



November 2021 THE DIARY OF ST MARY'S DROYLSDEN

*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 – November 2021

**All Services in November will be Holy Communion
at 10.30.**

Shoebox Sunday is Sunday 7th November

Remembrance Day is Sunday 14th November

**Face masks must be worn, and social distancing
observed in Church**

**Refreshments are now available in the Emmaus
Room after the service. Please enter by the door at
the rear of church**

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

Readings for November

**Nov 7th, Hebrews 9: 24-end and Mark 1: 14-20; Nov 14th, Hebrews 10:
11-14, 19-25 and Mark 13: 1-8; Nov 21st, Revelation 1: 4b-8 and John
18: 33-37; Nov 28th, 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end and Luke 21: 25-36**

What made you want to become a vicar?

Many of you will already know that I am moving to a new parish soon. Read and Simonstone lies at the foot of Pendle Hill, not far from Clitheroe. As part of the interview process for the position in Blackburn Diocese, I was to be grilled by a group of children from both the church schools. Now, I'm not very good at interviews at the best of times, but the thought of facing a panel of children filled me with even more dread. We've all heard the adage 'from the mouths of babes and infants' - young children are so wise and think in black and white. I had no idea what they might ask. So, in preparation, Miss Hampson arranged for me to visit our year 6 class for a mock interview.

Along with questions I was kind of expecting, what's your favourite song, how will you make assembly interesting, there were others that were less direct. One question that pulled me up short was "What made you want to become a vicar?" I blagged my way through an answer. You can usually tell when I'm on dodgy ground. Waffle and hand gestures are in direct proportion, the more waffle, the more waving!

But it made me stop and think over the next few days. Why DID I want to become a vicar? I'm not sure anyone wakes up one day and decides to join the priesthood. Rather, I think it's through a series of experiences. It certainly was for me.

I was brought up going to church every week. Brownies, Guides, Youth Club all played a big part in shaping who I am. But it was never really my faith. I called myself a Christian and did good deeds, but I didn't know God for myself. As a young mum, something happened in our family that made me doubt everything I had ever known. I reached out to my

minister at the time. At the end of our time together we prayed and I experienced such a deep sense of peace. It was as though God was reassuring me that He was right there.

My life since then has taken many twists and turns. At each crossroads I have asked God to show me which way to turn. I ended up at St Mary's, helping with Lighthouse, leading in services, eventually being accepted for training. I know that everything in my life so far has brought me to this point. Every experience, good or bad, has moulded me more and more into the person God designed me to be. Psalm 139 talks about how God has the most intimate knowledge of our lives, even from before we are formed. "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Ps 139: 16)

As you look back on your life, take time to reflect on where you can see God's hand at work. At the time it might not have been obvious, it might have even been painful, but our Father has plans for us and we have to trust him to show us the way forward.

I will miss you all but am also looking forward to exploring what the plan is for me next.

Many blessings.

Rev Sue Ball



Operation Christmas Child 2021

First of all please let me apologise for an error in last months article

where the end of the article was missing – the following piece was originally put in but the page mysteriously disappeared. The missing information can be found on the following page.

Christine

Shoe Box Sunday will be on 7th November for your children to help take boxes to the alter.

We advise you to bring filled shoe boxes, make donations in Church / online or by building a box online **during October and before Sunday 7th November**; see the following useful info, web links and postal address:

For donations given in Church; on cheques write your name & address and write for OCC

A box will be placed in the coffee room marked for OCC donations and if you purchase a pre printed shoe box. Next to this box will be a box with extra fillers you can use, and a small donation would be appreciated.

Online donations; How you can create and pay for a box online which will be packed by the Samaritans.

OCC build a box <https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

All ways to donate and support the Samaritans

OCC <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-give/>

Donations by Post; if you do not have internet access,

please send a cheque to:

Samaritans Purse, Victoria House, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5EX

(Cheques payable to 'Samaritans Purse'. Include on back of your cheque – write your name & address and write for OCC)"

Keith Morgan

Rev Sue's leaving lunch

It is only right that we celebrate with Sue her 15 years at St Mary's

Join us on Sunday 28th November

after the morning service

in St Mary's school hall

for

meat and potato pie or cheese and onion pie

Please add your name to the list in church so that we know how many
to cater for



Our harvest gifts for the Foodbank and Lifeshare



A heartfelt thank you for all the harvest gifts which were shared
between **Droylsden & District Foodbank** and **Lifeshare**.

TESCO

Droylsden & District Foodbank will be taking part in the annual Tesco foodbank collection on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th November at our Droylsden store.

Volunteers are needed between 9am and 5pm on both days to support customers of the store as they donate items.

If you can spare an hour on either day please speak to Pat to enable us to receive as many donations as possible over this important weekend.

Many thanks
Pat

The Craft Group

We haven't met since February 2020 because of Covid, but we have all tried to keep in touch by phone or when we've met up in different Droylsden shops.

Four of us have kept knitting, I've done lots of different things for the Christmas and Spring Fairs that didn't take place (I have quite a stock of things when we do open up fully).

Jennifer has knitted a great many lovely baby blankets and some baby hats for the hospital. Alma has also made baby hats and also scarfs and knitted purses for shoeboxes. Vera has knitted scarfs for shoeboxes and squares for her friend who makes them into

blankets.

We can't wait until we get the go ahead to restart, even though it will be a little different than we were used to.

Jill



Ride to the Wall – National Memorial

On Saturday 2nd October, Dan lead a column of 300 motorbikes onto the motorway at Knutsford to “Ride to the Wall”. On the way about another 100 bikes joined the procession, each group coming from all over the country and were given a time or arrival otherwise it would have been chaos at their destination, The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

After parking up, they joined the many thousands of other bikers and passengers, estimated to be between 6 and 7 thousand – in front of the Memorial Wall for a Thanksgiving Service for all who gave their lives in conflicts over the years.

The names on the wall are those who have lost their lives in action since

1945, last time I was there I managed to find the name of Tony (Anthony) Downes, a young Droylsden man, who lost his life at the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, his memorial service was held at St Mary's. The procession left the Kings Head, owned by his mum and dad and was lead by members of his regiment, along Market Street to the applause of what felt like most of Droylsden who wanted to pay their respects. He is remembered in Droylsden by a lovely poster of him in his dress uniform on the side of the King's Head and the new Pension Offices are named after him.

After a very moving service conducted by the biker vicar, there was last post by a lone bugler and a minutes silence then reveille where Jerusalem and Bring Him Home was sung

I would have loved to have been there but although I love motorbikes old and new, I'm a coward when it comes to sitting on the back of one! I watched the event the following day on YouTube, if you want to see it you can fast forward through the long bits!

Unfortunately for poor Dan, when he came to get back on his bike the clutch went and had to wait hours for the RAC to bring him back to Droylsden.

If you haven't been to the Arboretum it's well worth a visit, lots to see, things to remember and a lovely peaceful atmosphere. You will, like all the bikers who paid £10 each to take part, be helping with the upkeep of this wonderful place where bereaved families can come to remember loved ones. There is a little train that gives those who find walking difficult with a commentary on the main memorials and the food is good too!

Jill

Without The Great War

The wreaths of red poppies make me stop,

And wish I could turn back the clock.
To show the soldiers who passed away,
Without them I wouldn't be here today.

So we should wear our poppy with pride,
And remember those who died and survived,
The great war ended in victory,
Without it there may be no you or me.



Reverend Herbert Arthur Procter VC

Some will know, some will not realise, each time we leave church we pass a blue plaque dedicated to a former rector of St Mary's. Recently the following article appeared on the Nostalgia page of The Reporter: The original report appeared in 1990.

The Victoria Cross awarded to a brave WWI soldier who later became a vicar in Hyde and Droylsden was sold for £18,7000 at a London auction.

On 5th August 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, Pte Herbert Arthur

Procter realised two men stranded in no man's land were still alive. He dressed their wounds in full view of the enemy and under heavy fire. Both men were brought in alive, as dusk fell.

Pte Procter was the first to receive the highest honour for valour directly from King George V.

He was later to become vicar of St Stephen's, Hyde in the 1930's. Following a spell as an RAF chaplain in WWII, he was appointed rector of St Mary's, Droylsden.

Pte Procter's medal now resides in Liverpool Museum.

Ann Holland

Tornado

In the eye of a storm there is peace,
Where opposing forces meet and cease.
When all is turmoil, no quiet found,
Stop, step back, from what abounds

For in a step of tactical retreat,
The voice of logic there one may meet.
And in that meeting may peace entreat,
That solutions are void in battles heat.

For when a warrior heeds a cry to arms,
And girds himself with battles charms.
His blood will boil and sense defeat,
The call of calm in hearts brief beat.

And when the earth and seas run red,
With battles toll of glorious dead.
Shall be heard upon the winds soft sigh,
The anguished cry of a mother "WHY?"

By Kate Kershaw



The next Mothers' Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday 2nd November at the new time of 7pm** in the Emmaus Room.

. The theme for the meeting will be "What we did during lockdown?" We will also be singing our favourite hymns

Joanne and Mildred

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent questionnaire so that the leadership team knew how you felt as we gathered together again to worship.

There were overwhelming majorities for some questions and mixed responses to others. This is to be expected as we all feel differently as the community opens up after such a long time with restrictions.

Some highlights:

We have missed the fellowship during lockdown and coming to church.

The vast majority were relaxed about:

- sitting where you wanted in church alongside others
- singing with masks
- enjoying a brew after the service
- meeting in small groups

You would like to keep singing outside (weather permitting I assume!!) and are content with the new way we offer Holy Communion.

Over the past 18 months many have reassessed their lives, confirmed the value of family and friends and acknowledged that God has been at work during these challenging times.

You have appreciated being back in church and worshipping together. As we move forward, we will consider the variety of services we can offer and look to return to the patterns of life we value so much. Our 'normal'.

You want to see the return of many of the groups we held previously and perhaps look to starting new ones. All of course subject to leaders being available and appropriate safeguarding checks in place.

Many have offered to support services and over the coming weeks these offers will be taken up.

When we put the questionnaire together we didn't know what the responses would be but they have been overwhelmingly positive. We are thankful to be back together, worshipping in a building we treasure and looking forward with hope and enthusiasm.

Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Pat

Mission Partners

I have recently had a letter from our Mission Partners Andrew and Andrea.

Andrew writes

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 30:41

Our time of waiting has almost come to an end. We have a flight booked for Sunday 3rd October which should get us to Kathmandu by 3pm on Monday 4th October. After what at times has felt like an exile for 18 months, we are busy preparing to return to Nepal! We have been told our working visa has started to be processed, an answer to prayer.

It seems that the whole world has been on hold for more than a year and only now is struggling to get moving again. Maybe you have also found the past year difficult, with isolation, the hospitalisation or even death of a loved one. We pray that you will also be finding a new way to return to a 'normal', if that is possible. For ourselves the return to Nepal will be welcome, though we envisage that working from home will be a 'normal' and face to face encounters only a slowly growing experience. Working in the same time-zone will be the initial benefit and, as we are able, to open up our home again and make it a place of welcome and prayer.

God's peace,

Andrew & Andrea

Please pray for Andrew and Andrea as they settle back in Nepal and make the transition from Digital to face to face pastoral care as they continue their work for the United Mission to Nepal

Margaret McCracken

Brownies and Beavers



On Heritage Day in September, I brought along my grandsons to have a look at all the displays that had been put up. When I reached the Brownies' display I spotted an old register and opened it up. Amazingly it opened at a page in 1965 with my name on the list and I showed it to the boys. The list brought back many memories as I looked down the list spotting the names of girls I had gone to school with and also friends I remembered just from Brownies.

Derek and I really enjoy watching The Repair Shop on BBC and a couple of weeks after this there was a Brownie Pack Toadstool on the program that was rather unusual in that it has been hand made and was painted with images of different sixes. I started to say to Derek, Brownies say "Twist me and turn me and show me an elf. I looked in the water and there saw myself." You will note I said "I started to say ...", I found I couldn't finish the rhyme as I became too emotional.

It turned out that the toadstool belonged to a Brownie Pack in Selsey which is near Chichester, my very dear cousin Joan lives in Selsey and when the toadstool was returned to the Pack there was a signature on

the underside that had been highlighted by the restorer and it turned out that it had been made in 1924 by the great grandmother of a currant Brownie.

People who saw the exhibitions may have spotted a contribution by my grandson Finley showing what he'd been up to during lockdown working towards Beaver Scout badges.

Beaver Scouts returned in the middle of September, and it turned out that he had gained 9 badges by doing all the different activities and sending details to Golden Beaver via email.

So, gran had a lot of sewing to do. When I was a Beaver Leader there weren't many badges to work towards so as I started to sew them all on, something prompted me to google one of the badges and discovered the 3 I'd already sewn on were on the wrong side of his uniform I and had to start all over again!

Finley loves Beavers and was thrilled and very proud to gain all his badges and is looking forward to earning more and I'll pay more attention next time to where they go.

Christine



Christmas Band
Concert

Sunday 12th
December 2pm

St Mary's Church
Droylsden

Tickets available from
Church soon
priced £5.00
including
Mulled wine and
mince pies after the
performance

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