on their budgets. Donations to both charities continues to be a challenge.

If you are able, please support both organisations with donations of long dated non-perishable items. Your donations will be much appreciated

Some suggestions for donations are:

Cereal	Tinned Fish
Pasta sauces	Tinned and packet soups
Rice pudding	Meat free tinned meals
Tinned meat	Tinned fruit
Tinned vegetables	Pot Noodles
Cereal Bars	Biscuits
Carton milk	Carton fruit juice

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink

Confirmation Service

Sunday 25th October – 6pm

St Mary's is hosting this years Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark. Please come along and support all the candidates.

Loving God,

We thank you for those who are preparing for confirmation. Fill them with your Spirit, steady their hearts, and deepen their joy in following Jesus. May they know they are held, loved, and called by you.

Amen

A Wonderful Day

Dear Friends,



I want to extend a huge, heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended our wedding ceremony on 29th August. It was incredible to see our church so full, and it was truly uplifting for me personally to walk down the aisle surrounded by so many friends and family. I had to take a minute or two to compose myself when I first arrived as I felt overcome with emotion but seeing so many friendly faces amongst the pews was such a comfort. I cannot tell you how happy I was to get married at St Mary's, in sight of God and witnessed by so many special people; it sincerely meant so much to us both, but me especially because of my faith and my love for St Mary's.

Additionally, we also want to express our gratitude for all the beautiful cards we received and the kind gifts, which were absolutely not

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expected. We were amazed at the generosity we received in the lead up to and on our big day. We have been overwhelmed with the love, kindness and thoughtfulness shown to us as a newly married couple and I am so thankful to call you my friends.

I'm sorry that I didn't get an opportunity to speak to all of you individually on the day but know that I saw you and I love that you were there to share in our special day.

Lots of love

Charlotte (Brown!) xx

Useful Information

Prostrate Cancer

As many of you will know this is a subject close to my heart. Please men look after yourself and get checked on a regular basis.

1 in 8 men will get prostrate cancer at some point in their lives.

Prostate cancer is a disease where cells in the prostate gland grow out of control, most commonly affecting older men, Black men, and those with a family history. Early stages often show no symptoms, but testing options like a PSA blood test can help catch it early. A PSA test is a simple blood test that measures the amount of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in your blood to help check your prostate health. It is used to help find prostate problems, but a high level does not always mean you have cancer. You can arrange a test through your local doctor as there is no screening programme for men at the moment.

There is no single symptom to suggest prostate cancer. The most common symptom that people have heard of is difficulty with urinating but some men do not experience this at all. Early prostate cancer does not tend to affect the urethra or waterpipe and so urinary symptoms will not be present. Some men who do not have prostate cancer may have

problems urinating but this can be due to non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate gland as men get older, or problems with the urethra or bladder. Men who are experiencing any problems passing urine including a slow, interrupted stream of urine, difficulty starting and stopping urination, blood in the urine, discomfort or pain should see their GP as soon as possible.

Risk Factors are

Age: Risk increases sharply after age 50

Race: Black men face a higher risk and diagnosis rate

Genetics: A family history of prostate or breast cancer

There are different types of prostate cancer:

- Early (localised) prostate cancer – the cancer cells are only inside the prostate
- Locally advanced prostate cancer – the cancer has grown through the capsule surrounding the prostate. It may have started to spread into tissue or organs close by.
- Advanced prostate cancer – the cancer cells have spread from the prostate gland and nearby area to other parts of the body.

Prostate Cancer Support (PCS) Droylsden: Meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Indian Community Centre, 103 Union Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8JN.

Prostate Cancer UK: Call their specialist nurses free at 0800 074 8383 or visit Prostate Cancer UK Support.

Favourite Hymns

I'm a member of an ALM Facebook group, and recently there was a post about favourite hymns, asking the ALM's to say what their favourite hymn is.

There were several replies that all said, "how to choose just one?" After a couple of days, the ALM who asked the original question posted that she had been asked to write a short article for her church diary about her

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favourite hymn. She told the editor that she couldn't decide on just one, so would it be OK if she wrote a short series? It turns out that was thirteen years ago!

This gave me food for thought – I don't want it to last thirteen years but perhaps we can get one year out of this idea starting in January? It gives everyone a little bit of time to think about it and also I can start building a file so there's no panic each month to get your favourite hymns to me.

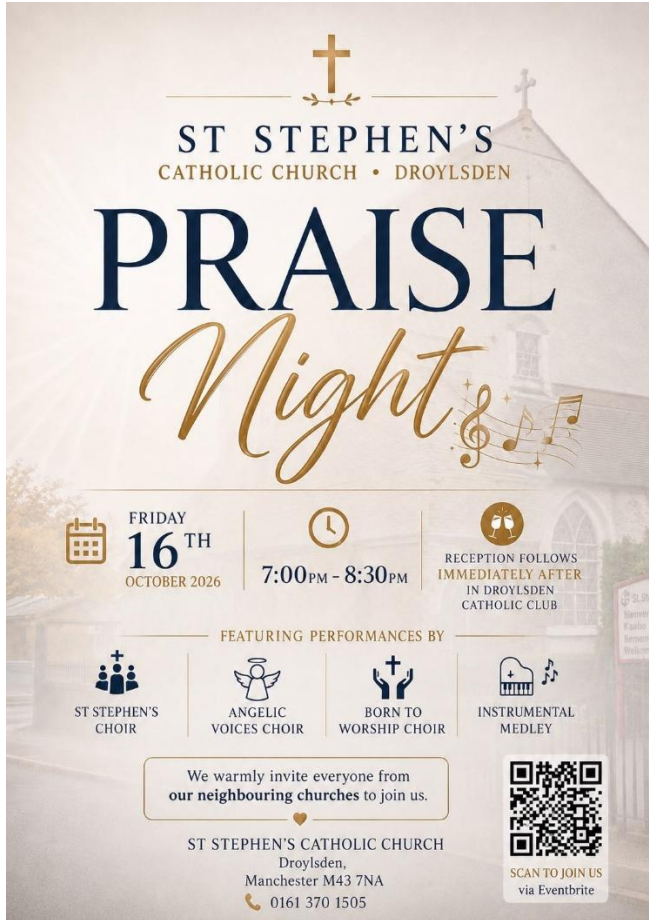
So

- Name of your favourite hymn
- A little bit saying why it is your favourite

My email address is on the inside back page of the diary if you want to email me or you can just write it down and give it to me when you see me.

Thank you in advance

Christine




ST STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • DROYLSDEN

PRAISE *Night*

 FRIDAY
16TH
OCTOBER 2026

 7:00PM - 8:30PM

 RECEPTION FOLLOWS
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
IN DROYLSDEN
CATHOLIC CLUB

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

 ST STEPHEN'S CHOIR	 ANGELIC VOICES CHOIR	 BORN TO WORSHIP CHOIR	 INSTRUMENTAL MEDLEY
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We warmly invite everyone from
our neighbouring churches to join us.

ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Droylsden,
Manchester M43 7NA
 0161 370 1505



SCAN TO JOIN US
via Eventbrite

For catering purposes please sign up on the sheet in the church room if you would like go along.

Mothers' UNION
150 years

As you will know from previous articles in our diaries over the past few months, we have worked alongside the Ethos Group at St Mary's CofE primary school to put together 150 toiletry bags for Tameside Hospital.

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In early July we delivered the bags to the hospital and it was a very humbling experience for us all.

We hoped that the bags would be well received and prove useful to the patients who received them. Recently we received the following card: We are so thankful that



Mr Phoenix is recovering and very grateful to Mrs Phoenix for taking the time to send us this lovely card.

The card will be kept in school to remind the children what a difference a small act of kindness can make to someone.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' – **Matthew 25:40**

****You can see what Mr and Mrs Phoenix have written on the next page***

Dear children
and everyone,

My husband was unfortunately recently admitted to Tameside Hospital in the A & E department.

Whilst he was in hospital he was very kindly gifted one of the toiletry bags that you had so wonderfully put together.

It was a really kind, thoughtful & lovely thing to do, and it was very much appreciated.

He's home now Thankfully and on the mend! but I just wanted to Thank you with love and best wishes to you all
M & Mrs Phoenix



WE NEED S'MORE Jesus

WOODEN STICK THE CROSS

**JESUS DIED ON THE
CROSS FOR YOU & ME**

"and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed."

1 Peter 2:24

GRAHAM CRACKER THE FOUNDATION

**FAITH IN JESUS GIVES US
A FIRM FOUNDATION**

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

CHOCOLATE THE SWEETNESS

**GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS
THE SWEETEST GIFT..AND
IT COSTS US NOTHING!**

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16



MARSHMALLOW THE FILLING

**WHEN WE ACCEPT GOD'S
GIFT, WE ARE FILLED
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

FIRE THE TRANSFORMATION

**GOD ALLOWS US TO EXPERIENCE HARD THINGS TO GROW OUR
CHARACTER & TRANSFORM US TO BE LIKE HIM**

"we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:3-5



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Tuesday, 29th September

From 3.15pm to 5.00pm

Messy Harvest



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

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

Sshhh Christmas is Coming

It's that time of year again when we need to be thinking about the Christmas Fair (sorry!)

If you are able to donate any of the following, they will be gratefully received.

- New, unused items and bottles for the tombola
- If you are a crafter or knitter, an item for any of the craft / knitted goods stalls
- Books
- Items suitable for gifts
- Items for a white elephant stall
- Home made cakes (**must be labelled with ingredients please**)



Answers to last month's flower quiz:

1. J - Matthew
2. E - Mary
3. D - Paul

4. I - Samuel
5. B - Soloman
6. L - Jonah
7. F - Peter
8. H - Moses
9. G – David
- 10.O – Elijh
- 11.N – Noah
- 12.M – Joseph
- 13.H – Moses
- 14.A – Adam
- 15.K- Zaccheus



You may remember in one of the diaries last year, an article about St Mary's School performing an amazing concert in church. The organisation who made this all possible is iSingPOP.

iSingPOP is a non-profit organisation and we are so grateful for our amazing supporters, who partner with us to carry our mission all across the nation!

School, church and community brought together through music

Our heart is to empower children, parents, schools, churches and communities to find their voice, explore faith and know they are loved.

We support schools in creating inspirational collective worship and equip

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churches with the confidence to reach out to the families in their community.

Our mission is to uplift every child, by instilling in them a sense of purpose, value, and ability to choose love over hate, courage over fear, and to persevere when times get tough.

Whilst our resources are rooted in Christian values, we understand that every school is a diverse celebration of faiths, beliefs and cultures. Therefore, to remain inclusive we follow the SIAMS (religious education) framework.

We are passionate about resourcing and supporting churches to flourish in their ministry to the local community. Through our PopUP Church programme and the Pop Box we offer a joy-filled worship space with user-friendly resources; simple to run and requiring minimal preparation.

With thousands of listens on our Spotify account every month, it's safe to say our songs are being enjoyed at home, but there is so much more!

Check out our YouTube channel for singing and dancing tutorials, cosy bedtime stories, behind-the-scenes vlogs and silly challenges with the iSingPOP team!

Please pray for all the children who are able to engage with Christ through music and support our coffee morning on 3rd October.

Gracious God,

Be close to every child who sings, learns, and grows through iSingPOP. Give them confidence, kindness, and hearts full of hope.

Amen.

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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd October

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

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Proceeds to iSingPop



A picture to colour



Read Luke 12: 16 - 30

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, Catherine Prescott, Mark Williams, 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 Castle Band - 285 3583