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February 2024 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 0161 371 9667

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall 0161 370 0039

*'Arise, shine; for your light has
come, and the glory of the Lord
has risen upon you.'*

Isaiah 60:1

February Services 2024



4th February - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Colossians 1: 15-20 and John 1: 1-14

11th February - 10.30am – Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9: 2-9

**14th February – Ash Wednesday – 7.30pm – Holy
Communion**

18th February – 10.30am – Holy Communion

1 Peter 3: 18-end and Mark 1: 9-15

25th February – Morning Worship

Romans 4: 13-end and Mark 8: 31-end

**26th February – 12.00noon – Light lunch followed by Holy
Communion**

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

Will You be my Valentine?

This month we come to that great day of love and romance: Valentines Day. It may be a time for many to give cards (secretly or otherwise), or maybe a bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolates, or a romantic dinner somewhere nice.

February 14th is also another important occasion this year: Ash Wednesday. This is the start of Lent, when we reflect on our discipleship to Jesus, and consider how we might walk more closely with him. With it being on St Valentine's Day this year, perhaps we might think of it as a time to reflect on our loving response to God's great love. In 1 John, we are told 'we love him because he first loved us.' In Jesus he came looking for us and showed us the great extent of his love for us. How then, can we bring more of our whole selves to God, in love? Is there a part of our lives where we have not let God in yet? Just as we would want to be wholly present to those whom we love, so we want to be wholly present to God, as we live our lives in his presence each day.

The Bible is full of people responding to God in love: Miriam leading the children of Israel in dancing and singing in praise of God, David dancing with abandon before the Ark of the Covenant, the woman weeping at Jesus feet and wiping his feet with her hair, Mary pouring out precious perfume oil on Jesus' feet. They loved imperfectly, and incompletely, as do we. Yet the stories of God's great love for us abound throughout the whole Bible. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8)



Instead of asking ourselves what we can give up, we could ask ourselves: how can I love God more fully? And may we hear his voice in the depths of our heart that we, too, are deeply loved by him.

Rev Cath

Forward Planning

The Holy Communion Service for fourth week of the month is on Monday 29th January: 12pm for a light lunch followed by a service of Holy Communion.

Ash Wednesday – February 14th 7.30pm Service of Holy Communion, with opportunity to receive imposition of ashes.

Lent Course: Caring for Creation – an opportunity to explore how we can respond to the current environmental challenges, from a Christian perspective. The course runs over 5 weeks, and two times are available.

Wednesdays 11am at The Rectory, Dunkirk Street. Beginning on 21st February

Thursdays 7pm at St Mary's Church (Emmaus Room). Beginning on 22nd February

All welcome. See Cath for more details.

Prayer Tree

Please feel free to hang any prayer requests on the prayer tree at the front of church near the eagle lectern. Prayers may be asked for or thanks given.

You will find cards and pens there.



Bishop Mark Comes For A Visit!

Thank you to Mr Newall and the pupils of Year 6 for their fantastic account of Bishop Mark's recent visit to school.

After we sat down in the hall, we were surprised to see a man in a bright purple cloak. When we first saw him, we thought he was a wizard but eventually Mr Quinn explained that he was our bishop. We were shocked to discover that Bishop Mark is in charge of all of the schools in Manchester. He talked about his amethyst ring, his crook, and the duties he has as a bishop. His ring was beautiful; it symbolised his oath and he said how proud he was to be one of the many bishops in the world. Next, he showed us his wooden staff. It was made and given to him by a friend. It was built with a strong wood and a sheep's horn forming a curve. We know being a bishop is an especially hard job as he has to work with all of the schools in the Greater Manchester area and organises very special services. He led our in-school worship, and we really enjoyed his talk. It was fantastic to meet him, and his words made us all feel very special.

Thank you for visiting our school!

Nicole & Segun(Y6)

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All APCM annual reports need to be with me by Thursday 29th February please.

Thank you,

Christine (Contact details at the back of the diary)

Sunday School

Sunday School activities are now available in the Church Room every 3rd Sunday for children in year one and above.

Tea and Toast Drop In

Wednesday mornings during term-time from 9am. Call in for a brew and a chat and perhaps meet some new faces. Who knows what you might discover.

For more information have a word with Beth or Gaynor

Help restore Your Heritage

The fundraising continues towards the payment for the repair of the exterior wall, vandalised once again. So far £455.57 has been raised.

If you are able to support this fundraiser you can help to restore the heritage and memorial wall which our ancestors paid for.

The link to the GoFundMe page is <https://gofund.me/38086871> donations can be made anonymously, just follow the instructions.

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If you would prefer to donate directly to church, please call in to see us.

The Church Wardens and PCC

Christmas in Par

Par is a small village in Cornwall just by St Austell where I was visiting my daughter and her husband. On Christmas morning I went along with my daughter to a service at the church of The Good Shepherd.

The church was warm and the welcome warmer, the church was beautifully decorated and there was probably around the same numbers we would expect at St Mary's. A couple of ladies arrived one wheeling a pushchair which surprisingly contained a French bulldog, who I might add was extremely well behaved and obviously a regular.

It was a lovely service, and the clergyman homely and amusing, given the fact that his friend and area Dean had died that morning this must have been challenging.

As I said it's a small village and during his sermon, he mentioned that a Carol Service had been held in the local pub, and the landlord had said, that every day was Christmas day and of course he's right Jesus is with us every day.

I'm very happy to have found a spiritual home from home so that on future family visits I can look forward to Sunday morning worship.

Barbara Walton

Start the year with joy and laughter,

With Gratitude for Gods Blessings,

And with courage for the journey.

Ann Holland



Wishing you a happy, blessed and healthy 2024.

There are a number of updates as we enter the new year:

- **Subs** this year are **£30** and are due by the end of January. Please pass it to Barbara.
- As the weather continues to be wintery and cold it had been decided to **CANCEL THE FEBRUARY MEETING**. Many of us are less inclined to venture out in an evening over the winter months and so we will look to restart our meetings in March. If you have any preference as to a daytime or evening meeting, please let us know.
- There will be a **Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd February** with the proceeds going towards MU indoor members subs. If the funds raised are in excess of the subs the additional amount will go towards a MU project.
- You may have picked up from the notices at the end of the church services that for the next couple of months there will be no evening Holy Communion service on the 4th Sunday of the month. Instead, on the following days. **Monday 29th January** and **Monday 26th February** there will be a service of **Holy Communion at 12.30pm**. Prior to the service there will be a **lunch of soup and a roll at noon**.

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Everyone is invited to the lunch and service. A chance to enjoy fellowship and a meal during the day.

The craft class will continue to meet at 1pm.

We are mindful that Mildred has stepped down as leader and if we are to continue as a branch, we will all need to 'do our bit' whether organising meetings, being the MU contact or suggesting speakers.

We pray that God will guide us as we look to the future of our branch.

Pat-as MU member and Churchwarden

Thank You

As many of you know, Ray Burrows, our beloved husband, dad and grandad passed away late October, with the funeral being here at St Mary's on 1st December 2023.

As a family, we would like to thank everyone who sent us cards, flowers and offered condolences during this very sad time; it truly meant a lot to us.

Elaine, Charlotte & the rest of the family xx

Age UK



Following the Christmas Fair, I took the unsold paperback books to the Age UK shop in Stalybridge. They were delighted with the two boxes. I signed up

to gift aid too. On January 11th, I received an email saying that the proceeds from selling the books raised £119.04 (net commission and VAT) and an additional £29.76 from gift aid.

When thinking of having a clear out of 'rubbish' remember it could be a hidden treasure for somebody. It just takes a little more effort finding the right place than throwing it in the bin.

Kathryn Hampson



We raised a total of £130 for Tearfund instead of sending lots of cards to each other, well done and thanks to all who contributed. Tearfund does an excellent job supporting people who have very difficult lives.

Thanks again to you all.

Doreen

A walk on the Wild Side

Between Christmas and New Year, we spent a few days away with some friends in Keswick in the Lake District.

True to form the weather demonstrated why there are so many bodies of water in the area!

But undeterred we remembered the quote from Alfred Wainwright:



And so dressed in waterproofs and shod in walking boots we set off along the Keswick to Threlkeld Railway Path.

The trail re-opened in 2020, on the fifth anniversary of Storm Desmond. The trail has now been strengthened and made more resilient to future flooding. There are panels along the

length of the trail with information about local nature and wildlife, the history of the railway and the bobbin mill and the impact of Storm Desmond to the trail and local area.

Although a gentle walk, the river Grenta, which runs alongside the path was thunderous. The river was in full spate with the water crashing over the boulders creating white topped waves. Crossing over bridges we

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marvelled at how fast the water was flowing and there would be little opportunity for Pooh-stick challenges that day. The water had forced its way across some fields, and it was easy to see how Storm Desmond had caused so much devastation. There were numerous waterfalls cascading down the mountain sides.

We marvelled at the number of different mosses and ferns growing on one of the tunnel walls and how many different shades of green there were. In the brief respite from the rain, we listened to a bird's song but none of us could identify its call. As the clouds moved across the sky the tops of the hills were revealed or hidden, patches of blue sky appeared but quickly disappeared. We saw the first snowdrop and primrose, the copper beeches and moss laden branches.

During our walk we were stopped by a young lady. She had an anorak on and trainers and had large headphones over her ears. Her question was: 'Do you know if this walk gets any better as it's very boring'. We asked her what she wanted. 'To climb up a mountain 'she said. We advised her that there were no mountains on this railway line! As we walked on, she put up her umbrella.

Perhaps if the young lady had worn the right clothing, dispensed with her umbrella, and taken off her earphones, she might have had the opportunity to see and hear her glorious surroundings. Marvelled at the beauty and forever changing nature about her and been in awe of God's creation as we were.

We prayed she never tried to climb a mountain.

Pat and Roy

The fiery sun, tells of a glorious God,

The rolling sea, tells of a powerful God,

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The deep brown earth, tells of a nurturing God,

The drifting air, tells of a gentle God.



One of My Favourite Hymns

How Great Thou Art

As most of you will know by now, I love watching Songs of Praise, recently How Great Thou Art was one of the songs that was sung.

Then reading my Daily Bread prayer resource, the entry for New Years Day was headed How Great though Art!

As it says in Genesis 1, its not and never was intended to be a scientific explanation of how the world was created, but a revelation of how great God is. It is God's first creation.

God holds us accountable for our stewardship of this sacred trust, secondly as the designer and developer of human life, God alone knows how relationships work.

Prayerfully consider what God has made and done in our lives so while it's free to us, enjoy Gods creation, it's all around us.

I will always remember being on a walk from church and Rev, Michael Williamson and looking down on some sheep with their lamb. One lamb strayed from its mother, and we all watched. Eventually the lamb and mother were reunited, and we all clapped.

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Rev Michael said to us that all this is God's creation. What a wonderful day that was.

So, go out and enjoy God's Creation, while you can. We all need to get outdoors more if possible.



Daily Bread is a very good resource, pick one up at the back of church.

Gods Blessings to you all in 2024

Ann Holland

Droylsden & District Foodbank 2023

Droylsden & District Foodbank has now been in operation since December 2013.



2023 has seen a marked increase in the number of vouchers fulfilled and the number of people fed.

During 2023 we fulfilled 723 vouchers which was a 33% increase on 2022. The total number of people fed was 1859, a 28% increase on 2022. Included in this total were 729 children, an increase of 10% on the previous year.

The main reasons for clients requiring the support of the Foodbank continues to be changes and delays to welfare benefit payments. Other reasons include low income, debt, ill health, homelessness and domestic abuse. We have seen an increase in the number of people in work who are being referred to us.

The permanent collection point in Tesco Droylsden is well supported by shoppers and the annual national collection at the store provides a boost to our stock levels.

The local churches continue to support us with donations as do the local schools at harvest time and Christmas. Businesses and individuals also

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donate food and personal hygiene items during the year. A local company donates toilet rolls on a regular basis.

Despite the regular donations it has been necessary during the year to bulk buy certain food items as demand has not been met by donations. The cost of these purchases has been met by cash donations and from cash reserves. The total weight purchased was 3,335 kgs. The stock recorded into the warehouse during 2023 was 12,347 kgs and stock out was 11,675 kgs.

After 10 years the Droylsden & District Foodbank continues to be supported by the community and remains an integral part of emergency food provision throughout the area

2023 has been a challenging but rewarding year for all connected to the Foodbank. Wider publicity has thrown a spotlight on food poverty and the cost-of-living challenges have seen an increased awareness and take-up of the support we provide. Droylsden & District Foodbank has met the recent increasing need and will continue to serve our community.

Alongside the Trussell Trust we look to a future where all can afford the essentials and there will no longer be a need for Foodbanks in the UK. Thank you to all at St Mary's who have supported us in any way during the year. Our permanent collection point is in the church room and our stock is currently low on:

- Carton milk,
- carton fruit juice,
- pasta sauces,
- cordial,
- toothpaste,
- soap.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Pat



As a grassroots charity with over 4 million members in over 80 countries, Mothers' Union **works alongside local communities** through its worldwide membership, projects and programmes.

By understanding the needs of individuals and communities at a grassroots level, we are able to build **effective policies** which can have a real and lasting positive impact according to the specific needs of different communities across the world.

We then **advocate and campaign** to see these changes become reality.

With a powerful voice to call for change, Mothers' Union advocates and campaigns at a local, national and international level. We do this by:

- Informing, resourcing, and mobilising our **members, supporters, and the public** who are passionate about positively impacting issues of social justice at all levels.
- Engaging, informing, and communicating with **governments and decision makers** on issues that matter to communities across the world.
- Collaborating with other key **charities and organisations** to help bring a united voice for change.

Mary Sumner was the founder of The Mothers' Union, and this is her prayer:

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The Mary Sumner 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.



St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd February

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room

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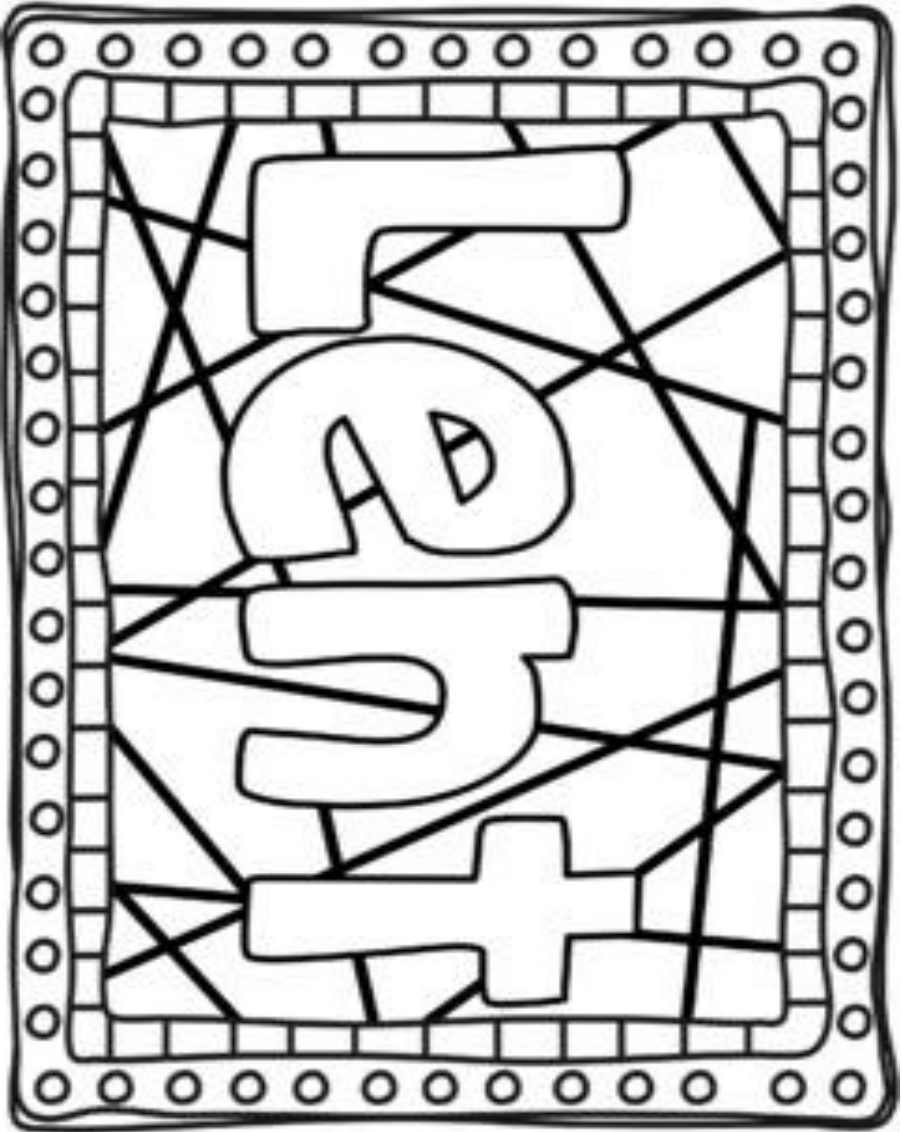


All Welcome

Proceeds to Mothers' Union

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

A Picture to Colour



Read Matthew 4: 1-11

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

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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, Keith Clayton, Paul Davies (Secretary), Doreen Harthan, Ann Holland, Jim Smith, Barbara Walton.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Susan Marsh, Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers

Sides People

Maureen Allison, Elaine Burrows, Carole Clayton, Joyce Cox,
Gaynor Kirby, Stephen Marsh, Ellen Walsh

Treasurer: David Artingstall, 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

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - 07973739041

5th Droylsden Brownie Guides - 339 0016

Rainbow Pack - 301 4251

St John's Band - 285 3583