



January 2022 THE DIARY OF ST MARY'S DROYLSDEN

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

Associate Minister

Reverend Nancy Alexander

371 9667

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall

370 0039

Beth Cutler

285 1472

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be constant in prayer"*
ROMANS 12:12

In line with the Governments new COVID guidelines, face masks must be worn, and social distancing observed in Church

For the time-being, refreshments will continue to be available in the Emmaus Room after the service.

Any changes and updates will be announced on the church website and where possible social media

January Services



2nd January 10.30am Holy Communion

9th January 10.30 Holy Communion

16th January 10.30am Morning Worship

23rd January 10.30am Holy Communion

30th January 10.30am Holy Communion

Readings for January

2nd January: Ephesians 3: 1-12 and Matthew 2: 1-12; 9th January: Acts 8: 14-17 and Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22; 16th January: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 and John 2 1-11; 23rd January: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a and Luke 4: 14-21; 30th January: Hebrews 2: 14-end and Luke 2: 22-40

Another New Year

I hope you have all had a lovely, peaceful and restful Christmas.

Well, here we are again, 2022, another New Year! A time to reflect on what has passed and to look forward with Hope to this New Year and all it may offer. What's the saying? *"Out with the old, in with the new"*! A chance to try something different, set new goals or make a change in our lives, maybe that diet or just something we hope will have a positive impact on our lives.

I don't know about you, but I have never been one to set new year's resolutions, I learnt very early on that making what inevitably were unrealistic resolutions meant that I usually broke them within a short period of time – which often left me feeling disappointed with myself, which is the opposite of what a resolution is meant to do isn't it!

We have just celebrated Christmas - hopefully for you this was a joyous time, but for many sadly it will not have lived up to the ideals and unrealistic expectations that Christmas needs to be just perfect. The best decorations, the right gifts, the perfect meal, all unrealistic to the point that it's meaning is lost amongst the pressures to get the day just right. At Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift given by God to us all, in His Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, sacrificed on the cross so that

we could be forgiven. No matter how we think we have messed up, when we turn to God and offer up our burdens and ask for His love and forgiveness, we are loved, and we are forgiven. It's that simple and uncomplicated.

When you think about it, we don't have to wait until midnight on 31st December to start afresh. Having faith is like a new start, every day. As God's children we are assured of His love, despite our failings, (or broken resolutions!) because He loves us unconditionally and He forgives us. One of my favourite hymns goes "*New every morning is the love*" taken from Lamentations 3. Verses 23-24 "*Great is His faithfulness, His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, the Lord is my inheritance therefore I will hope in Him*".

I pray this year that the Lord will grant us all His peace, knowing we are loved and that we may experience His mercies afresh each morning by His grace.

May God richly bless us all

Nancy <><



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 organisation, Samaritan's Purse. This year due to Covid restrictions we have asked for donations to mostly be made online to 2 charities: Samaritan's Purse and Blythswood. St Mary's Church has played a small part in this process each year just before Christmas, and this is our 28th year.

Thank you to all who made gift shoeboxes, provided fillers and gave donations online or in church again this year. A special thank you to Jill and John who have put so much into this charity project for many years. .

This year 2020 at St Mary's Church we received 108 boxes and a further 40 boxes from Edge Lane Methodist church. These were collected and taken to the Samaritan's OCC warehouses either in Chorley or Birmingham.

The St Mary's donations to OCC in St Mary's Church reached an amazing £ 185.34 this year, and we send a big thank you to all who have contributed.

Online boxes and donations were also done by members of our congregation who saw the internet contact details in the Oct/Nov Diary.

OCC Samaritans charity works because people like us are willing to do their little bit as part of the bigger process. I guess 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. 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." The churches combined may then distribute boxes over hundreds of miles, so that children may receive a shoebox – a significant amount of work for those volunteers!

Although during 2021 more changes and restrictions were faced; God continues to work His miracles during these desperate times in the little things in the lives of people who are working to do His will upon Earth.

God is Good Always!

Keith Morgan



Lifeshare at Christmas

Many thanks everyone for once again for supporting Lifeshare at Christmas, as we have done for over 30 years now.

I have received lots of gifts of clothing, food, chocolate (always welcome) and our church collection was a very generous £132.00.

St Johns Band Concert has included a retiring collection for this project for many, many years, and the Bands devoted fans donated a further £77.00 making a grand total of £209.00. This money will be spent on warm clothing, such as hats, socks and gloves I have already ordered 30 Pairs of boxer shorts (again always welcome) believe it or not I usually take around 100, toilet rolls.

The Christmas Project will run from 23rd to the 30th of December, and they are open from 7am – 8pm providing desperately needed support when other agencies are closed.

Once again thank you all, I hope you have all enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and I pray 2022 will see us all healthy and most importantly together in worship.

Barbara Walton

A Christmas Poem – something to reflect upon as you...

Pack away the tinsel and the baubles

And the tree

Read again, the Christmas cards

And think of what may be:

Think of what the Christmas message

Means to all mankind

And make the world a better place,

Where all have peace of mind.

By Joyce Clement

(a late much loved godmother and

friend to the Hampson family

From Kathryn Hampson

Carols, Concerts and Children

Some of the joys of Christmas's past have been the opportunity to welcoming people of all ages to join us in celebrating Christmas in St Mary's.

Last year gave us little opportunity to do this but we are thankful that this year we were able to open up more and share the joy of singing carols and Christmas songs across the generations.

On the afternoon of Sunday 12th December, we were delighted to host St John's brass band for their Christmas concert. Their breadth of music pleased all those who came, and the mince pies and mulled wine were also welcomed. Both church and band are grateful that we can work together and maintain the longstanding relationship. I am sure that 2022 will see yet another uplifting Christmas concert.

The following day were celebrations of a different kind. Again, a longstanding relationship was maintained when we welcomed the children and staff from Aldwyn Primary School for their carol service. Split into two separate services this year and with no parents present because of covid restrictions, the services were as joyful as ever. The children sang with gusto and delivered their readings with confidence. Using our Advent Wreath, they were able to share the lessons they had learned the previous week in school about the wreath. When asked what

they thought about when the word 'Christmas' was mentioned a couple of their comments were 'happiness' and 'giving as well as receiving'. What wonderful thoughts from ones so young? For some of the staff this was their last school carol service as they move towards retirement, but I am sure that in future years they will be a part of the congregation.

Tuesday saw St Mary's school choir singing in Droylsden town centre. The shoppers are always delighted to see the children performing in the heart of the community of which St Mary's Church plays such an important part.

Wednesday saw St Mary's school hold their carol services in church. Again, no parents, but that did not stop the children from enthusiastically discovering 'Who's the most important part of Christmas'. Was it the angels? Or was it the shepherds? Was it the kings? I'm sure you know! As ever the singing matched the joy of the services and 'Midnight' is one of the school's favourite Christmas songs.

Midnight –
 there's the strangest feeling in the air tonight,
 There's something going on, but I can't make it out,
 I wonder what it's all about.

Tonight's events were planned in heaven,
 The greatest story ever penned.
 Heaven and earth have come together,
 And life has come to Bethlehem.

I am sure that anyone who took part in any of the events above felt that there was something going on which had been planned in heaven and that here on earth, we were able to share in the love and joy of the Life that came to Bethlehem

Pat



Mothers' Union

Most members of the Mothers' Union met in Church on 7th December for our annual pre-Christmas celebration. Normally the celebration takes place at a restaurant but owing to Covid we had decided to cater for ourselves at St. Mary's. It was a most enjoyable evening and included a buffet meal followed by quizzes and lots of prizes...and Carols of course.

Maureen Alison and Ann Holland deserve much appreciation for their work in preparation for the evening.

Meryl Crummack was enrolled as a member in September. Because of Covid it was our first meeting since March 2020!

We were very sad to have lost two of our members who past-away in 2021: Alice Curtiss, a member for 33 years and Margaret Smith, a faithful member of our committee. We appreciate all they did for our branch of the Mothers' Union.

Our condolences go to Jean Casewell whose husband died suddenly in December.

We are regularly receiving emails from Andrea at Mothers' Union office, Church House. She is keeping all branches informed of any changes which affect us as members. Now we have commenced our monthly meetings any information we receive will be passed on to you at our meetings.

The Mothers' Union December Newsletter (cost 30p) has now been printed by Beth and each member should have received a copy.

Mothers' Union are streaming midday prayers on the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/MothersUnion. More online resources can be found on www.mothersunion.org

The meeting in October decided that we would not meet in January as the weather is so unpredictable. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 1st February 2022 in the Emmaus room **at our new time of 7pm**.

We pray that all our members and friends and those they hold dear will have a Happy New Year.

Please don't forget MU Membership is due by the end of January and for 2022 is £25 – Barbara Walton is collecting it.

In these unsettling times I find this poem to be very appropriate. Mildred

I dream a world where man
 No other man will scorn,
 Where love will bless the earth
 And peace its paths adorn.
 I dream a world where all
 Will know sweet freedom's way,
 Where greed no longer saps the soul
 Nor avarice blights our day.
 A world I dream where black or white,
 Whatever race you be,
 Will share the bounties of the earth
 And every man is free,
 Where wretchedness will hang its head

And joy, like pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind
Of such I dream, my world!

By Langston Hughes
American poet, social activist, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri.

Rev Sue's Licensing

On Sunday 12th December I was very fortunate to be able to attend Rev Sue's Licensing at her new Parish of St John's, Read and St Peter's, Simonstone.

St John's Church is a beautiful traditional village church, and we were made very welcome by the Church Wardens. On the window ledges of the beautiful stained-glass windows there were Christmas trees, decorated to represent The Twelve Days of Christmas. (Pat made her first note of the night!)

The service itself was beautiful, enhanced by music played on the organ and accompanied by a reasonably large choir in traditional robes. One of the hymns was Do Not Be Afraid and regulars at St Mary's will realise that the music stops before the end of the hymn on our ipod and believe it or not I was so surprised when it didn't!!!! Old habits die hard.

Sue will be missed here at St Mary's but if her Licensing Service is anything to go by, she has been welcomed with open arms by her new

congregation and it goes without saying we know she's going to be brilliant. Please remember her in your prayers with love every now and again, as I'm sure she'll remember us.

Christine



**We cannot see ahead, as God can see
But if we take him – daily as our guide
Whatever comes, of joy or sorrow, we
Can never fall while walking by His side.
He wisely veils the future from our sight
Giving us strength sufficient for the day.
Through joy-filled morning or darkest night
He leads us, step by step along life's way**

With thanks to Vivian Shaw

A Little Christmas Quiz Answers

Christmas Carols and Songs

Each set of initials is the clue to either a Christmas carol or song.
Answers in January's Diary.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. DDMOH | Ding Dong Merrily on High |
| 2. GRYMG | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen |
| 3. WSWTFBN | While Shepherd's Watched Their Flocks ... |
| 4. MBC | Mary's Boy Child |
| 5. DTHWBOH | Deck The Halls With Boughs of Holly |
| 6. OCAYF | O Come All Ye Faithfull |
| 7. HTHAS | Hark the Herald Angels Sing |
| 8. MAW | Mistletoe and Wine |
| 9. ISMKSC | I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus |
| 10. WWYAMC | We Wish You A Merry Christmas |
| 11. THATI | The Holly and the Ivey |
| 12. WTKOOA | We Three Kings of Orient Are |

13. SNHN	Silent Night, Holy Night
14. SATWS	See Amid the Winters Snow
15. OIRDC	Once In Royal David's City
16. OLTOB	O Little Town of Bethlehem
17. AIAM	Away in a Manger
18. AWT	A Winter's Tale
19. IWICBCED	I Wish it Could Be Christmas Every Day
20. HYAMLC	Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
21. RATCT	Rocking Around the Christmas Tree
22. DTKIC	Don't They Know It's Christmas
23. TTDOC	The Twelve Days of Christmas
24. TFN	The First Nowell
25. RTRNR	Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer
26. WITA	Walking In The Air
27. SCICTT	Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

With thanks to Jean Driver.



An Epiphany picture to colour – *“They offered him gold, frankincense and myrrh” Matthew 2 v11*

Deadline for the diary is always the 2nd weekend of the month unless there are school holidays when articles are required as soon as possible please.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this diary, without YOU it wouldn't be possible. If you would like to contribute to future publications, please contact me by email:

christine.withers12@talktalk.net

Telephone 0161 371 8825

Who we are:

St Mary's Church Website is

www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk

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) 2nd and 4th 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