

**January 2021**  
**THE DIARY OF ST MARY**  
**DROYLSDEN**

*A welcoming all-age community growing and sharing  
God's love*



**Associate Ministers**

**Reverend Nancy Alexander                      371 9667**

**Reverend Sue Ball                                      682 1439**

**Church Wardens**

**Pat Catterall    370 0039**

**Beth Cutler    285 1472**

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be  
constant in prayer"*

*ROMANS 12:12*

## **Services – January 2021**

**Face coverings must be worn, and social distancing observed**

**Services during January will be held at on Sundays 10.30 and can be found on YouTube on Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 1pm.**

**If you listen online and are having trouble with the sound, please try listening with earphones**

**(Google YouTube then search St Mary's Droylsden)**

**Any changes and updates will be announced on the website and where possible Facebook**

### **2020, a year to forget?**

And there it was, gone. The year of bubbles and social distancing. In some ways 2020 has flown by and yet it has also seemed endless. So many people are saying that it's been a year to forget. But there is also so much to remember and celebrate.

We can forget those months when pubs and things were closed and remember the glorious weather that meant we could spend entire days in the open air.

We can forget the supermarket queues and empty shelves and remember how many found the joy of growing their own fruit and veg.

We can forget the closed places of worship and celebrate that we found new ways of being church, many of which will continue in the future.

Who, though, can forget the lost jobs and lower incomes? But even that didn't stop the great British public raising millions of pounds for good causes such as Capt Sir Tom's walk.

For me, the main thing I want to forget about 2020 is the lack of physical contact with others. I really miss a big hug. St Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and Rome, urging them to "greet one another with a holy kiss." We are well used to doing that aren't we, especially during the sharing of the Peace. Will we ever be able to do that again?

Towards the end of the year, it seemed that there was light at the end of the tunnel as several vaccines were developed in record time. The first to be approved and rolled out was the Pfizer BioNTech. At last vulnerable people and front line workers were being immunised. Human

contact, for so long denied to those we love, is edging closer. It's close, but not yet here. There's a period of impatient waiting before we are released from restrictions.

It strikes me that this must be what the Hebrews felt like as they waited for a Messiah. The Emmanuel who would be their vaccine against oppression, their shot in the arm who would fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. Mary and Joseph were the first to be inoculated. They both knew their baby was the Son of God, the angels had told them followed by the shepherds, and the wise men. Then there was the wait for the child to grow up and become the Saviour of the world. It was close, but not yet here.

There's another comparison in that when it's available, we can choose whether or not to receive the vaccine just as we can choose to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. But then the metaphor breaks down.

Jesus' love is free for all, there's no charge for being saved. We don't have to fall into any category to be eligible, young or old we are all invited. We don't have to go back for a second dose, He keeps us topped up every day. When we receive Jesus into our hearts, we are truly released. There are no restrictions, no curfews.

As we begin a new year, let us patiently wait for that day when all the rules will be relaxed, and we can once again greet each other with a holy kiss. And SING!!

Stay safe, and may God continue to freely bless you.

Rev Sue

### **Here come the excuses...**

Since I last wrote, I've not covered many miles. A trapped nerve in my lower back was beginning to affect my right leg. Having a good break from strenuous walking has eased it and I'm getting back into it now.

Having said that, at the time of writing this, I'm almost 230miles from York with just a shade over 55 to go. My aim is to be done for Epiphany which somehow seems appropriate.

Rev Martin Henwood from Holy Trinity Dartford is praying for us. He asks that we hold the Church of England in prayer as the book Living in Love and Faith is launched. According to the blurb, "Living in Love and Faith sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change." There is a real possibility that it will lead to division within the Church around the world.

Lambeth Palace replied!! Not the Archbishop himself, of course, but it was good to get a response from his team.

"Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to write, and for sharing this most encouraging idea you have had to bless parishes, and to establish connections with other

churches during this time, when celebrating what brings us together has been more important than ever.

Your kind wishes and offer of prayer are warmly received by Archbishop Justin and the communities here at Lambeth Palace, and as such he is grateful to you for writing. If you would be so kind, we would welcome prayer for the Archbishop's three priorities of Prayer, Reconciliation and Evangelism and Witness – that God would continue to bless the work we are doing to champion and promote these ministry areas throughout the Anglican Communion, both abroad and closer to home.

Please too, be assured of our prayers and best wishes.”

Rev Sue

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

Heavenly Father,  
The year that lies before us will be hard,  
There will be difficult decisions that may cause distress.  
But we are determined.  
With Your help,  
To act wisely,  
Speak kindly,  
Act generously,  
And to forgive ourselves and others  
Any careless mistakes.  
Amen

## **Thank You**

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Tranter for the kind donation of the Christmas Tree for Church, in memory of their son Robert. We have made a real effort to be an eco-friendly church and bought one planted in a pot with the hope that we can plant it out and it will grow beautifully.

### **The Belarus Fund**

A small team of us at St Mary's support a small local charity The Belarus Fund, the following is a thank you in a Christmas card I've recently received.

'Thank you for your love and support for people in Belarus. Although we haven't been able to visit this year, all the money raised has got there safely and our volunteers in Belarus have kept all the projects running in a situation of increasing need. They have done a wonderful job.

Happy Christmas & A Healthy New Year.

Alan & Janet Bridgewater.'

John Sporne

### **Lifeshare at Christmas**

Once again, we supported this project which will feed and hopefully give some shelter, to the rough sleepers in Manchester, during the day from the 24th to the 29th of December.

The premises they now have are a lot smaller and with social distancing, it's not as easy as other years, I was given cash donations to spend and bought food and treats as well as underwear, toilet rolls etc.

I took along 56 porridge pots (all Home Bargains had in stock) these are particularly useful because they can be given out as people wait to be given a seat and a hot breakfast. I am going to be delivering throughout the year as usual, and if you are able to put some in your shopping basket I will gladly deliver, they are also on sale in Aldi 29 pence a pot.

Thank you once again, your support is much valued by Lifeshare.

May I wish you every blessing of Christmas and the strength to take us forward into what I sincerely hope will be a healthy new year.

Barbara

### **Cancer Research UK**

Due to the Covid virus there hasn't been the usual Race for Life to raise the much needed funds for Cancer Research that Diane and I have done for more years than we care to remember!!! However, funds are desperately needed to continue the vital research needed to beat this awful disease.

Inspired by Captain Tom, Diane suggested we walk to Hartshead Pike one hundred times in one hundred days. Each round trip took two hours, the first hour uphill.

We told friends and family in the hope they would sponsor us, and sponsor us they did!! Between us we raised £645 plus some gift aid on several online donations. We both want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored us.

We are still walking up to the Pike, there's not much else we can do at the moment is there?

Take care everyone. God bless,

Doreen and Diane

### **Church Funds**

Thank you to everyone who ordered pots of hyacinth bulbs and bottle lights off me. Donations totalling over £100 have been made to Church Funds.

Christine

### **2020 Diaries**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the diaries during 2020, every article has been really appreciated. I've had a number of letters and emails from people saying just how much they have looked forward the receiving a diary especially during this difficult year.

Christine



# Community Page

The Droylsden & District foodbank is here to help. For information on where to go for a foodbank voucher, please phone:

07473 452813

Your call will be treated with respect and in strict confidence

## **Knit a Simple Beanie Hat for the Homeless**

Double knitting wool and size 4mm needles

Cast on 110 stitches and knit (K) 1 purl (P) 1 for 15 rows.

Continue in stocking stitch (K 1 row P 1 row) until the work measures 15cms (6ins) from the cast on edge, ending with a P row.

Next row, K9, K2 together (tog), repeat until the end of the row. Next and every alternate row P

Next row K8, K2 tog, repeat until the end of the row

Continue like this, decreasing one stitch each time until you have done K1, K2 tog. Now P2 tog along the line.

Break off a long thread and thread all the stitches onto it and pull tightly. Sew edges together.

Happy knitting

Jill

### **Answers to December's Quiz**

1. Dismay 2. Angel 3. Turkey 4. Boxing Day 5. Sales 6. Sherry 7. Bethlehem 8. Jesus Christ 9. Greetings 10. Magi 11. Drummer 12. Frosty 13. Sleigh 14. HO HO HO 15. White 16. Rudolph 17. Aled Jones 18. Sprouts 19. Baubles 20. Snow 21. Star 22. Time 23. Donkey 24. Ribbon 25. Sold 26. Kiss 27. Holiday Inn 28. Cherubim 29. Blood 30. Deity

### **January's Quiz**

1. What word do the Scottish people give for the last day of the year and its celebration?
2. What day of the week was New Year's Day, 2019?
3. In which European country is it a tradition to jump from a chair right before midnight and also smash plates against friend's doors?
4. On New Year's Day 1993, which former country effectively split into two?
5. Who was found hanged in Winson Green prison near Birmingham on New Year's Day, 1995?
6. What name was given to the predicted computer meltdown at the beginning of the year 2000?
7. Can you name the President of Cuba who fled the country on January 1st, 1959, with the advance of a rebel army led by Fidel Castro?
8. Nicknamed 'the Granddaddy of American college football bowl game is usually played on January the 1st?
9. On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1881, Ferdinand de Lesseps began French construction on which great civil engineering project?
10. 'The ball drop' is a famous part of the New Year's Eve celebration in which touristy part of New York City?
11. 'Them All', which annual
12. Which English author, born on New Year's Day 1879, wrote *A Passage to India*?
13. Who wrote the song 'Auld Lang Syne'?

We would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this month's diary, without **you** there wouldn't be one .....

If **you** would like to contribute something to the diary, please contact:

Christine

christine.withers12@talktalk.net

Facebook

Enter St Mary's church on your FB page search bar and you will see our Facebook page

**St Mary's Church Website is**

**[www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk](http://www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk)**

**Church Flowers and Bookstall - Details from Church**

**Mothers Union - Details from Church**

**Tots Time (pre-school) - Diane Heywood/Margaret McCracken**

**Lighthouse - Bubbles (3-5yrs), Splash (5-8yrs) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Church Room**

**St Mary's Church of England Nursery and Primary School**

**Head Teacher, Miss K Hampson - 370 3948**

**250th Manchester Scout Group**

**Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - 07973739041**

**5th Droylsden Brownie Guides - 339 0016**

**Rainbow Pack - 301 4251**

**St John's Band - 285 3583**