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September 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

September Services 2026



6th September - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 13: 8 - 14 and Matthew 18: 15 - 20

13th September - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Romans 14: 1-12 and Matthew 18: 21 - 35

20th September – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Philippians 1: 21 – 30 and Matthew 20: 1 - 16

27th September – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Philippians 2: 1 - 13 and Matthew 21: 23 - 32

**28th September– 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy
Communion**

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

Consider the Birds...

Sitting in the peace and quiet of a bird hide, somewhere in Yorkshire, I looked out across the water, now rather low after all this summer's heat waves and low rainfall. Many kinds of water birds live here for the summer months, and some all year round. There are mallard ducks, greylag geese, avocets, lapwings, and lots of Canada Geese. With the help of the bird book I'd shoved into my bag at the last minute I managed to identify a Little Egret (a species of small white heron), and a black tailed godwit (which, never mind the tail, has a head and neck the colour of ginger hair, making it easy to identify!). Just then, a couple came in and had only sat down a couple of minutes when the man said to his wife "Seen the spoonbill?"

As I quickly scanned the water with my binoculars a white bird lifted its head, revealing its distinctive spatula-shaped beak with a yellow-orange stripe at the bottom. Wow! A spoonbill!

Now, much as I am enjoying the peacefulness of bird watching, and the wonder of seeing unusual species, I do realise it may not be for everyone.



September is designated as the Season of Creation to encourage us to reflect on the goodness of God in Creation, and our responsibility to care for it as much as we can. We're learning more and more how big a 'footprint' our modern lives leave in the world. A sense of wonder and awe is a good starting point for learning how we can 'live lightly' in the world, reducing our impact on God's good creation.

What ignites in you a sense of wonder?

Rev Cath

(photo courtesy of RSPB – not mine!)

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 September will be at 12noon on Monday 28th

September.



The service in August is Monday 24th August.

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).



On Tuesday 1st September – 7pm

We will be hosting Rev Philip Millar

In the Church Room

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

Advanced Notice

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



On Sunday 9th August Manchester Cathedral hosted the Diocesan Evensong Celebration Service marking Mary Sumner Day and 150 years of our organisation.

Mary Sumner's Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Every branch of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese had been asked to decorate a jigsaw piece to best represent their branch. Below is a picture of the piece decorated to represent St Mary's Branch and the bigger display of all the pieces put together.



All the jigsaw pieces were put together in a large display which looked amazing.

Included in the Order of Service was The Jigsaw Poem:

The Jigsaw Poem

Each lifetime is the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle
For some there are more pieces.
For others the puzzle is more difficult to assemble.
Some seem to be born with a nearly complete puzzle.
And so it goes.
Souls going this way and that.
Trying to assemble the myriad parts.
But know this. No one has within themselves
All the pieces to their puzzle.
Like before the days when they used to seal
Jigsaw puzzles in cellophane. Insuring that
All the pieces were there.
Everyone carries with them at least one and probably
Many pieces to someone else's puzzle.
Sometimes they know it.
Sometimes they don't.
And when you present your piece
Which is worthless to you,
To another, whether you know it or not,

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You are a messenger from the Most High.

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner.

The service was lovely and very well attended and included the lighting of fourteen candles, twelve representing the twelve dioceses in the York Province and one each for the indoor members (members who are unable to attend meetings in person for one reason or another) and the worldwide Mothers' Union.

Bishop Mark commissioned two ladies as Trustees during the service too.

Correction

When I put the article in about St Mary's School Choir singing at the Bridgewater Hall, there was an error on the Bridgewater Hall website which has since been corrected. The date of the concert is **Monday 30th November, not Friday 30th November.**

If you want to book, please take care because there is also a concert on 1st December for the same charity but high school choirs are singing then.

St John's Castle Band

Performing at Band in the Park

Sunday 6th September – 2pm – 4pm

Ryecroft Hall



At the beginning of the school holidays, lots of children and their parents or carers came along to enjoy Messy Summer. I am happy to say that amongst the regular youngsters were a good number of new faces who all enjoyed making the different crafts on offer, including a fishing net biscuit, listening to a story from the Bible and singing along to Our God is a Great Big God! A light lunch of tomato pasta, biscuits and a drink was also enjoyed.

Everyone is welcome to the next session on 29th September at 3.30pm.

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A Blessing for the New School Year

May God bless all children as they return to school.

May they feel safe, happy, and ready to learn.

May God bless all teachers and staff with patience, wisdom, and kindness.

May classrooms be places of friendship, encouragement, and joy.

And may God guide and protect everyone through the year ahead.

Amen.

Having to Let Go

I hold your hand so very tightly;

Soon I have to let it go.

Today is special and I'm nervous,

But, of course, that mustn't show.

Your sunny smile fills up your face,
Excitement clear for all to see.
Now you'll join the other children
And you'll say goodbye to me.

It's the start of a new chapter
That begins on this school day –
The first of many in this world,
Where you will make your own brave way.

Sadly, I wasn't a mum, but it tells how mums must feel letting go.

Ann Holland

Just at harvest?

As many of you will know, St Mary's harvest festival usually supports Droylsden & District Foodbank and Lifeshare.

Both charities are finding that donations are reduced whilst the need for our services has increased.

The foodbank has a permanent collection point in the church room where donations can be made on a weekly basis. Perhaps when you next go shopping you can purchase an item for the foodbank or if you shop in Tesco place it in the collection point there.

Every tin and every packet helps us to provide for those in need.

We are short of most items but below is a list of some of our shortages.

- Carton milk
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned/carton Soup
- Carton juice

Our harvest service is on Sunday 4th October.



Useful Information

Motor Neurone Disease

For many years this disease was rarely in the news but thanks to the courage of these people in sharing their diagnosis we now know a little more and research has improved - Stephen Hawking, Rob Burrows, Doddie Weir and Paul Foreman (Coronation Street character)

So what is MND?

Motor neurone disease damages the nerves (motor neurones) that send messages from the brain to the muscles. When these nerves stop working, the muscles gradually weaken.

This can affect:

- movement and mobility
- speech and communication
- eating and drinking
- breathing

Some people also experience changes in thinking and behaviour. These are usually mild but can be more noticeable for some.

Cause?

It is still not possible to be clear about what causes MND, as different things may trigger this disease for each person. Lifestyle and environmental factors that might assist the development of MND have been studied in depth over the years. These studies have found possible links between MND and:

- mechanical and/or electrical trauma
- military service
- high levels of exercise
- exposure to agricultural chemicals
- exposure to a variety of heavy metals.

The evidence gained in these studies has often been conflicting and clear conclusions cannot be given. With these limits, it is not yet possible to provide guidance on how to reduce the risk of developing MND. However, research into these factors is progressing.

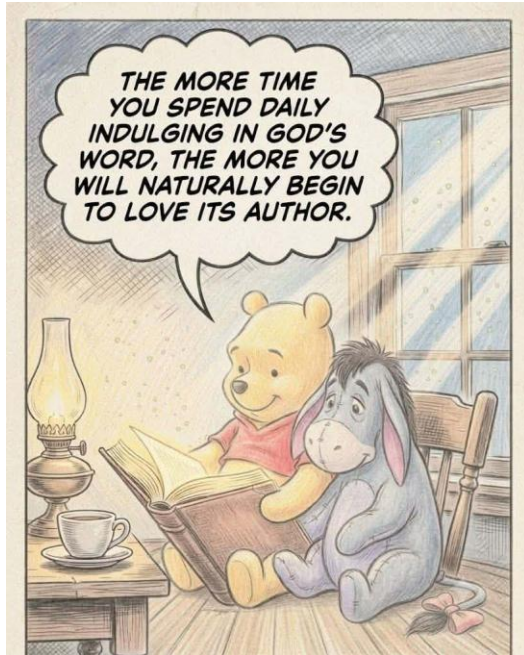
Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Support Group

Whether you're living with MND, caring for someone or just seeking understanding, the Willow Wood Hospice MND group offers a safe place to share, connect and support each other. The group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. It is led by the community Services Team and volunteers from the MND association. It is at the Hive at Willow Wood Hospice between 10:30 and 12:30.

This is a drop-in group and is open to anyone in Tameside and Glossop who is living or caring for someone with MND. To book an assessment or for an informal chat about, contact a member of the Wellbeing Support team: 0161 330 1100 or visit one of the Be Informed drop-in sessions.

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Who'd Have Thought It?



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 / carer**

Operation Christmas Child



Early in January of this year, I was informed by Rev Cath that St Mary's PCC had decided that our church would no longer be supporting OCC. It has become too costly and has run its course. I was saddened by this news but knew there were several people in our church who would want

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to continue to make up a shoebox or give support to OCC in some small way by providing Fillers or by a donation. I may well have 'run my course.' For the past few years, I have asked team members to take on responsibilities for the running of our church OCC.

OCC certainly has not reached 'has run its course' life. Last Christmas, our 70 boxes, along with many other church or school boxes from the North-West area, went to the Burnley Warehouse. They processed and loaded 15,438 boxes, which went to two Eastern European countries. Nationally, the UK total for 2025 was 232,844 shoeboxes. And globally, 12,205,900. You can see the children from various countries where the UK boxes were taken to at the web link.

samaritans-purse.org.uk/2025-shoebox-destinations

In addition, Samaritan's Purse provides practical aid in medical, disaster, and water relief, as well as children's Christian teaching.

<https://samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do>

As we have several boxes left over from last year, please see me if you would like a box or two during September or early October.

If you'd rather do a shoebox online, then visit samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online

For several years, Edge Lane & Clayton Methodist Church have brought their shoeboxes to our church before collection in November; they have now said we can take any OCC shoeboxes to their church.

It's been a joyous honour to have been involved at St Mary's and at the Tameside OCC Warehouse for the past 30+ years. Thank you to all in our church who have helped in any way along the shoebox road.

All things work for good to those who love the Lord. Romans 8:28

John Sporne

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**)



Lifeshare is a voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting homeless and vulnerable people in Greater Manchester. As a first point of contact for those on the streets, we provide practical assistance, support, and information, helping individuals access initiatives that move their lives forward.

The Objectives:

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- To alleviate aspects of poverty and hardship through redistribution of resources
- To offer information and support and to signpost to other relevant agencies
- To promote health and harm reduction

Lifeshare is Manchester's oldest charity dedicated to supporting homeless and vulnerable people in Greater Manchester. Established in 1984 by a group of volunteers who recognised the lack of support for the city's increasing number of rough sleepers and Lifeshare began. In the following decades, Lifeshare initiatives would become fundamental to the efforts in tackling homelessness in Manchester.

Lifeshare has evolved as the needs of Manchester's most vulnerable people have changed over the past four decades. We started by providing food to rough sleepers from a burger van before pioneering sexual health support and needle exchanges for sex workers. The last decade has seen Lifeshare at the forefront of the fightback against Spice and leading the way in supporting young people with complex needs.

We believe that all people regardless of race, creed, sexuality, gender, age, level of ability or HIV status are entitled to respect and dignity and should be afforded equal opportunities. We are a non-religious organization and have no political affiliations.

- Over 159,000 Christmas dinners have been served in the past 32 years from the Christmas Project.
- Lifeshare has been supporting people for 42 years.
- Over 13,700 volunteers have worked on the Christmas Project alone.

As of 21st July 2026, Lifeshare is saddened to see a steady rise in new faces forced onto Manchester's streets.

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Our latest six month update showed the immense need right now. We are now supporting over 350 guests every weekend! Thank you to everyone supporting our Respite Hub.

Loving God,

We pray for Lifeshare Homeless Project in Manchester, and for all who are homeless, lonely, hungry, or vulnerable in our city. Bless the staff, volunteers, and supporters with compassion, strength, and wisdom. May those who come to Lifeshare find warmth, safety, dignity, and hope. Help us all to be generous in love and practical care for our neighbours in need.

Amen.

Answers to last month's flower quiz:

- 1. Clematis**
- 2. Pansy**
- 3. Hyacinth**
- 4. Sweet pea**
- 5. Carnation**
- 6. Tulip**
- 7. Crocus**
- 8. Orchid**
- 9. Allium**

St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th September

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9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

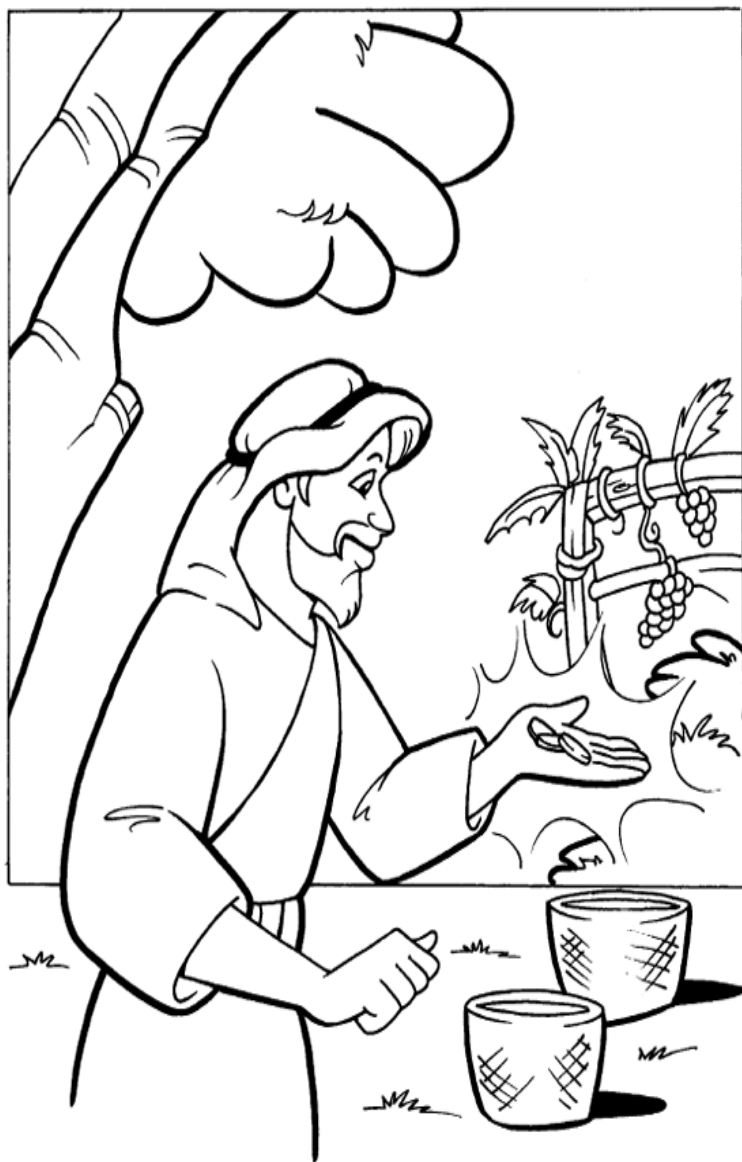
Proceeds to Lifeshare



A picture to colour

PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

(MATTHEW 20:1-16)



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A Bible Quiz



BIBLE RIDDLES



WHO AM I?

Match each Bible event to the correct person by writing the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. I was a tax collector before following Jesus. | _____ A. Adam |
| 2. I was the mother of Jesus. | _____ B. Solomon |
| 3. I wrote many letters in the New Testament. | _____ C. Joshua |
| 4. I anointed the first two kings of Israel. | _____ D. Paul |
| 5. I was wise and built the Temple. | _____ E. Mary |
| 6. I was swallowed by a great fish. | _____ F. Peter |
| 7. I denied Jesus three times. | _____ G. David |
| 8. I led the Israelites into the Promised Land. | _____ H. Moses |
| 9. I was the youngest son who defeated a giant. | _____ I. Samuel |
| 10. I was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. | _____ J. Matthew |
| 11. I built an ark before the flood came. | _____ K. Zacchaeus |
| 12. I interpreted dreams for Pharaoh. | _____ L. Jonah |
| 13. I received the Ten Commandments. | _____ M. Joseph |
| 14. I was the first man created by God. | _____ N. Noah |
| 15. I climbed a tree to see Jesus. | _____ O. Elijah |

Answers next month

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.

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 Castle Band - 285 3583