



# October 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 – October 2021**

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

**Harvest Festival Service is on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
Rev Daniel Ramble, Area Dean will be a guest on  
Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October**

**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**

## Firm Foundation

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, the children from school returned to church for an assembly. It was a joy, a tonic and a real blessing to welcome them in. Hearing them sing at the tops of their voices was so uplifting! The theme for this half term is Jesus' parables. For the first session, I chose the parable of the wise and foolish builders in Luke 6: 46-49. Just a few verses, but perhaps one of the most well-known of Jesus' stories. The children were asked to consider what materials they would need to build a house and where they might begin if they were building their own. We eventually got to the idea of foundations.

At the beginning of a new school year, as with the start of any new venture in life, there is bound to be some excitement as well as trepidation. And things won't always go smoothly. There will be times when it's tough going, understanding a new concept, falling out with friends, self-doubt. Without a firm foundation, we could crumble like the house built on sand. What makes a firm foundation for us?

One thing is using all our previous experiences to enable us to find a way forward. It's been said many times that every day is a school day. We go through life learning, growing, and developing. We use all our past failures and successes to build resilience and strategy. My dad used to say, "If at first you don't succeed - give up!" But really, he would encourage us to find our own way of overcoming a barrier.

Another thing is to find someone to journey with, a friend, family member, colleague. A person you can talk to when things are tough, to rejoice with when things go well. Having a wise counsellor to share a brew (or something stronger...) is something we can take for granted. Being But

travelling together is good. As it says in Ecclesiastes, “two are better than one.”

But the most basic of foundations is faith in God, our maker and redeemer. There are so many examples in the Old and New Testaments of God being referred to as our rock. One of my go-to Psalms in hard times is Ps 40. Verse 2 is “he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.” If, like the foolish builder, we rush into something without first pausing and setting our foundation on Jesus, we will usually fail. But with Him as the rock on which we build anything, He will be our strength and guide.

The assembly ended with the following prayer...

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus’ parable of the two builders.

Thank you that we can take our time to learn new things.

Thank you for all the people who help us when we encounter problems.

Please help us always to try to do our best to build firm foundations.

Amen.

Rev’d Sue Ball

### **Readings for October**

Oct 3rd Harvest Psalm 126 and Matthew 6: 25-33; Oct 10th Hebrews 4: 12-end and Mark 10: 17-31; Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 5: 1-10 and Mark 10: 35-45; Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 7: 23-end and Mark 10: 46-end; Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Hebrews 9: 11-14 and Mark 12: 28-34

## Christmas Shoebox Support for 2021



This year will be our 28<sup>th</sup> year for St Mary's assisting with the OCC. In 2021 we again see news reports of thousands of people who have lost their homes and members of their family to wars or natural disasters. Thank God there are many organisations who seek to help those in need. At St Mary's we support several Christian organisations plus a few humanitarian organisations. To name a few: Open Doors, CMS, TEAR Fund, The Children's Society, Compassion, Food Bank, Life Share and OCC. Samaritans OCC UK delivers many thousands of gift boxes to needy children in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Last year St Mary's Church members made up a smaller number of boxes due to the covid restrictions. It should be noted that Jill has provided many fillers and built so many boxes over previous years and again in 2020. Due to covid John received 22 boxes and box fillers which were collected by Blythswood on 11 November 2020. The boxes were taken to Hungary on a lorry containing about 8,000 boxes. A further 54 boxes were taken to the Samaritan's OCC warehouses in Warrington and Leigh. The St Mary's donations to OCC in church reached £65, unfortunately due to the covid lockdown it had to be closed early. Some online boxes and donations were done by members of our congregation who saw the internet contact details in the Oct / Nov Diary.

Covid-19 has affected many operations since 2020 and at St Mary's, we will continue to change the way we contribute this year. St Mary's will prepare to collect a smaller number of shoe boxes physically this year.

We are intending to support the Samaritan's Purse OCC charity this year in Church, or you can build a shoe box choosing items on the Samaritan's OCC website for a set donation. As we are in the age of smart phones and computers, some people may prefer to make donations online, or send a cheque to the Samaritans address below. We would recommend this, if you are able, in case there is a further covid lockdown in the autumn. However, if you want to build a shoe box then you can bring in your own shoe boxes filled with gifts and covered with wrapping paper as in previous years. Leaflets are available in church with labels to stick on your box for age/category of child. We will have the option of a small number of flat packed pre-printed Samaritan's boxes you can purchase from Church for 50p each.

There will be fillers you can also purchase to assist to make up your boxes. A supply of leaflets and flat packed pre-printed boxes (50p) will be around the entrance in the coffee room; and a sheet list to enter how many boxes you have purchased with your name, and the amount paid.

A video for OCC will be shown in the Church service on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. Shoe Box Sunday will be on 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

## Food For Thought

On a recent visit to mid-Wales for the weekend, we decided to call to Llangollen on our way home for a wander around and Sunday dinner. Having stumbled into St Collen's church yard, I noticed the sign below by the door:

*Welcome  
Croeso*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in our churches.*

*Welcome if you're 'just browsing', just woke up or just got out of prison. Welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, transgender, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor.*

*Welcome if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Wales or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.*

*Welcome if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like 'organised religion', if you blew all your money on the horses, if you work too hard, don't work, don't know anything about 'church' or are only here because grandma is in town, and she wanted to go to church.*

*Welcome if you believe in God some of the time or none of the time or all the time.*

*Welcome seekers and doubters, saints and sinners, regulars, visitors, friends and strangers.*

*There is something for all in our group of churches: St Collen's, St Tysilio's and Trevor Church.*



Reading this welcome sign set me to thinking about whether I am as kind and understanding as I could be and how welcoming we are as a congregation at St Mary's. Our mission statement says that we are 'a welcoming, all-age community, growing and sharing God's love' but are we honestly and truly as open and welcoming as we think when new people join us in worship?! It is of course fairly effortless to be friendly and genial to those who we consider to be 'like us'; it's not always so easy to be cordial and warm to those who we think are different, for one reason or another. Jesus tells us 'to love thy neighbour as thyself'; I've never really considered it before, but it is in fact (in my opinion), the hardest commandment to follow. I am definitely guilty of making snap judgements, of being critical or dismissive of others when I have no right to do so – I have no idea what they are going through or what their circumstances are and so I should strive to be more tolerant, just like the St Collen's welcome message promises.

If God was writing my school report, he would write 'must try harder' and so I shall! What would your school report say?

Charlotte

### **Margaret's Funeral**

I would like to thank all those who attended Margaret's funeral service, held here in church on 24<sup>th</sup> August. It was heart-warming to see so many friends and family, 127 in all. It was a great comfort to have so many people around me. I am sorry that I didn't get to speak to everybody but I did see you. I would also like to thank all who sent cards of sympathy with very heartfelt words and prayers, 77 cards in all which was overwhelming. A lot of thought went into the service as we tried to reflect Margaret's life and what she would have wanted and I think we achieved that with the comments I've received since.

I would like to thank Reverend Sue for her heart felt service, my Grandson Tom for the IT work in putting it all together, for the flower team for the sunflower display which was the theme of the day that our grandchildren had decided on and the church members on duty that day who ensured the service ran smoothly.

Lifeshare was our chosen charity and to date (end of August), over £600 has been raised, so thank you for your contributions.

God bless you all

Jim



## **Mothers' Union**

After a long break, due to the Covid outbreak, we held our first Mothers' Union branch meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Rev. Nancy led our Eucharist service at which Meryl Crummack was welcomed into membership of the Mothers' Union.

We remembered two of our members who died during the summer. Alice Curtiss who had been a member for over 40 years and Margaret Smith who, as a committee member, had taken charge of the baby clothes and shawls and with Jim's help delivered them to Tameside Hospital. We will miss Alice and Margaret and we express our condolences to their families.

We are now able to deliver baby clothes and toiletries to Tameside Hospital. We have recently delivered 27 shawls, cardigans and bonding squares to the Neo Natal unit and there are a lot more ready to be sorted and bagged. Please note the hospital only accept first size beanie hats, the tiny hats are too small for their babies.

To complete the toiletry bags we need more toothpaste, face flannels and shampoo. Ann Holland will be pleased to receive them.

In September we collected children's underwear for the refugees from Afghanistan who were arriving at Manchester Airport with insufficient clothing. The MU had previously answered the appeal for winter coats for the children.

Our next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm everybody is welcome. Enquiries to Joanne Roberts 0161 370 6750

We are knitting chains for an exhibition against human trafficking for MU meeting in October: Needles size 3mm – Cast on 40 and starting with a purl row stocking stitch 4 rows. Cast off purl wise (this makes it curl), sew links together in a chain of 8 links all different colours.



## **Our harvest gifts for the Foodbank and Lifeshare**

St Mary's family harvest service will be on Sunday 3rd October at 10.30am.

The harvest gifts from our church family will once again be shared between the Droylsden & District Foodbank and Lifeshare.

Both organisations support those in crisis locally and throughout Greater Manchester and rely on donations to be able to carry out their services. But this year has been tougher than ever. The pandemic has fuelled the growing need for support for those in crisis at the same time as households have suffered uncertainty with employment. Donations whether in cash or kind have been a challenge to both the donor and charity.

**Lifeshare** is a voluntary organisation established to help meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Manchester and Salford. The first point of contact is with people on the streets, offering practical assistance, support and information. From this point they offer continued assistance that enables people to secure suitable accommodation, support them in maintaining their tenancies, and help them to access initiatives that carry their lives forward.

Their current donation list reads:

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • Porridge pots     | Pot noodles |
| • Cereal bars       | Biscuits    |
| • Bottled water     | Chocolates  |
| • Tinned vegetables |             |

**Droylsden & District Foodbank** was established in 2013 to help residents in Droylsden and surrounding areas who are vulnerable and facing hardship and in need of nourishment and support. In addition to providing a three-day food parcel for those who are referred they also signpost and refer clients to specialists for advice and guidance. Referrals come through schools, childrens centres, and other agencies who identify families in crisis.

Their current shortages are:

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Tinned Fish             | Instant mash    |
| • Tinned carrots          | Tinned potatoes |
| • Tinned and packet soups | Sponge puddings |
| • Custard                 | Rice pudding    |
| • Carton fruit juice      | Cordial         |
| • Meat free tinned meals  |                 |
| • Chocolate treats        | Crisps          |

All donations of long dated non-perishable items will be welcomed.

### **Matthew 25:35**

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink

Pat

## **City of York Afghanistan Window**

I came across a leaflet recently about a window in The Church of All Saint's in York and thought it was a pertinent time to share it given the recent events in Afghanistan.

The window pays tribute to the thousands of men and women who served in Afghanistan but serves as a particular memorial to three citizens of York who paid the ultimate price for serving Queen and country.

The main focus of the window is the traditional image of peace, a dove, also the symbol for the Holy Spirit. Beneath the dove is a winding pavement which looks like cobble stones (the church stands in one of the earliest paved streets in York). In the distance can be seen a glimpse of the Heavenly City, the final resting place of all our journeys.

The three York servicemen are represented as individual stones, proudly displaying their regimental badges and flying upwards towards the dove and the Heavenly City.

There are lots of quotations from the Bible which tie in with the window. Look them up – Exodus 24:10; Esther 1:6; Revelation 21:21; John 3:15 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14. The memorial inscription reads:

This window is dedicated to the glory of God and to the memory of all those from York who served their country in the cause of peace and of those who gave their lives in Afghanistan 2001 – 2014

Jean Driver



## **Prayer For Peace**

**Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth**

**Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust**

**Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace**

**Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe**

**Peace, peace, peace**

**Amen**

## **Many Thanks**

Many thanks to my Church Family of St. Mary's for the beautiful floral arrangement on my 80th Birthday. Also for all the cards and donations to Millstream Animal Shelter, Clayton Bridge...in memory of my twin brother Les Hadfield and my birthday. You have all kept me going,

God Bless to all of you,  
Ann Holland. xxxx

## **The Evergreen Prayer**

Autumn

God gave us bright autumn days

And tall, majestic trees

A kaleidoscope of colour

In their foliage, precious leaves

Each one, when given God's consent

Will descend to mother earth

By gaily gliding on the air  
In his time of Grace and worth  
Soon a quilted medley patterned  
Blessed hearts are filled with love  
For autumn days so beautiful  
And our lord, on high above  
Amen

Ann Dudley Duncan (Submitted by Ann Holland)

### **October's Diary**

Producing this month's diary has been a sharp learning curve for me. My usual package for producing the diary isn't working and I've done a lot of running forwards and backwards between my house and my sisters with my laptop tucked under my arm. She's really enjoyed trying to sort it out, I've been near to tears and I'm sure my brother-in-law has had his patience tested.

I've not mastered putting all the pictures in yet (I managed to delete all the saved one's I usually use in the diary and couldn't copy one or two that were sent to me on email but thereby hangs another tale!)

Please bear with me, I will master it and the IT chap at Iain's school will be whisking it away and sorting all my problems out shortly, God willing!

Christine

Deadline for the diary is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:*

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**Telephone 0161 371 8825**

**Who we are:**

**St Mary's Church Website is**

**[www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk](http://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) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**