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June 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

June Services 2024



2nd June - 10.30am – Family Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 4: 5-12 and Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

9th June - 10.30am – Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5: 1 and Mark 3: 20 - end

16th June – 10.30am – Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 17 and Mark 4: 26 - 34

23rd June – Morning Worship

2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 13 and Mark 4: 35 - end

**24th June – 12noon – Light lunch followed by Holy
Communion**

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

Bursting with Life!

This is a wonderful time of year to see beautiful plants growing in our gardens, in the parks, and in our church grounds. We can rejoice in the



beauty, variety of life bursting out all around us. It points us to God's beauty and creativity, as well as to his care for all creation and the wonder of life in our world. But it isn't just plants (or children!) that grow – God also wants us to grow as Christians – no matter how old we are, or how long we've been in the church.

We can grow in our knowledge and understanding of who God is, what God is like. We can grow in our prayer life as we find ways to pray that work for us and allow us to connect with God with our particular temperament, and stage of life. We can grow in our faith and trust in God (this often grows through difficult times), and we can grow in our confidence in serving him and in our compassionate care for others.

Maybe as you see life springing up all around you, and you enjoy the beauty of creation, ask yourself, and God, what areas of your life would you like to grow in? How might God be stretching you and calling you to grow?

Just as some plants spring up quickly, like the daisies, and dandy lions in our lawns, but others take many, many years to grow, like the beautiful oak tree in my garden. Be encouraged! God is not finished with us yet, he is working in us, and he is committed to doing a good job!

Of course, if you would like to know more about how you can grow in any aspect of your faith, do have a chat with me. I'd love to support and pray with you in any way I can.

Revd Cath

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.



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

Planning Ahead



Copies of the booklet mentioned in the March diary about planning your funeral is still available at the back of church. If you missed the article you can find it online or have a chat with Pat.

Photographic Exhibition

Do you enjoy taking photographs? During the summer do you manage to get out and about and visit different places of worship?

If this sounds like you, you may be interested in taking part in an exhibition planned for display in church at the end of the summer.

See the posters up in church or on the website for more information.

Fellowship and Holy Communion



The next fellowship and Holy Communion Service will be at 12noon on Monday 27th May (Bank Holiday Monday) the one in June will be on 24th June

Please look out for the sign up sheet for catering purposes and of course everyone is welcome, please encourage anyone you know who you think might like to come along.

Bible Study Groups

Bible study groups meet in the Emmaus Room twice a month on Tuesday or Thursday evenings to which everyone is welcome.



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These are informal groups and the studies usually include a video to watch then questions for discussion followed by a brew and a biscuit or slice of cake.

If anyone is interested in joining one of the groups, or would like more information, please have a chat with Charlotte, Doreen or Stephanie (Tuesday group) or Christine, Pat or Jim (Thursday group)



Next Meeting – 4th June

Afternoon Tea (in the evening!)

**If you would like to come along please have a word with
Maureen Allison**

Everyone welcome

The Mothers' Union provides emergency toiletry bags to Tameside Hospital that contain enough toiletries for a couple of days for anyone who has come into hospital unexpectedly.

These bags include a facecloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, a razor for a man, combs for men and women, shower gel and a packet of paper tissues. If anyone feels able to donate travel-sized toiletries, please pass them on to Pat, Christine or Maureen.

Thank you



No Left Turn

Just a little reminder, it is against the law to turn left out of the church car park onto Church Street.

The CCTV camera on Church Street is being monitored more closely by the authorities because of several traffic and anti-social behaviour issues on Church Street.

Wedding Ready

As many of you will know, following the pollarding of the trees in the churchyard, the ground was left covered in twigs and branches. Unfortunately, neither the contractors nor the local authority was able to clear the grounds of the debris and so a church tidy up was planned.

The Bank Holiday Monday dawned dry and bright for once and so the group of volunteers met-armed with rakes, hoes, brushes, gloves and enthusiasm.

We set about gathering together as many twigs and branches as we could. The school had kindly offered an empty industrial sized bin but this was soon filled. We then turned to black bags. The photos show one third of the bags we filled. There were five tip runs and bags taken home for our own bins.

None of us could quite believe how much debris had been created by the work undertaken on the trees.

We were grateful for the refreshments provided by the kitchen volunteers and by lunch time our work was done.

The difference to the grounds was obvious and the grass was now greening up and regrowing in time for the three weddings booked this year. I am sure the wedding photos will show our grounds at their best.

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A huge thank you to all who volunteered both from our regular congregation, parents and children from the school and friends and neighbours. We certainly couldn't have done it without you all.



For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. 1 Cor 3 v9

My Time Has Come and Some Will Say 'At last'!

As no doubt you will have seen on Facebook that Sunday 12th May was a special day for me. At St. John the Evangelist church at Hurst Cross I was finally confirmed, along with 5 children and 11 adults. I certainly have been a 'work in progress'- 30 years until the time was right and I felt 'ready'. During this time, I completed the alpha course, various Lent studies and attended a Bible study group. Talking to others who were confirmed on Sunday, I was amazed that it had only taken them months of attending just Sunday Service. Perhaps it goes back to me wanting to know lots and enjoying studying and yet there is still so much more to learn.

Many thanks to Rev Cath for her patience and support. As part of my 'formal preparation' we studied the Book Being a Christian by Rowan Williams. He looks at Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and prayer. I can recommend it as it is thought provoking and inspiring insights. I'm not giving any spoilers in case you read it but one thought was 'prayer is like sneezing –there comes a point, where you can't not do it'

Bishop Mark has always played a special part in my heart mainly due to my godmother (Auntie Margaret Walker) and her work with the diocese. He almost made me cry before the service started by saying how proud she would be in heaven. Considering the number of people he meets, his words are always personal, heartfelt and meaningful. Also, his eyes say a thousand words. Look at them next time you meet him.

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Bishop Mark's final words were that the world is going to be a better place due to our confirmations, which got me thinking (again!) the last couple of sermons have been about how we see ourselves and treat others. Sometimes this is hard when we take our actions as 'normal' but it is appropriate to reflect on our image to the world and how inspiring we can be to others. There have certainly been many people who have helped me along the way and I hope I do the same. But I have always said, "I'm just being me. Nothing special".

Thank you to everyone at St. Mary's for your kind words, prayers and for your patience in waiting for my confirmation.

Kathryn

Lichfield Cathedral

Recently Songs of Praise came from Lichfield Cathedral and the theme for the program was dementia.

I paid much more attention than usual for two reasons. Firstly the following week Derek and I were going to Lichfield Cathedral whilst we were away for a few days (the main reason for our break was to visit The National Memorial Arboretum – it turned out it was 15 years since we visited last), Secondly because it's now 11 years since mum died after suffering from both Alzheimer's and dementia and in that time, huge strides have been made in the understanding and support of these devastating diseases.

Songs of Praise featured a Dementia Choir and Rev. Kate Botley spoke to different people affected by dementia.

As we walked round the cathedral, I came across a Dementia Prayer



Tree filled with the names of people affected by the disease and prayer requests for them and their carers.

We've visited lots of different places of worship where prayer trees are available to either request prayers or prayers have been offered but I don't think I have seen one with so many prayer requests attached. I don't even think the organisers realised just how many requests would be made as two prayer trees were completely filled with requests.

There were other beautiful things in Lichfield Cathedral and who knows some pictures might pop up in the photographic exhibition later in the year.

Christine



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Thursday 6th June 2024

2pm – 4pm

Crafts, Bible Stories and Simple
Worship followed by
refreshments

All Primary School age children
welcome with their parents or
carers

God Is Love.

You may or may not know that since I've been unable to attend church, I do my own services at home. Using readings from Word for the Day and I sing a hymn at the beginning and at the end.

I open my hymn book at a random page and those are my hymns for the day. Recently one of the hymns was God is Love. Singing those words tells us such a lot about our love for God and our faith.

The refrain tells us:

God is love his the care,

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Tending each everywhere
God is love all is there, Jesus came to show him
That mankind might know him.
Sing aloud, loud, loud,
God is good,
God is truth,
God is beauty, praise him.

The third verse says:

Jesus lived on the earth,
Life and hope brought to birth,
And affirmed human worth,
For he came to save us,
By the truth he gave us.
To our Lord praise we sing,
Light and life, friend and king,
Coming down, love to bring,
Pattern for our duty
Showing God in beauty.

Such special works.

I hope to be back in church very soon, Gods blessings to you all.

Ann Holland

Leading Prayers

Do you think you would be able to join the rota to lead prayers occasionally during Sunday morning services? Is this something you could prayerfully consider?

If so and would like to know more, please have a chat with Revd. Cath or Christine.

There are resources and lots of help if you want it. Please think and pray about it.



Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

Open Doors UK and Ireland funded £654,310 to provide Bibles, books and other Christian resources.

Last year, thanks to you, Open Doors distributed over 1.8 million Bibles and Christian books in countries where such things are prohibited or difficult to obtain. “We need as many Bibles in our own languages as possible,” says Patrick*, a church leader from a Muslim background in China. “We don’t know where to find them, so please bring as many as you can. Many brothers and sisters need them!”

Believers from Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds are the most persecuted Christian groups in China. Mandarin Bibles can be accessed online or in government-registered churches, but many believers surviving under the radar of the authorities don’t speak Mandarin. Bibles in minority languages are hard to find.

Despite increased security control and restrictions, Open Doors provides contextualised Christian materials in minority languages. We also support believers from Muslim backgrounds in developing their own materials.

When one believer received a Bible in his own language, his eyes brightened as if he had spotted a treasure. He held it close to his chest and said, “Thank you so much, brother! I’ve been dreaming about having

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a Bible for so long!" We later heard that he gave his Bible to a friend who was very interested in reading it.

China and North Korea are top of the World Watch List of countries persecuting Christians.

Heavenly Father, we pray for wisdom, protection and provision for all Christians in danger.

That Bible Schools grow and flourish bringing more people to Jesus.

For Open Doors partners as they support Christians throughout persecuted communities.

Amen



St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st June

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9.30am – 11.00am
In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to Open Doors



A Picture to Colour



Read Mark 4: 35 - end

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, Paul Davies (Secretary), Kathryn Hampson, 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.

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