

PCC Report

St Mary's Church, Droylsden - a welcoming all-age community, growing and sharing God's love

St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of St. Mary and St. John.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector: Rev'd Alison Bailie until 30th June 2019. In a vacancy at 31st December 2019.

Wardens: Mrs Pat Catterall, Ms Beth Cutler

Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mrs Stephanie Rigg, Mrs Christine Withers, Mrs Susan Marsh.

Elected Members:

Mr David Artingstall, Ms Charlotte Burrows, Mr Keith Clayton, Ms Beth Cutler, Mr Paul Davies, Mr Christopher Iwaloye, Mrs Susan Marsh, Mrs Stephanie Rigg, Mr Jim Smith, Mrs Christine Withers.

Co-opted member Mrs Doreen Harthan (as Reader)

Clergy: Rev Nancy Alexander, Rev Sue Ball

The PCC had 6 regular meetings during the year. The PCC also held 1 Special Meeting relating to the sale of St John's building and the Section 11 meeting regarding the formal process for an interregnum

Several matters were discussed on a regular basis such as finance, maintenance, mission, safeguarding, our provision for children and youth, and deanery synod matters. Certain things should be mentioned specifically.

Ministry

Rev'd Alison Bailie left St Mary's on 30th June 2019. The parish then entered an 'Interregnum'. "Interregnum" is the term used to describe the period before a new parish priest is appointed to fill a vacancy. During a 'vacancy', the administration of the parish is the responsibility of the churchwardens. The vacancy was advertised with a closing date of mid November but there were no applicants. At the end of 2019 the parish therefore remains in vacancy with a new advertisement for the vacant post issued in January 2020.

During the vacancy we have been blessed with the leadership in worship of Rev'd Nancy Alexander (who became Associate Priest at St Mary's as her curacy ended), Rev'd Sue Ball who continues her curacy training, Doreen Harthan, Reader Emeritus and our ALMs Beth Cutler, Stephanie Rigg, and Christine Withers. Other members of the congregation have also helped to lead worship. We also thank a number of visiting clergy and staff from Manchester Diocese who have led our Sunday services.

We are grateful to everyone who is growing in their gifts and using them within our services, in our church family and beyond.

Buildings

St John's

The sale of the St John's building was agreed and at the end of the year we were awaiting a completion date.

St Mary's

Because St Mary's is in a vacancy the reordering project has been temporarily put on hold.

We have however extended the outside lighting of the building along the south elevation which has greatly enhanced the look of the building and improved security.

Mission and Evangelism

We have continued to consider and review our Mission Action Plan, with the following four priorities:

- 1 Serving our community, reaching out in faith and love
- 2 Being a multi-generational church enabling growth and care for all
- 3 Growing gifts, growing disciples, growing leaders, growing church
- 4 Developing the church building in order to facilitate and support community, school, worship and diocese use - in particular community use, as identified in priorities 1 & 2 above

The PCC have reviewed and revised the church's method of missional charity giving.

We continue to hold Messy Church, the Wednesday 'drop-in' and Tots Time which is appreciated and attended by local parents, both from within and outside church. The Silver Service for indoor and housebound members took place regularly through the year.

Our Christmas and Easter services were well attended, including a Family Carol Service, a Christingle service, Carols by Candlelight, a crib service and Midnight Communion. We were also delighted to host the St John's band Christmas concert on a Sunday afternoon. The event was a great success and will become a regular feature in our Christmas program.

Teaching and nurture

The PCC have followed the 'PCC tonight' training sessions at their meetings during the year.

Admission of children to communion

We also welcomed younger members of our church family as they were Admitted to Communion. We pray that they will grow in faith as they worship with us

Small groups

The home groups met fortnightly during the year to study the Bible and pray together and the Wednesday afternoon study group in church remains appreciated.

Links with School

We continued to work closely with St Mary's school in their twice weekly worship in church, Messy Church, and through the governing body as well as more informal links. We also have continued our links with Hawthorns and Aldwyn Primary School who packed out the church with their Carol Service.

Links with Community

The Droylsden and District Foodbank, in conjunction with other churches in the town, and with the support of the Town Team and many other local agencies has continued to run throughout 2019 with a large and committed group of volunteers.

St Mary's continues to have a representative on the Town team.

Finally...

2019 has been a challenging year with opportunities for growth and development within both ordained and lay members of our church.

We have continued to look forward in our ministry and mission, and to seek the growth of talents and gifts, lay and ordained, as we look to the future.

Our thanks go to our wardens, ministry team members, duty officers, support team and PCC members who have served faithfully and cheerfully over the year, supporting the ministry and mission of the church. I also want to thank the very many people who give of their time and gifts in so many different ways to ensure both that the church building is maintained, a warm welcome is extended to all who enter our building and the mission and ministry of the church flourishes and grows in many different ways.

As we look to the future, we must trust in the Lord that his plans for St Mary's will be fulfilled in His time and not ours. We continue to look to the Lord to lead us in developing our mission and ministry. We continue to ask God to lead and guide us, as we grow up in our relationship with him, as we grow together in our relationships within the church family and as we grow out to serve the

community around us and beyond, with the good news of Christ's love in word and action, seeking to be a **'welcoming all-age community, growing and sharing God's love.'**

Jeremiah 29:¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Mrs Pat Catterall: PCC Vice Chair

Churchwardens Report

Our report starts yet again with our grateful thanks to St Mary's support team for their assistance, encouragement, dedication and guidance in their various and numerous roles. Without their commitment and skill base our roles would be much more challenging. Knowing you have been there uplifting us in prayer and in practical ways has been a great source of blessing to us both.

We were saddened to learn that Rev'd Alison would be leaving St Mary's at the end of June. We held 'A bit of a do' to thank her for her ministry at St Mary's and to wish her well in her new parish. We were able to join Alison at her Collation and Induction service in July at St Leonard's Middleton.

As we entered a 'vacancy', the administration of the parish became the responsibility of the churchwardens. We also had to take responsibility for maintenance of the rectory which although empty needs regular visits. These visits have taken place regularly during the year and will continue until a new rector is in place. We thank other members of the congregation who help with this maintenance.

Another main role of churchwarden is as custodians of the building and 2019 has seen some challenges and developments.

Church interior:

All the main church light bulbs have been replaced and where possible with energy efficient options.

The church gas boilers have been serviced and a 3 year fixed fee maintenance contract set up.

The AV system has been upgraded giving greater reliability and clarity in speakers and microphones.

Church exterior:

The lower gutters have been cleared of leaves.

A leak in the Emmaus room roof was repaired with leaves being cleared from the gulley where the room extension joins the main church building and cracked roofing material made good.

A number of incidents of graffiti to church doors have been cleaned off.

The external lights along the south side of church have been extended and now illuminate the building giving greater security and visibility.

Church grounds:

Tameside MBC removed overhanging branches from the trees alongside Ashton Road.

Church development:

Whilst St Mary's is in a vacancy the reordering plans have been put on hold.

Mission:

St Mary's Mission Statement is: **"A Welcoming All Age community, growing and sharing God's love."**

The PCC continued to review the Mission Action Plan.

We have continued to hold 'Messy Church' and special thanks to the organising team and to the children and their carers who join us for crafts, a short service, fellowship and food.

Our 'Silver services' are well attended and much appreciated by those who cannot always join us on a Sunday. A Holy Communion service is followed by refreshments and fellowship.

We again opened church for 'Heritage Open Day'. This year we were able to share the journey of Barry Dunnett as he placed a cross on many of the burial sites abroad of those remembered on our World War 1 memorial in the chancel.

We were delighted to host the Christmas concert of St John's band in St Mary's. Held on a Sunday afternoon for the first time it was great success and hope it will become a regular feature of our Christmas celebrations.

St John's Building:

The former St John's Church building was put up for sale and at the end of the year we are waiting a completion date.

Local community links:

The Droylsden & District foodbank supports those in need in our community. Over 40 volunteers from St Mary's, St Martin's, Church of the Epiphany, The Dream Centre, Droylsden Methodist, St Andrews and St Stephens maintain a warehouse, the distribution centre at St Mary's and the various administrative tasks involved with running the foodbank. During 2019 it fed 1,038 people of which 505 were children. There is a permanent food collection point in St Mary's with regular updates of shortages displayed. The foodbank is a registered charity and affiliated to the Trussell Trust. For more information visit <http://droylsdendistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

With members of the church on Droylsden Town Team we support the community events held in the centre. We look forward to working with the new owners of the shopping centre for the benefit of the community.

GDPR:

The church complied with the requirements for the new General Data Protection Regulations.

Ministry:

We are blessed with our ministry team here at St Mary's both ordained and lay. Nancy (Associate Priest), Sue (Curate) Doreen (Reader Emeritus), Beth, Christine and Stephanie (our ALMs) have been called upon to cover many of our services whilst we are in a vacancy. We must remember that both our ordained clergy and many of our lay leaders have employment outside of St Mary's. We thank them for their dedication and service to our church and its worshipping family.

And finally....

As we enter 2020 we trust that the Lord will direct to St Mary's the one he has chosen to lead us into the future. We should remember that timing is in the Lord's hands.

Jeremiah 29:¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

We pray that each one of us will use our many and varied God given talents in service to each other, our community and our Lord.

Pat and Beth

Treasurers Report

I would like to start off in my usual way and thank everyone who counts the money and completes the cash sheets after each service on a Sunday. This work is not seen by many but without them there would be no accounts for me to keep.

Unrestricted donations through the envelope scheme, standing orders and the weekly cash plate totalled £29,133 (£30,065 – 2018). We also received a further £7,471 (£7,280 – 2018) in Gift Aid.

I am delighted to report that we have again managed to pay our parish share of £28,000 in full this year. For those that don't know, the parish share is the amount we are asked to contribute to the diocese each year and this largely pays for the clergy stipend, training, pensions and housing for the clergy. Our parish share is calculated by undertaking an annual headcount (usually in October) and an anonymous survey of personal income. It is therefore important that if you have little or no personal income that you complete an income form when reminded to do so, otherwise we end up being asked for more than we can afford to pay. Paying the parish share in full means we have managed to secure a 2% discount off the 2020 parish share which totals £600. The parish share for 2020 is £30,000.

Planned giving through the envelope scheme and standing orders is down by £624 compared to 2018 (and it was down in 2018 by £1,973 compared to 2017) which means over two years our major source of income has reduced by £2,597. The cash plate giving has also reduced by £308 when compared to 2018. Wedding income has also reduced by £1,519. These drops in income are not sustainable. We need to pray together that our income increases in order to meet our financial commitments and pay our bills whilst also continuing our Lord's plan for St. Marys.

In 2019 the PCC took the decision to change the way we donate to charities. In the past you will remember that we tithed 10% of our income and donated it to various charities. This amount was usually around £3,000. We took the decision not to tithe our income but we would continue to support charities through our coffee mornings and special one off Sundays where the cash collected on the plate would be donated to a specific charity. We also continue to support Jea Fe through Compassion. This has meant we have donated a total of £1,897 in 2019. We were also able to fund an event for the school where the children had the benefit of having a team from iSing Pop in the school for a week teaching them songs which they performed in the church. This event cost £1,600 and was funded by the use of a grant of £800 and also £800 from our Young Adults Education fund.

We did receive a legacy in 2019 of £7,131.13 from the estate of the late Margaret Russell. The PCC has decided to put this in to an unrestricted designated fund. This means we can keep the money separate in our accounts but as the legacy was unrestricted it means the PCC can decide how and when the money is spent. We have already spent £1,980 to extend the external lighting to the side of the church facing Manchester Road.

We have a beautiful church and it is necessary that we keep it in good order, and we rely on our own giving for the upkeep of the church building and services. With this in mind – if you are a tax payer and are not currently gift aiding please speak to me as the church can claim back 25% tax on any money you give.

Please join me in prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for his provision and for the generosity of our church members

Dave Artingstall Treasurer

Building Committee Report

As mentioned in last year's report the outside lights have been installed to the south elevation of the church. The lights are all LED type which are low energy and require minimal maintenance. They not only add to the security of the building but also improve the visibility of the church from the main road during the hours of darkness. The cost of the lights came well within budget.

The six small spot lights in the chancel, which have not worked for quite some while, have had the lamps changed from 70watt tungsten to 10watt LED which give equivalent light, saving energy and maintenance.

The low level gutters have been cleared of leaves also the valley gutter above the Emmaus room.

All the statutory maintenance is up to date.

Jim

Health and Safety Report 2020

We have had an accident free year in 2019 which is good news. Safety inspections are carried out at regular intervals and any hazards are dealt with quickly. Thanks to all for spotting potential hazards and reporting them to myself or the wardens.

Our statutory maintenance is up to date and service records are kept in the Health and Safety file.

As always our church is cared for any is a safe place to worship.

Jim

Safeguarding

I have attended 2 out of 3 of the Deanery Safeguarding Group meetings where Parish Safeguarding Officers help and support each other through the minefield that is Child Protection. St Mary's follows the Church of England / Diocesan guidelines on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults and also the guidelines on Domestic Abuse.

All DRB checks are up to date as well as the Safeguarding Training for the PCC and those involved in working with Children and Vulnerable adults within our church family. Accessing this training can be something of a challenge as often events are only organised within an Archdeaconry and not a Deanery once a year meaning they can be far flung and making travelling difficult.

Christine

Flower Fund Report

The flower fund was set up to receive donations in memory of loved ones and for those donations to be used to purchase flowers which are then arranged and displayed in church throughout the year.

Donations can be made at any time to remember loved ones on the anniversary of their birthdays, death or other notable date.

During 2019 there were 25 separate donations remembering loved ones. The Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2019 are shown below:

INCOME**EXPENDITURE**

Cash in hand brought

forward: £130.83

Donations received £480.00

Flowers purchased £527.50

Cash in hand

Carried forward: £ 83.33

 £610.83

 £610.83

The accounts have been examined by Alan Bray.

The flower team are a small but dedicated group and their artistry is much appreciated. If you would like to make a donation please speak to Ann Holland or Pat.

The Gift Stall

Once again due to receiving discount from CLC book shops we were able to make a donation to church funds, sadly our local shop in Stockport has now closed down, which means I will be ordering over the internet, so will need more notice if something special is wanted.

Barbara

The Wednesday Drop In

We continue to open the church for parents/ carers to come and enjoy tea and toast and of course join the children in church.

Thank you, Joan and Beth for all your help and of course Dianne who takes over when I am on holiday.

Barbara

Lighthouse

The older group regularly has at least six children attending. During 2019 we lost some of our regulars when Moses, Jasmine and Jacob relocated, but have gained new members who moved up from Bubbles.

We are using a resource from the Bible Fun Factory, exploring the Old Testament. There are ideas for craft and games included. But perhaps the best thing about these materials is the opportunity the group has to discuss the impact their faith has on their everyday life. The children continue to teach the leaders through their insightful observations and open mindedness. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." We can all take a leaf out of our youth's book and accept our faith for what it is - a gift of grace from God, mysterious and challenging.

If you feel you are able to join the team, speak to Stephanie, Kathryn or Sue. Full support will be given, you won't be expected to run a session on your own (unless you are completely confident)

and I promise you will be constantly surprised and delighted by the amazing children we have in our church family.

Many blessings,
Sue

Bubbles

Bubbles caters for the younger children on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during term time.

We start off in Church for the first part of the service before we start the session. We are following the Scripture Union notes in the Bubbles folder which teaches the Bible in an age appropriate way. We have enjoyed learning about creation, Noah building the ark, God's promise in the rainbow, Jacob and his family, the children are also learning about God's promise that He is always with us.

On Remembrance Sunday the children made poppies and laid them at the Altar. At Christmas we talked about Jesus's birth and the children made a Nativity scene that they could display at home to remind them of the real reason for Christmas. We also follow the Church calendar with activities that fit in with Easter and Pentecost.

The children all go in to Church, towards the end of the service to receive a blessing and then report back to the congregation about what they have been learning, some do speak but others lose their confidence when they get up to the front.

Thank you to Lindsey, Joanne, Beth and Joyce who give up their time to prepare and lead the teaching in Bubbles you are all very much appreciated and do a great job. Also thanks to Jenny who had to leave us due to family commitments.

If anyone is interested in helping in Lighthouse, please have a word with one of the leaders we are a friendly bunch and working with the children is very rewarding.

Diane Heywood and Margaret McCracken.

Tots Time

We meet every Tuesday during term time and we have a happy atmosphere where Grandparents, Mums, sometimes Dad's and carers can meet together and the children can play and join in the activities learning to share and socialise together in preparation for when they start their nursery/school life.

We start with a time of free play with the opportunity to make something on the craft table, which the children enjoy and at special times, Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas they can make a card to take home and share with their family.

After an hour of free play, we tidy up in preparation for snack time and we get lots of help from the adults and children too. It's good to see the children all sitting round the table and enjoying fresh fruit, toast and juice while the adults enjoy toast and a warm drink. Everyone joins together for circle time where the children learn a simple Bible truth through songs and choruses led by Sue and Margaret also nursery rhymes which are always popular.

In July we have an end of year party with a graduation ceremony where the children moving up to nursery/school receive a certificate and a Scripture Union book which explains to parents and children about moving on to the next stage of their life. A big thank you once again to Linda and Dave who do an excellent job making the graduation hats.

We had our Christmas party with 20 children and adults attending, they all enjoyed party food and I visit from Father Christmas. The children all received a Nativity book, chocolate and a card, and thanks go to Mother's union for their donation of £15 which helped towards the cost. At Christmas we gave a donation to Mission kids a Key 103 charity and during term time when tots is running, we give a donation of £10 a week to Church.

There was a sad end to the year when our dear friend Shirley passed away, Shirley always encouraged those involved in tots, she had attended herself with her grandchildren, and was always willing to step in and help when one of us was absent, she always helped with the leavers and Christmas parties and will be missed very much by us all.

A big thank you to all the tots team without you tots wouldn't happen, you all work so hard every week and because of you it all runs smoothly. Thank you to Marie, Linda, Beth, Joyce and last but by no means least Sue.

Diane Heywood and Margaret McCracken.

St. Mary's Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union was formed in 1876, when Mary Sumner brought together parents in her own Hampshire parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children. Since then it has grown to be an organisation of over 4 million women and men in 83 countries around the world and continues to encourage parents in looking after children, not only physically and mentally but also spiritually. From the outset, the Mothers' Union recognised that strong relationships and the role of the family, however defined, are crucial in building communities.

St. Mary's branch is a small part of this organisation. We have 26 members, 5 of these are Indoor Members, and we do our best to support the Vision, Mission & Values of the organisation. Last year we provided a New Beginnings Back Pack for newly released prisoners from our Manchester Prisons; Contributed to Welcoming Strangers, which helped to provide living accommodation for a family of Syrian Refugees in Bury. We raised £120 for the Summer of Hope appeal for countries abroad in need of hope and help. We have continued supporting our local hospital with toiletries and baby clothes and we were able to give small donations to Mums and Tots, Wednesday Drop In and a donation to the church towards our rent for the meeting room. Many of our members are involved in various aspects of our church life and its activities.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, except August, in the church room at 7.30pm. Our meetings start with a short prayer service followed by either an invited speaker or we join together in a shared activity. The theme in 2019 was Listen, Observe, Act In Step With God and was introduced by Rev. Alison at our January meeting.

Throughout the year we had three invited guests and four meetings which were led by our own members on various subjects. Our meal at Perugia Marple in June and the Christmas meal and entertainment at Fairfield Golf Club were enjoyed by members and friends.

We do not have a Branch Leader so we share the various jobs needed in the running of the branch. After one year of working together I think I can say we are doing very well. Whilst we are looking to increase our membership you do not have to be a member to attend our meetings.

Mildred Booth, Secretary.

The T Team

We are trying out our new system in the kitchen, having a rota for setting up and clearing away afterwards. It is being helped greatly by people returning their empty cups afterwards.

We welcome any gifts of biscuits and Fair Trade tea, coffee and sugar which we serve after the service, giving people a chance to meet and chat with others and hopefully make newcomers feel welcome.

Thanks everyone

Jill

Craft Group

We still meet on Mondays between 1pm and 3pm except for Bank Holidays and Silver Services, the latter most of the members attend and love anyway.

We have several new members totalling 16 ladies if everyone attends and many of them haven't knitted for many years so we make very simple articles. The group has made lots of garter stitch knitted scarfs, teddy glove puppets and little purses for shoeboxes. Some of us have also made more difficult items.

There's a lot more nattering than knitting – but we are a happy group. We have a break half way through for refreshments and even more chat.

If you are interested in joining, just turn up, we meet in the Church Room and pay 50p per week subs (no wool or needles required). This years subs raised over £230.00 for Church Funds and was handed in at the Christmas Fair – well done everyone.

Jill (any unwanted wool that can be donated will be put to good use)

Operation Christmas Child

I understand 2019 was our 26th year of St Mary's Church being involved with the Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas gift project. It is run by the Christian relief and development Samaritan's Purse. St Mary's Church has played a small part in this process each year just before Christmas. As usual we followed the pattern of informing people during late September and early October. This was done through our Church Diary, an OCC video during a service and a Saturday Coffee Morning. This gives people time during October to make a gift shoe-box or give fillers. The shoe-box Presentation Service is usually held on the first Sunday in November. The shoe-boxes and fillers are then transported to the OCC Local Warehouse by mid November for processing

This year the St Mary's congregation made up 141 shoe boxes, and provided lots of extra 'fillers'. There were also boxes from Droylsden Methodist & their tots group, Fairfield Moravian and Edge Lane Methodist churches which took the grand total to 280 shoeboxes. Children from St Mary's School also helped us load the OCC van with these boxes.

The St Mary's donations total reached £ 440.59 including £65 from Fairfield Moravian Church. Jill used £25 for fillers and we sent £415.59 to Samaritan's Purse for the work of the OCC. We did help other local churches (Fairfield Moravian, Droylsden Methodist, Edge Lane Methodist Church) with their boxes due to having no OCC Manchester warehouse. One of our group (Vanessa Cope) went over to Meltham to take some boxes and fillers, and John Sporne helped on the OCC Collection van travelling around Greater Manchester.

I just want to say a big thank you to John Sporne who has organised the OCC at St Mary's for the past 25 years, and to the Scouts and our St Mary's volunteers who helped during each year to provide fillers and boxes in church and in the warehouse.

The future is uncertain as the Samaritan's Purse OCC in Autumn 2019 drastically cut the number of warehouses in the Northwest, an area that stretches from Birmingham to Scotland and includes the Isle of Man. They failed to get a Manchester warehouse in 2019. Hence, Manchester and other Cities and Towns in the NW had to send their boxes to Liverpool or Birmingham. Our boxes would be mixed up with thousands of boxes from Liverpool & Birmingham.

OCC works by people willing to do their little bit in the big process of making it all work. This is the same for all charities relying on volunteers to make things happen, so as to help those less fortunate in life than themselves. In the case of the shoebox gifts it brings some joy into the lives of many children who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas. As John would say "we may consider it all done now we have sent the boxes off in the big lorries, but still more has to be done. When the boxes arrive at the Warehouse in each country they have to still be transported many miles to the partner churches to distribute to several orphanages, hospitals and homes of the children over a wide area." Consider the Ukraine possibly the largest country in Europe. The churches combined may request 90,000 boxes to distribute over hundreds of miles, so that children may receive a shoebox – a significant amount of work for those volunteers!

Although things may seem somewhat chaotic; God works His miracles in the little things in the lives of people who are working to do His will upon the Earth.
God is Good Always!

Keith Morgan

250th Manchester (St Mary) Scout Group

The Beaver Scouts have 15 steady members. They have taken part in a couple of sleep overs; one was at the "One Adventure" activity business on Greenside Lane. They have completed many badges and taken part in competitions, coming 2nd in the football competition. Sharon has taken over as Section Leader at Beavers and welcomed new assistant leader Paul – keep up the good work after taking over from Janet, whom we thank for her years of hard work and support! Janet is still involved with the group but is taking a step back from regular weekly section meetings.

The Beavers meet on Monday 6-7:30. New members aged nearly 6 to 8 are welcome.

The Cub Scouts

The Cubs have completed many badges; road safety, international, outdoor challenge, personal challenge, home help....and are currently working towards their disability awareness. Their district camp to Waddecar near Preston had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, but they had a great time over the weekend around Tameside and at the "One Adventure" site in Droylsden. Two of the cubs were awarded the chief Scout silver award before Christmas. They took part in district competitions such as 5 a side football and cooking. The section has 17 cubs and 4 adult leaders and James (a Scout that helps).

The Cubs meet on Thursday 7-9.

The Scouts

We currently have 11 members. Before Christmas the scouts took part in the district Dragon boat racing, cooking and football competitions. We have completed badges in sports enthusiast and global issues amongst others. We are currently working the Community Stage 1 badge, which

encourages the scouts to think about the positive impact which we can have upon the local community. 5 of the scouts will be attending the district summer camp in Poole. During the trip they visited Brownsea Island, where Baden Powell took the first group of scouts in 1907. Scout Leader Nick will be representing the group at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in America over summer. Nick has also achieved both his Queen's Scout award and his Duke of Edinburgh Gold award – congratulations, a massively impressive achievement!

The scouts meet on Wednesday 7:15 - 9. New members aged 10-14 are welcome

The Explorer Scouts meet on Sunday 7-9 but only have 8 members now and would welcome new members aged 14 to 18. They have been training for the Duke of Edinburgh awards as well as completing their scout awards. They have enjoyed many activities such as hiking and sledge/cart building.

There's never been a better time to get involved as a helper, if you would like a challenge, or are just able to spare 15 minutes at the start of a section night to make drinks/collect subs, please speak to one of the team!

If you would like to get involved and help arrange some fun activities/fundraise to help reduce the cost of activities, while being part of a fun and friendly team, in any way (occasional helper, fundraising committee, executive committee or on section nights), please let us know!

Chris Sampson

Group Scout Leader

5th Droylsden (St.Mary's) Brownie Pack

Another busy year over for our Pack with lots of activities.

In March we celebrated World Book Day. In April we made some Easter craft. In May we held our annual service at St Mary's Church with a theme of 'A Brief History of Guiding'.

In July we held an Open evening for all our Brownies and their families with an American theme and we had quizzes, hot dogs and doughnuts. We also had a silly sports night and Teddy Bear Picnic.

In September we started the new Brownie badge program with Communications Stage 2 and Unit Meeting Activities including Magic Moving Postcards, Kite Fighters, Magic Museum and Sensory Stories. In October we celebrated Halloween with a fun dressing-up party. In November we had a fireworks party, had a Pamper Night hosted by Lisa and made Christmas Craft.

In December we attended the Division Bowling night in Ashton. We also held a Christmas Party and held a Christmas celebration at St Mary's Church.

The Brownies completed several badges over the year, including Agility, Culture, Booklover and World Traveler badge.

We also had the enjoyment of several joint activities with our new Rainbow Pack which is being run by Catherine and Lisa. They joined us for our Annual service and fireworks night plus the Division Bowling night.

My thanks as always to Sally Taylor, Victoria Platt, Catherine King, Lisa Sutton, Jill Kennaugh and Margaret Moorcroft whose continued support keeps the Pack running smoothly(ish!).

Wendy Moorcroft (Brown Owl)

St Mary's CE School

St. Mary's C.E. Primary School received a SIAMS inspection in March 2019. The school was inspected under the new framework and received a judgement grade of good.

The key findings were

- The school's Christian vision, though to some extent implicit rather than explicit, has led to a deeply embedded ethos of care, compassion and respect for all.
- The school is very inclusive and all are encouraged and supported to be the best that they can be.
- As a result of the caring, compassionate ethos pupils behave extremely well, although they are not always able to relate their behaviour to Christian teaching.
- Close links with St Mary's church enhance collective worship and relationships with the local community.
- Religious education (RE) is well taught and pupils have a very good knowledge of Christianity. Their knowledge and understanding of different faiths and cultures is, however, somewhat

limited.

Overall, pupils and adults thrive in a safe and nurturing environment as a result of the exemplary pastoral care offered by the school, where, as one member of staff explained, 'All are treated as individuals and cherished.' I believe that this final sentence encompasses what St. Mary's C.E. is about.

Areas for development

- Make the school's vision and values and their roots in biblical teaching more explicit for all members of the school community and ensure key policies coherently reflect this vision.
- Develop more opportunities for pupils to learn about different faiths, beliefs and cultures in order for them to better understand global issues and be better prepared for life in a diverse society.

%EYFS Good level of Development	% Y1 Phonics	% KS1 Across Reading, writing maths EXS+	% KS2 Across Reading, writing maths EXS+
67	93	67	79

This year we had our usual Welcome Service on 3rd November to celebrate both, the children in Reception and other classes as well as the staff who had joined the school, since September. Our new members of staff are Mrs Hurdley (TA in Year 4), Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Hynes (both lunchtime assistants)

We continue to offer 30 hours free childcare for Nursery aged children, according to the government scheme. This year 20 out of 30 families took up this offer. The children enjoy the whole day and the lunches which are now served in the hall. These children are making good progress in readiness for Reception.

The children continue to attend the weekly services in church with either myself or Rev. Ball leading worship. The church theme for worship is now separate to the school theme to ensure that there is

no overlap of content and this does seem to be working more effectively. The themes are parables, Gospel Values, Faith in the media, God in pictures, stories of Jesus, Angels, Women and men in the Bible, as well as the Christian calendar events.

This year, our head boy is Kieron Ali and head girl is Daisy Healey. The prefect scheme continues to contribute to the excellent behaviour of the children and also the self-esteem of the children themselves

The financial situation has become tight due to the various cut backs in funding but we do continue to strive for best value at all times when purchasing and using resources wisely. Our service providers tend to be local businesses so we are helping the community too. We received a lottery grant which enabled us to purchase a climbing wall in the hall, redo the playground markings and improve the stage area.

The school produced three brilliant performances at Christmas from Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Foundation Play was called Sleepy Shepherd. Key Stage 1 performed the Shiniest Star. Key Stage 2 worked together every Friday afternoon for 6 weeks writing the script, making props and backdrops, learning songs to produce the Space Christmas Story.

We are using Kennedy's Dance Company to support our dance and drama curriculum this year. They are extremely professional and have raised the standard of performance with the children. Mr. Ken Lee has kindly volunteered his services again on a Monday afternoon to enhance our music provision. He works across school. The children enjoy his lessons and continue to make amazing progress in reading and developing a love of music. Year 5 and 6 will be going to a concert with the Halle at the Bridgewater Hall in March.

The church team of reading volunteers do a splendid job of encouraging the children to read and enjoy books. The extra reading practice with an adult really helps their progress.

We continue to work in partnership with Droylsden Academy and 3 other primary schools in Droylsden. Each term the head girl and boy meet their group from other schools to discuss planning events across Droylsden schools. This year all the schools are collecting for The Foodbank. Last year we decided on a sponsored run. KS2 cross country style and KS1 and EYFS laps of the playground with obstacles. It was a great success and we hope to do this again. Each term there is a maths and literacy quiz run by the Academy staff for the 4 schools. We came second in the General knowledge quiz in the autumn term. Four year 6 children have a challenging maths lesson on a Wednesday morning (8:30 -9:45) at the Academy. There have also been some sporting events such as the Droylsden Olympics for year 3+4, basketball for Year 3 and trampolining for Year 5+6.

Christmas is always a busy time for the choir. The choir has continued to further links with the local community – singing at Fairfield Court, Droylsden Town Centre, Aldwynians, Ryecroft light switch on and of course Church at the Silver Service. Though I am sure the highlight was switching on the lights with the mayor for Droylsden. The children were a credit to the school and sung their best to spread the Christmas message through songs and carols. The choir swelled to 40 and I was glad of Miss Harper's help. The choir raised money for FOP (Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva - is a disorder in which muscle tissue and connective tissue such as tendons and ligaments are gradually replaced by bone, forming bone outside the skeleton that constrains movement). An auntie of one of our children has the disease.

There were four residential visits last year : Robinwood Activity Centre in Todmorden for Year 6, London Trip for Year 5, an overnight camp for Year 4 at Linnet Clough and an adventure sleepover in Droylsden for Year 3. During the year, classes visited local places of interest as well as the theme park, Eyam, Manchester Museum, Eureka, Crucial Crew, One Adventure activity days. Nursery and Reception went to the zoo.

Our extended school provision has continued to improve especially in the range of activities we now offer both onsite and off. Using Sport's Premium Funding we have been able to employ coaches for example after school sports, football, cycling, climbing and dance fit. The usual in house activities continue to run as in previous years thanks to the good will of the staff.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank the PCC for all their support this year and hope that we can continue to work together for the benefit of everyone. The contribution from the church has gone towards the service level agreement to the diocese.

Thank you. Kathryn Hampson