



May 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 new COVID guidance, it is a personal choice whether or not to wear a facemask 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

May Services



1st May 10.30 Morning Worship

8th May 10.30am Holy Communion with Baptism

15th May 10.30am Holy Communion

12.30pm Baptism

22nd May 10.30am Holy Communion

26th May 7.30am Ascension Day Holy Communion

29th May Morning Worship with guest from The Bible Society

Readings for May

1st May Acts 9: 1-6 (or 7-20) and John 21 1-19; 8th May Acts 9: 36-end and John 10 22-30; 15th May Ephesians 4: 1-6 and John 13: 31-35; 22nd May Acts 16: 9-15 and John 14 23-29 (or John 5: 1-9); 26th May Acts 1: 1-11 and Luke 24: 44-end; 29th May Acts 16: 16-34 and John 17: 20-26

Ascension Day Poem

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
 Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
 As earth became a part of Heaven's story
 And heaven opened to his human face
 We saw him go and yet we were not parted
 He took us with him to the heart of things
 The heart that broke for all the broken -hearted
 Is whole and Heaven -centred now, and sings,
 Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
 Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
 Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
 And sing the waning darkness into light,
 His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
 Which all creation waits to see revealed.'

During the last couple of years many people have been working from home and you could say that Ascension Day is when Jesus returned to working from home! Jesus had experienced our earthiness. You could say that Ascension is the reverse of Christmas. God came to earth and got his hands dirty. Now Christ takes our humanity into the very heart and divinity of God.

In John 17, Jesus turns from talking to the disciples to talking to God his heavenly Father. Jesus does not take the place of superiority but seeks oneness and unity with the Father and between the disciples (us) and God. It is a wonderful image of giving, nurturing and mutuality. We even get stage directions! In the tradition of great rabbis from the past, Jesus looks up to heaven. Jesus hands the disciples (and us) into the care of God. We are reassured that we belong to God, created to glorify him and that we are as one. The Christmas baby and crucified Christ bring heaven to earth and now earth is brought to heaven. We are one with God and it is spectacular! The two angels in Acts ask why the disciples are looking towards heaven for Jesus - like they don't know! It echoes the scene at the tomb where the angels question Mary. It is saying, you can't understand this. Switch on the faith goggles because your normal thinking won't help you here. Jesus has gone but the Holy Spirit will be the seal on our relationship with God and befuddle the world and its thinking. God got dirt on His hands, and we get some of heaven's glory!

Over the last couple of years, we've done a lot of waiting, waiting for hugs. Waiting to go back to our jobs. Waiting to return to school. Waiting to enter our church to worship. Jesus has brought our humanity to the Father. And Jesus has left us God's glory to shake up the world. So, we can now count our blessings as things return to some sort of normality and we can, laugh and weep as we share our humanity with each other and God who chooses the messiness of relationship with us.

Prayer for the Christian community

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.
 We are not people who protect our own safety:
 we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
 We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.
 We are your people God, giving and loving,

wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes wherever you call us.
Amen

A Week of Visits

During the last week of term, we were delighted to receive a number of visitors to our church building.

The first group were St Mary's Beaver scouts.

They were working towards their Faith activity badge. The badge outline states:

Whatever your beliefs, join us to celebrate what's important to you.

To earn their badge, they had to:

- 1. Write a prayer or reflection.**
- 2. Read or share a prayer or reflection.**
- 3. Find and tell a story about doing your best and helping other people.**
- 4. Visit a place of worship and tell other Beaver Scouts about your visit.**

During their walk round the church, they learned about the Scout and Guide window in memory of John Dean founder scoutmaster of St Mary's scouts. The Guide window has the heading Solomon who was a wise and just ruler, the Scouts' headed Nehemiah, responsible for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after their destruction by fire. The windows depict many of the stories that are in the bible. St Mary's silhouette is in the town at the bottom of the window.

A challenge we set the Beavers was to find as many crosses as they could when they walked round. They liked the one made by the door handles into the church room from the nave.

We hope to see the group again as they progress through their scouting journey.

The next groups we welcomed were the pupils from Hawthorns school in Audenshaw. Willow, Chestnut, Beech, Maple, Blossom and Sycamore classes visited us over 3 mornings.

Their thank you letter included:

It has been a long tradition at Hawthorns for our children to visit a local church at Easter time to learn and experience first hand about significant events which take place in churches as well as key features of a church.

For our very youngest children, the experience is more about the awe and wonder they gain from such a visit. Many of our children will never have visited a church before, however our ethos at Hawthorns is to provide our children, with as many inclusive and immersive experiences as possible, no matter what their special educational needs may be.

The children asked many searching questions and their delight and innocence reminded us that in the simplest of questions from a child the deepest and purest faith is shown. We were delighted to be able to provide each child with a simple wooden heart inscribed with a cross to remind them that God loves them.

Our final visit of the week was from a couple who live in Cornwall. They had contacted us last year to ask whether we could trace if a relative had been buried in St Mary's churchyard in the 1880s. When the gravestones were removed between 1959 and 1961 a copy of the inscription on each headstone was recorded. These inscriptions are kept in the church safe and we were able to trace the grave of the Worthington family and share the inscription with the family. Although we could not identify the exact

location of the grave Valerie and her husband were delighted to be able to spend time in the churchyard. We explored the inside of the building, and they were delighted to know that the pews still in place were the originals and at some time their relative would have sat in them. Michael's book on the history of St Mary's includes a photo of the churchyard with the gravestones and Valerie was delighted to be able to take a book home with her.

Each visit that week challenged the hosts in different ways. The delight in the innocent questions of the children and their ready acceptance that God loves them now and into the future. The reminiscences of times past and the reassurance that what has stood in this place for 174 years is still welcoming our community to worship with us.

A reminder that **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** Hebrews 13:8

Thank you to Beth, Carole and Pat for being the hosts.

Amos 5

'Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!' (Amos 5:23-24)

Amos 5, 2022

Fallen is the church. Swallowed
By the sea that was allowed to rise

While she stood by
And did nothing.

But seek God; seek justice; and live.

Fallen is the church. Consumed
By inequalities that were allowed to rage
While she turned away
And did nothing.

But seek God; seek righteousness; and live.

Fallen is the church. Tripped up
By the impoverished who were left on the ground
While she walked around
And did nothing.

Our services are meaningless
Our worship is worthless
Our prayers appal the ears of the Lord
As long as we stand by
And do nothing.

So let justice roll on like a river,
Righteousness like a never-failing stream.

Gideon Heugh

Submitted by Doreen Harthan



Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 3rd in the Emmaus room at

7.30pm

Because of illnesses we had to cancel our April meeting but Christine Hulme has agreed to present her talk on some of her interesting walks at our meeting in May.

Walking with Christine

Non-members are welcome.

Please note we have gone back to our meeting time of 7.30pm.
due to difficult transport timetables for some of our members.

Teddies for Tragedies



Mothers' Union are coordinating the appeal on behalf of St Mary's, if you are able to knit and willing to help, please give it a go and pass your creations on to Mildred, Pat or Beth

Manchester Airport Chaplaincy is accepting gifts of teddy bears that will be given to young children who are escaping conflict in Ukraine and other conflict zones. The toy cupboard at the airport could do with a restock and the teddies will help youngsters feel loved and welcome in a foreign land.

The Revd George Lane, Coordinating Chaplain at Manchester Airport said, "I met a lovely family from Ukraine yesterday, their

daughter, aged 8, was clinging on to her toy duck – who had certainly seen better days. She was really anxious, but I worked hard, with the Border Force officer on duty, to ensure that her arrival in the UK was as happy and friendly as it could be.

"Immigration Halls can be hugely intimidating for those who have experienced violence or cruelty – especially if that violence or cruelty was from someone in uniform. Being able to be silly, and to play with teddy bears can help alleviate the fear and natural suspicion of figures of authority like police and immigration officers.

"Teddies can be very helpful for any children arriving at Manchester Airport, and their impact is heart-warming. We are often asked to assist families who have been separated by violence or conflict, in Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen as well as now, Ukraine. Many young children will have been separated from their father. Any sign of love, friendliness, welcome and hospitality can make the last part of their long journey to being reunited so much less scary."

A few years ago, a Mothers' Union branch in Chester Diocese was kind enough to supply Manchester Airport with some **'teddies for tragedies'**. Another kind parishioner (who didn't knit) also donated a box of inexpensive teddies from IKEA. All have now been joyfully received and tightly hugged by their young recipients. The very last-minute evacuation of Afghan refugee families in August 2021 cleared out the Airport Chaplaincy's supply of teddies, and we could really do with a restock.

Teddies probably should be no more than 30cm/12" (very approximately)

The Chaplaincy Manchester Airport, M90 1QX.

Where to get your teddy

There are many knitting patterns available. If you can't knit for toffee, IKEA (or other stores) offer very reasonably priced and safety-assured toy animals.



Osoba Otaigbe from The Bible Society is the guest at our morning worship service on 29th May.

For over 200 years Bible Society has been working to bring the Bible to life; to help people around the world engage with it, relate to it, and make sense of it.

That single mission drives a huge range of activities. In some parts of the world, bringing the Bible to life focuses on translation and distribution projects. Elsewhere it focuses on leadership training, or literacy programmes, or interfaith dialogue. Closer to home, in England and Wales, it focuses on advocacy effort, schools, outreach and devotional resources.

We're doing everything we can to help individuals and communities to engage with the Bible because we believe that when they do, lives can change – for good.

Back in 1804, when our founders laid the foundations of Bible Society, they asked a question that would change the world.

Affordable printed Bibles had just arrived for Welsh speakers, but why stop there? If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?

This was the moment our global mission was born, and as part of United Bible Societies, we're now active in over 200 countries and regions. Through our translation work, we make the Bible available in new spoken and signed languages, as well as revising existing Bibles to bring the language up-to-date. To meet the individual needs and demands of the millions wanting the Scriptures, our production facilities not only print physical copies but also produce visual, audio and digital forms.

Our distribution network takes the Bible to places it might otherwise be hard to come by, and we improve literacy by empowering people to read, using the Book as a reference.

We also work to affirm the place of the Bible in society, challenging ill-informed thinking and demonstrating that the Bible can be a force for positive change in today's world.

A significant proportion of our international work focuses on three areas which all have different needs and challenges and where Christianity is growing fast: China, Africa and the Middle East.

The Gifts of a Very Best Friend

A lifetime of love in a hug and a smile,

A reason to visit and stay for a while,

The strength of a bond that's destined to last,

The joys of the present, the warmth of the past -

These are the treasures a fortunate few

Are lucky to cherish all their lives through –

These are the blessings on which we depend,

For these are the gifts of a very best friend.

Submitted by Vivian Shaw



Your Garden

There is a peace within a garden
A peace so deep and calm
That when the heart is troubled
It's like a soothing balm.

There is life within a garden
A life that still goes on
Filling empty places
When older plants have gone.

There is a glory in a garden
At every time of year
Spring, summer, autumn, winter
To fill the heart with cheer

So ever tend you garden
It's beauty to increase
For in it you'll find solace
And in it you'll find peace.

How wonderful is God's creations?

Frances Hadfield



Jesus Bids a Shine

*Jesus bids a shine with a pure clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness, so we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

I remember singing this hymn at Sunday school. Spreading a little Christian light in the dark world, whatever corner is ours. I think of the Ukrainian people hiding in their cellars, in their small corners.

Perhaps our little circles of light don't shine brightly enough? We feel our own patch is all that matters. Whatever walk of life we are in, we must prepare to do our bit to bring about change, we must all pray for peace

on earth. So, let us all spread a little Christian light into this dark world in whatever corner is ours.

Together, we can let God's light shine in the darkness, places of hatred, pain and despair. Together we can make a difference.

Amen

Ann Holland



We provide specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. They want a future they can look forward to and we're here to make sure they get it. Working alongside young people, their families and community, we will not rest until together, step-by-step, we've created a society built for all children.

The young people who come to see The Children's Society often have low self-esteem. When they are living in families can't afford the next meal, the next size up in school uniform. Or when there's no one else to lean on.

Refugee and migrant children often land in this country alone and look to them for guidance to achieve the life they dreamed of. To have a settled home, a secure job and starting a family. They're not asking too much.

The Children's Society see teenagers in their services who want to quit using drugs or alcohol. Who are looking after mum, dad or siblings more than they had bargained for. Or who had been taken advantage of and find themselves carrying drugs to far away towns or having sex with strangers.

Often the hope inside them has taken a battering, it might only be hanging by a thread. But The Children's Society know it's there **and see a better future is within reach.**

Please remember your Children's Society boxes are due in this month, please pass them onto Rosemary and if you want any more information about taking a box, please have a word with her or Jill

St Mary's Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

The Children's Society

Saturday 7th May
9.30am – 11.00am
In the Emmaus Room



All Welcome





An Ascension Day picture to colour

Luke 24:51 *While He was blessing them He left them and was taken up to heaven*

2022 Bible Book Quiz

Answers to April's Quiz

1. 6- He rested on the 7
2. Two times
3. 6 – Noah and his wife, 2 sons and their wives
4. 40 days and 40 nights
5. 10
6. 5 ,2, 12
7. 5
8. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
9. 11 – Jacob had 12 sons
- 10.3
- 11.50
- 12.66
- 13.Love the Lord your God.....
- 14.Advent Easter Epiphany Pentecost

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