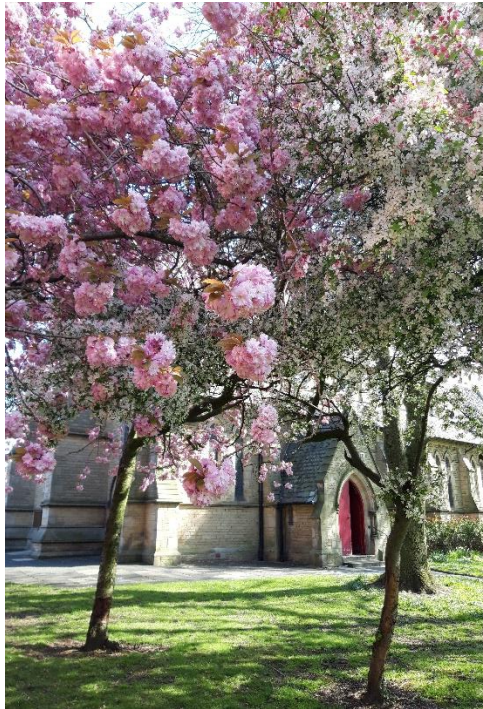


July 2021

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 – July 2021

All other Services for July 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

Mark's Gospel

The Church of England (and other denominations too) uses a document called the Lectionary to suggest readings to be used at every service. There are three parts to it, each taking a year to work through. We are currently in year B, more specifically in Ordinary Time for year B, and the church is decorated with green. The Gospel readings are from Mark and I thought it would be good to learn a little more about who Mark was.

From the book of Acts, we know that his Jewish name was John, but that he was known as Mark which was the Latin version (Acts 12:25, 13:5; and 15:37). He was not one of the twelve Apostles and possibly never met Jesus, but his family were Jewish Christians. His mother was called Mary and she had a room large enough to hold meetings (Acts 12: 12). John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas (Col 4: 10) and he accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their journeys. At one point, they fell out with each other and went their separate ways, but later reconciled their differences (2 Tim 4:11, Philem 24).

John Mark (I'll just use Mark from now on) was also close to the apostle Peter who called him 'my son' (1 Peter 5:13). This is recorded by early historians, Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias. They all speak of Mark as the interpreter or mouthpiece of Peter, who accurately wrote down his memories. These writings became the Gospel of Mark. Later, Mark founded the Church in Egypt and he became bishop of Alexandria, an important center of trade and power during ancient times. He died there sometime between the years 68-74 AD as a martyr for his belief in Jesus.

Literary analysis shows that the book of Mark was the first to be written and was referenced by Matthew and Luke when they were writing their accounts. It is the shortest Gospel and very factual. It has a number of distinctive features that set it apart as a unique account.

First, Mark especially emphasises the timeliness of Christ's actions. The words 'at once' or 'immediately' appear many times throughout his account, showing Christ's unhesitating commitment to his earthly mission.

Second, reading Mark, you will notice that many of the chapters begin with phrases that suggest a link to the previous chapter (egs Again Jesus began to teach, ch 4, Jesus left there, ch 6, Jesus then left that place, ch 10). This illustrates the completeness of Christ's earthly ministry, there is no break, it is a continuous series of acts of faith and service.

Finally, Mark also mentions the word "Gospel" more times than any of the other Gospel writers. A search of the website Bible Gateway shows that he mentions it 5 times, Matthew twice and John only once.

You might want to read Mark's Gospel for yourself, especially if you have missed a Sunday service during the summer. It's quite short and you may be tempted to read it through in one sitting. But I'd like to suggest you take time over the pages. Read it slowly, allowing time for the events to sink in. Read it thoughtfully, how does it relate to your situation? Read it prayerfully, asking God to reveal the truth. Read it responsively, how will what you have read impact on your life going forward?

The word 'Gospel' literally translates as 'Good News'. When you read Mark's Gospel, you might well find that the words reveal the best news you've ever heard!

Rev Sue

Readings for July

4th July: 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 and Mark 6: 1-13 **11th July:** Ephesians 1: 3-14 and Mark 6: 14-29 **18th July:** Ephesians 2: 11-end and Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end **25th July (James the Apostle):** 2 Corinthians 4: 7-15 and Matthew 20: 20-28

A Hard Days Work

Our church grounds maintenance day dawned with a little drizzle but thankfully not with the heavy rain of previous days.

We were delighted to welcome both long standing and new members of our church family to help with the plans we had, and Adrienne from Tesco Droylsden their Community Champion who besides working alongside us, provided waste bags and a donation towards our costs.

Prior to the day, we had bought and had delivered, bags of compost and the mix to secure the noticeboard posts.

And so the work began. Split into teams to cover the different areas we needed to work on, and to keep us covid secure, we set about our tasks.

- The rose beds were weeded and compost spread around each bush. The Christmas tree was replanted in a more secure position and we will see if it survives until this Christmas.
- The ivy which had wound its way around the wall and gate post was ripped up and revealed

a matching post and pristine wall. There were a huge number of bags needed to hold the removed foliage.

- The north path was weeded, de-mossed and swept.
- The red door and inside doors had a good wash down.
- The car park was weeded and all the rubbish removed.
- We had decided to enhance the church surroundings and the four community flower troughs were planted with vibrant bedding plants.
- All the paths had a weed and brush and general tidy and grids cleaned out.
- And finally the noticeboard which had previously stood alongside Ashton Road was reinstalled at the Church Street entrance.

An enormous amount of work was completed on the day, alongside the preparation beforehand and the tip runs after the event.

The picture below shows most of the team but there were others who had joined us to share in the tasks of the day.

A huge thank you to all those who donated towards the costs of the day and to everyone who joined us to witness to our community that St Mary's cares for God's creation in this practical way.

Pat



Thank You

I'd like to thank everyone at St Mary's for the good wishes, cards and gifts for my 80th birthday. It made it a special one—especially the singing of Happy Birthday outside after the service.

Thank you everyone

Jill



The Children's Society



When I received my step-by-step COVID guide to opening this year's house boxes, I was surprised to find that 2021 marks the 140th anniversary of The Children's Society and it is needed just as much now and then.

Despite all the hardships of 2020, £750,000 was raised by all the house box holders including £265.00 from St Mary's and this year we sent £358.46 all in a COVID safe way. Just think how these amazing amounts would have increased if we had been able to hold coffee mornings!

I would like to thank our small but faithful band of box holders for their support and if anyone would like a box please do let me know.

I would like to share this story from The Children's Society:

Phoebe (not her real name) is a carer for her mother and is 15 years old.

"I always think there's always light at the end of the tunnel and everything happens may not be for a good reason, but at the same time there's always something good comes out of it."

Rosemary

O Jesus I Have Promised

Recently the Sunday service came from Salisbury Cathedral and the first hymn was O Jesus I have Promised.

A lot of Christians are struggling with their faith at the moment, understandable perhaps given the pandemic has ravaged the world during the past 18 months, not only has it affected our health, friends and families and livelihoods, we've watched the news and seen the devastating effects poverty, corruption and denial have resulted in millions of deaths in India and Brazil.

The hymn tells us not to wander from the pathway, Jesus is at our side to guide us. It also tells us not to fear the battle as He is there by our side. We need to continue to trust our Master and our Friend. Continue to pray and to listen for Him speaking, however quietly it may be because He will never forsake us.

God Bless

Ann Holland

Dear Lord,

Help me not to lose faith. Give me the ability to see, hear and trust you. Help me never to lose faith in hard situations of my life. Please let me know that you are always with me, that you care about me, that you support me. Don't let me hesitate but stay strong in my faith.

Amen

You've Got to Smile

Please let me start this by saying in no way am I belittling or laughing at the gentleman who prompted this tale but you've got to smile by the end.

I work with a very faithful and God centred man who hails originally from Ghana. He is either a Pentecostalist or a Baptist and at every opportunity tries to lead new members (and some not so new members) of staff on the right path.

He travels to work on the M60 about the same time as me each morning and one morning I followed him from Denton to Bredbury and he was really "giving it out" his head was going and he looked to all intents and purposes like he was having a blazing row with someone. When we parked up at work and got out of our cars, I said "Morning Joe, you've been giving someone some grief all the way here". He looked at me and replied "I was saying my prayers!" Well that put me in my place.

Now back to the real point of the tale. I am the oldest member of staff and slowly but surely we've all been getting our jabs and someone asked Joe if he had received an invitation yet? His reply was "I'm not having it, I am never ill, the good Lord looks after me". As you can imagine we had plenty of reasons for him to get the jab but his answer was always "The Lord hasn't told me I need to have the jab, He will look after me". I'm sure we've all seen the advertisement where lots of famous black people encourage their fellow ethnic minorities to get vaccinated and again we asked Joe if he'd seen the short film? Once again his reply was that he only listened to the Lord and only the Lord would tell him to be vaccinated.

One morning recently he came into the office and asked to put 1/2 day holiday in. OK no problem, "are you doing something nice Joe?" **"My wife has had her vaccination and she's told me I've got to go and get mine!"**

Clearly Mrs Joe holds more sway than the Lord now—I said it would make you smile by the end didn't I!

Christine



Brownies at Pack Holiday

I expect the Brownies, as all the uniformed organisations, are looking forward to their first “together” meetings soon. Last time I was at Brownies it was Christmas 2019 and they were all looking forward to going to Disley on Pack Holiday in June 2020, (and we all know what happened to that). All the old photograph albums were on display for the Brownies and their families to browse.

The photographs brought back many memories. When we first started going on Pack Holiday it was in the 1960's with Trinity Methodist Brownie Pack as I was still in training for my Pack Holiday Licence. It was great when I received it and we could take 18 Brownies with us instead of just 9.

At first the Brownie House hasn't been finished, there was only one big room which served as dining room, play room, craft room and dormitory! There was a kitchen, Guides accommodation and toilets and wash basins. Later the shower room and proper dormitory were added.

The mattresses for the Brownies were all stacked on big metal frames around the big room and had to be pulled out each night, set in rows on the floor and put away in the morning. The Brownies had their own bedding and made their own beds—it took ages to get everyone to sleep at night.

One particular Pack Holiday, we had an incident, on investigating the angry shouts coming from the room, we found that one Brownie—very fast asleep—had rolled across several sleeping bodies waking them all up! After several attempts to get everyone back to sleep, we gave up. The rolling Brownie kept doing it, the only solution was to take her and her mattress to one of the Guide rooms and wedge her on the floor between the bunk beds. Shortly afterwards, one of the young leaders popped her head round the door and was horrified to find the mattress empty! The Brownie had somehow managed to roll under the bunk bed!

We used to have a 5 day holiday but now it is a long weekend. One of the afternoons was always Open Afternoon when parents could come and visit and smuggle sweets and money to their daughters. As this was always quite traumatic at the end, we followed up with a mega party.

The following day was the last and we walked down to Disley Railway Station and went to Buxton for a swim in the baths followed by a visit to Woolworths to buy gifts to take home. On the train on the return journey we were always interested to see what had been bought. One Brownie showed us she had bought her mum, dad and brother then proudly showing a pork pie for the dog. This young lady still has dogs.

We had lots of adventures, sliding down the grassy slope from the pack holiday house to the field on cardboard or going exploring down the dell, a little stream at the edge of the campsite. Nowadays everything is different, but just as much fun and I hope our Brownies get to experience it soon.

Jill

Editors note: Whilst I was typing this up all these memories came flooding back. I went on those Pack Holidays in the 1960's, we went with a pre-written and stamped postcard to send home as soon as we arrived to say we had got there safely. I can't remember going to Buxton but we went to Lyme Park and always attended church on Sunday.

I could see the big room and remember dressing up as red Indians and making wigwams— Meryl and I found a photograph of this when we were going through mums photographs after she died. Different times indeed—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.

Hopes and Fears Exhibition

Unfortunately the Hopes and Fears Exhibition has had to be postponed from 17th July due to the ongoing restrictions of the pandemic. Hopefully it will now become part of the National Heritage Weekend in September.

If you would still like to contribute you are still very welcome to pass your contribution on to a member of the team.

Thank you

Christine

Answers to The Saints Quiz

1. 17th March
2. Travel and transport
3. He was killed for Secretly marrying couples to spare husbands from war
4. Cappadocia
5. St Andrew was crucified on a X shaped cross
6. Smallest city
7. St Luigi Scrosoppi
8. Italian
9. St Jude
10. Writers, publishers and press

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

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

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