

**April 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 – April 2021



**Maundy Thursday – Evening Prayer on YouTube  
from 6pm**

**Good Friday – Reflective Service at 10.30am and  
afterwards on YouTube**

**Easter Sunday – Holy Communion 10.30am and  
afterwards on YouTube**

**All other Services for April will be Holy Communion at 10.30 can  
also be found on YouTube on Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at  
1pm.**

**Face masks must be worn, and social distancing observed in  
Church**

**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 church website  
and where possible social media**

## **View from the cave. (1 Kings 19)**

I've been thinking a lot about Shirley these past few days. For those of you who didn't have the privilege of knowing her, she was a valued member of our congregation who now rests with Jesus after several battles with ill health. Despite what difficulties came her way, her strong faith and the hope that brings, meant she faced them with strength and peace. She literally shone with the Spirit within her and touched many lives with her thoughtfulness.

During one of her many periods of treatment she wrote a series of articles for the diary called 'View from the cave' which is where the title for this one came from. I'll explain the background. Elijah was the only prophet left alive after Jezebel had the rest killed. After an altercation with the prophets of the local god Baal, he was fleeing for his life. Exhausted by his long journey (during which he was nourished by an angel of God who provided fresh bread and water) he entered a cave for the night.

The next day, God asked him "What are you doing here [in this cave], Elijah?". Elijah answered that, although he had done his best to work for God, all the other prophets had been murdered and he was the only one left. He explained how frightened he was.

It strikes me that we have all been living in a cave for the past year, fleeing for our lives from an invisible foe. We have looked at the world through our windows, afraid of venturing out, wary of contact with others. Have any of us admitted to ourselves, never mind anyone else just how we have been feeling? Have we laid it before God when we have been at our low points? Many of you, I know, have been keeping in contact with others, ensuring they had everything they needed. Many of you have expressed concerns about someone's health or state of mind. Have you also been able to admit your own frailty? Or, like me, do you have the stock answer "I'm fine..."

Elijah admitted he was scared to leave the cave. How will we behave when all restrictions are lifted? Will we dash out, or be reluctant to return to the way things were? God told Elijah to "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Elijah went to the mouth of the cave but didn't immediately obey the Lord. A great wind blew up, followed by an earthquake and finally a raging fire. Still, he remained in the cave because he knew God was not in those terrible things. As we prepare to leave our caves, we are bombarded by news and noise about how things are, new spikes in other countries, issues with vaccine safety. It's easy to become overwhelmed with it all.

Then Elijah heard a gentle whisper that he recognised was God passing by. He pulled his cloak around him and stepped out of his cave, his place of sanctuary. Again, God asked him "What are you doing here [outside this cave], Elijah?" His answer was exactly the same. He was scared for his life. But he had trusted God to lead him out. The small whisper had told him when it was safe to move.

As we begin to emerge from lockdown, I pray that you are able to filter out the noise around you. Listen out for the small voice that will tell you when you are safe to emerge. In the meantime, you are all held in prayer. Remain assured that God knows each one of you by name and you are precious to Him.

Many blessings,

Rev'd Sue

With grateful thanks to Derek for allowing me to write about Shirley.

## April readings

**1st April Maundy Thursday:** Psalm 39, Exodus 11, Ephesians 2: 11-18      **4th April  
Easter Day:** Acts 10: 34-43, Mark 16: 1-8      **11th April:** Acts 4: 32-35, John 20: 19-  
end:  
**18th April:** Acts 3: 12-19, Luke 24: 36b-48      **25th April:** Acts 4: 5-12, John 10: 11-18

## Looking ahead

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Tuesday 20th April 2021.

If you want to propose or second anyone for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) your name must be on the Electoral Roll. The last date for adding your name to the current Electoral Roll is 4th April 2021.

If you would like a form to add your name please contact Rev Sue, Rev Nancy, Pat or Beth.

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**He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.' (Job 5:9)**

### ***Miracles***

*It's not always the big miracles –  
the thunderous, pulsating,  
ground-shaking ones –  
but those that are small,  
delicate, unheralded:*

*like when the sobs finally stop.  
Or when the anxiety begins to fade.  
Or when the blackbird decides  
that there is enough light  
to begin praising the new day.*

*It's when your broken heart  
eventually accepts  
that it can begin to heal,  
or when the delicate stem  
pushes through the dirt  
to discover that air and light are real.*

*It may just be  
to open your eyes  
after a night at the end of your rope,  
to find that your lungs  
are way ahead of you  
and never stopped breathing in hope.*

*It's not the big miracles,  
not the ones that shout  
and shine,  
it's the small miracles  
that are sent to show us  
the loving hand  
of the divine.*

### **Gideon Heugh**

Doreen shared this poem with me the day after I came out of hospital; and given what I've just been through, I feel like I've personally been witness to a miracle and the poem is so apt. For those of you who don't know, I unexpectedly took poorly with chest pains on 24th February; I called 111 who promptly arranged an ambulance for me. Following a night in Tameside, I was rushed to the MRI for emergency surgery - I'd suffered a tear in my aortic valve which required immediate treatment - so I underwent a Type A aortic dissection. I didn't have time to panic as it was all so quick but in the few days following the surgery, I was very poorly and I seriously worried about whether I was going to make it. My faith undoubtedly got me through and whilst I did have a couple of shaky moments when I wondered whether God was with me, a visit from the hospital chaplain helped me to refocus and remember that God was indeed by my side. I had to undergo a second surgical procedure on 6th March which I did have time to fret about but again, a timely visit from one of the chaplains helped me to stay calm and remember my faith. It's been a torrid couple of weeks; made worse by the fact due to Covid-19, I wasn't allowed visitors. Consequently, I've spent a lot of time with my own thoughts - my faith really did bolster me through the darker moments. It's easy to turn away from God when the chips are down but that's precisely the time to turn to him. I've been lucky enough to personally witness one of God's miracles and I am truly thankful.

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and best wishes; its meant a lot to me and given me the boost I needed. My recuperation is only just beginning but the surgeons are anticipating that I'll make a full recovery in time. Hopefully, I'll be back in church soon and I can thank God in His house.

Charlotte x

### **Operation Christmas Child**



This year 2020 at St Mary's Church, John received 22 boxes and box fillers which were collected by Blythswood on 11 November 2020. The boxes were taken to Hungary by lorry containing about 8,000 boxes. A further 54 boxes were taken to the Samaritan's OCC warehouses in Warrington and Leigh.

The St Mary's donations to OCC in Church reached £65, unfortunately due to the covid lockdown it had to be closed early. Online boxes and donations were also done by members of our congregation who saw the internet contact details in the Oct/Nov Diary.

God works his miracles in the little things in the lives of people who are working to do His will upon Earth.

God is Good Always!

Keith Morgan

### **Hope and Thanksgiving**

We all know that this year has been a different and on many occasions I'm sure, a difficult one in one way or another, many of us have been stuck inside and have found new (and perhaps resurrected) ways to pass the time. Perhaps you have learned a new skill or developed an old one. Above all I'm sure we have all put our trust, faith and hope in God to get us through. Eventually I'm sure many Services of Thanksgiving will be organised and take place in packed churches.

With these thoughts in mind, St Mary's Church would like to host a Community Day of Hope and Thanksgiving. An opportunity for Droylsden and Audenshaw to get together and share their hopes and fears from the last difficult year.

Have you taken up drawing, writing poetry, painting or photography? Have you written a prayer you would like to share? Would you like to take part in an exhibition reflecting on the

lockdown but looking forward with hope and faith to the future. Lockdowns eased, vaccinations done!

We have a tentative date of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, if you are interested please get in touch with a member of our leadership team or drop me an email – details at the back of the diary (please email if you can, as I'm at work all day), keep an eye on the website and Facebook for more information.

Christine

## **Hopes and Fears**

When the vaccine roll out started in January, there was a lot of excitement and hope for many of us but not for everyone for many different reasons. I had my fears because I have a severe reaction to penicillin and needed some advice. I got a prayer text off Barbara Joy at the end of January that was a nudge for me. It was Psalm 139: Search me O god and know m heat, test me and know my anxious thoughts. I then thought I needed to bring my situation to prayer, and it was amazing. The following day I got a text from church family members Margaret McCracken and Ann Holland. First Margaret asked how I was doing and when I told her my concerns, she reassured me that I should be OK, and that Matt Hancock was actually on the TV that morning telling someone who had he exact same concerns as me that the vaccine was safe. I then spoke to Ann and she was OK with the vaccine, she too has the very same reactions to penicillin that I do. We both know it's not the content of the new vaccine but it's the thought of a possible reaction that was concerning.

From then on, my fears ceased, and I felt more confident. I do believe my prayers were answered that day through Margaret and Ann, thank You Lord God.

I know my Heavenly Father has always been looking out for me throughout my life, in the good times and the bad, there are no coincidences in life only God-incidences. I remember one time many years ago when my first husband Brian and I together with my eldest daughter Joanne, only a baby at the time, went on holiday to Wales in a hired car. We were going through the country lanes in Anglesey, Brian hadn't looked at the petrol gauge for a while and when he did, discovered we were running out of petrol. In those days of course, there were no mobile phones and we just slowly moved into a lay-by just in time before we completely ran out of petrol. Unknown to us at the time, the car behind noticed that there was something wrong and two young men came to our rescue, that had a petrol can in the boot and offered to take Brian to the garage just down the road for some petrol. When they came back and put the petrol in the tank, those young men wished us happy holiday and went on their way. No coincidence.

That is just an example of the times God has worked in my life but there are many more. Some people don't always recognise when help is there. God loves us and just wants us to love Him and Jesus in return.

Love Gaynor.

# 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.

## Simnel Cake

### Ingredients

- 250g mixed dried fruit (a mixture of sultanas, currants, raisins and candied mixed peel)
- 1 [orange](#) , zested and juiced
- 500g pack [marzipan](#)
- 250g pack [butter](#) , softened
- 200g [light brown soft sugar](#)
- 4 [eggs](#) , plus 1 beaten to glaze
- 175g [plain flour](#)
- 100g [ground almonds](#)
- 1 tsp [baking powder](#)
- 1 [lemon](#) , zested
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp [vanilla extract](#)
- 100g glacé cherries , halved
- 3 tbsp apricot jam

### Method

- **STEP 1**

Put the mixed dried fruit in a [bowl](#) with the orange juice and zest and 2 tbsp water. Cover and [microwave](#) for 2 mins, then leave to cool completely. Alternatively, heat gently in a pan, stirring now and then until the liquid has been absorbed and leave to cool.

- **STEP 2**

Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Roll out a third of the marzipan and use the base of a deep 20cm cake tin as a template to cut out a circle. Wrap any offcuts and the

remaining two-thirds of marzipan and set aside for later. Butter and line the cake tin with a double layer of parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla (all in one go) and mix until well combined. Mix in the cooled soaked dried fruit and fold in the cherries.

- **STEP 3**

Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin. Top with the disc of marzipan, then the remaining cake mixture, and level the top with a spatula. Bake for 2 hrs. Check it's cooked by inserting a skewer to the centre of the cake, if any wet mixture clings to the skewer, return to the oven for another 10 mins, then check again. Cool in the tin for 15 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

- **STEP 4**

Brush the top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan and use the base of the cake as a template to cut out another disc. Place it on top of the cake and crimp the edges, if you like. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal-sized balls for the apostles. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the apostles in a circle on top around the outside, and brush them with a little egg too. Put under a hot grill for a minute or two until just starting to

## **Answers to March Quiz**

1.Humerus 2. O'Bama 3.Saint Albans 4. The Beatles 5.Versailles 6. The Bay City Rollers  
7.E.L.James 8. Alan Titchmarsh 9. Robin 10. Jupiter 11. Moon 12. Numbers 13. Lent 14.  
Stardust 15 C .S. Lewis 16. Humpty Dumpty 17. Frankie Laine 18. Henry Tudor 19. Valletta  
20. Krona

## **Easter Quiz**

1. Where does the name Easter come from?
2. Who was the last monarch to wash the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday?
3. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?
4. Who denied knowing Jesus three times before the cock crowed?
5. Which type of cake is traditionally made at Easter?
6. Why is this cake decorated with 11 marzipan balls on top?
7. Why is Easter Island in the south-eastern Pacific Ocean so named?
8. Which feast do Jewish people celebrate around Easter time?
9. Where is Easter Road Stadium
- 10.Which goldsmith produced jewelled Easter eggs for the Tsars of Russia?

Answers next month



**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April via Zoom**

**Limited to 30 places**

**Please check the church website or speak to Revd Sue Ball**

### **Diary Deadlines**

As always the deadline for the diary is the middle Saturday in the month unless there are school holidays looming and that means we need to alter it by a day or so to enable Beth to get into school to print the diary.

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](mailto: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**