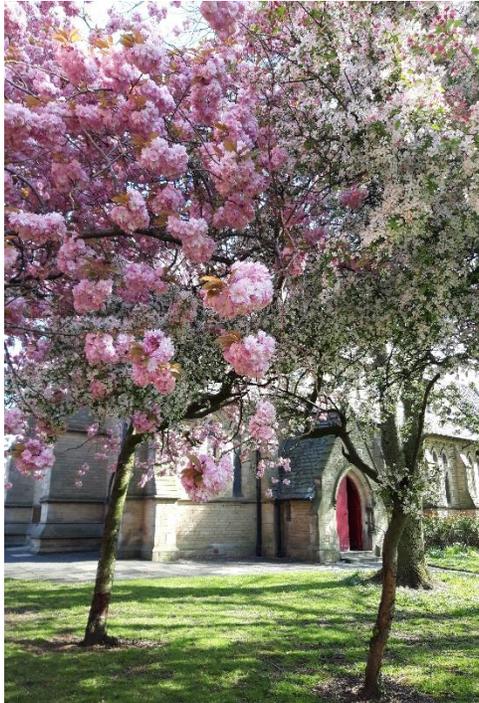


September 2021
THE DIARY OF ST MARY
DROYLSDEN

***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

Changes to services in the wake of restrictions being lifted.

September's services will be Holy Communion and on September 12th Archdeacon David Sharples

- We are no longer required to take details from those attending, although the QR code will be displayed for those using the app.
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory, but we recommend their use inside the building.
- Hand sanitiser will still be freely available and we encourage its use throughout the service.
- All pews will be open (and the seat pads replaced!)
- There will be no requirement for the congregation to leave 2m between themselves and the next person. However, we encourage people to be considerate of others' personal choices.
- The seats at the rear of the church remain spaced apart for those who would prefer to keep to social distancing guidance.
- We can sing indoors!!!

The way we distribute Communion was also discussed. We will trial the following for a few weeks and make adjustments if necessary.

- The president and an assistant will remain on the platform. Where possible there will be two 'stations', one for each side of the church.
- Individuals will be invited forward by a warden/duty officer, coming forward down the centre aisle, one or two at a time.
- The wafer will be dipped in the wine using the tongs as before and dropped into the outstretched hands of the receiver.
- The individual then returns to their seat via the side aisle, removes their mask if they are wearing one, and consumes the sacrament.
- The president will consume the wine at the end of Communion.

If anyone prefers not to receive, they can come forward for a blessing. Should anyone be less mobile, a blessing or Communion can be brought to them (as happened pre pandemic).

Fruits of the Spirit (Matt 6: 25-34 and Gal 5: 22&23)

Well, here it is, autumn. It's my favourite time of the year, yet I can't help thinking 'where has this year gone' every time the mornings get a bit chillier. In his poem To Autumn, John Keats describes it as the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. He writes about how the season and the 'maturing sun' work together to 'load and bless' the vines, apple and hazel trees along with the many other fruits and grains that ripen at this time of year.

In return for not much effort on our part, we can gather apples, pears and plums from the trees in the garden. Blackberries are plentiful in the hedges and parks. In the vineyards of Europe the grapes are ready for harvesting, as are the olives round the Mediterranean.

Humans are involved in the work of maintaining the plants through the winter, pruning where necessary to encourage new growth for the next season. But it is God who sends the sun and rain to ensure the fruits are ready each year. Only in exceptional circumstances does the harvest not happen. It's the cycle of the seasons. God's provision for his creation. He knows that we need to be fed; "and your heavenly Father knows that you need them," Jesus explained in Matthew 6:32. "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them." (Matt 6: 26)

We are so sure of God's provision that we reference it in our everyday language. If we work hard at something, we see the fruits of our labours. We reap the rewards when we stick at a task. So along with the physical harvest, there is a metaphorical one too.

In his letter to the Galatian church, St Paul also uses this metaphor when he writes about what we will gain if we work with the Spirit in our lives. Again, in return for not much effort on our part, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal 5: 22&23). All these things are there in abundance if we choose to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matt 6: 33).

As we watch the colours change, notice the different scents in the air, enjoy the bounty, feel the temperature drop and switch the lights on earlier, may God open the eyes of our hearts to also notice His provision for all our life. I pray that you all reap the fruits of the Spirit as you journey with Jesus.

To Autumn
John Keats - 1795-1821

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Rev'd Sue

Readings for September

5th Sept James 2: 1-10, 14-17 and Mark 7: 24-end; 12th Sept James 3: 1-12 and Mark 8: 27-end;
19th Sept James 3: 13 - 4: 3,7-8a and Mark 9: 30-37; 26th Sept James 5: 13-end and Mark 9: 38-end

Emerging From Restrictions

Monday 19th July 2021 was termed 'Freedom Day'. For some it was 'Anxiety Day'.

After spending so many months isolated from others it felt very different to be able to mix freely with minimum restrictions. Some were eager to get to the pub and others felt more confident staying within their own familiar surroundings.

At St Mary's the PCC followed the Church of England guidelines and tried to measure their response to the relaxed rules. Offering both continued distancing from others but also opening the pews. Both bread and wine are now taken at Holy Communion but in a different format to previously. Singing behind masks had never been so welcome.

But what about going forward?

The PCC would like to know how **YOU** feel about the future worship and ministry at St Mary's.

Every member of the St Mary's family, whether worshipping in church, or at home, is asked to complete a simple questionnaire asking how you feel about lifting restrictions and how our future ministry might look.

The PCC will look at your responses and map out a future ministry which you have helped to influence, and we hope can be involved in.

Behind all our future planning is the hope that in God's time we will be blessed with a new rector. But as we do not know when this might be we should look forward and plan together.

If you do not receive a questionnaire in your diary, please phone Pat (370 0039) or Beth (285 1472) and we will get one to you.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest

Pat -Chair of the PCC



**St Mary's Church, Church Street, Droylsden
Saturday 11th September 10am – 3pm**

This year St Mary's heritage open day will look a little different.

In addition to having the church registers available to view we will be hosting two exhibitions.

- Our church family will be sharing their reflections on the Hopes and Fears from the last 18 months. Through photos to poems, from the young and not so young, we all have thoughts to share.
- David Warrington, a local mature student, will be hosting an exhibition of Contemporary Sculptural Work based upon Christian Symbols and Objects re-interpreted for today's church.

The works presented will include small pieces in a variety of somewhat surprising mediums and larger works involving light projections and movement. David will be present, and available to talk informally about his work.

All are welcome to come and enjoy our beautiful building and spend time reflecting on the heritage and future of the church in the Droylsden community.

Reverend Roger Dixon

Until his (delayed) retirement on 1st August 2021 Roger had been the vicar of St Stephen's church Audenshaw and Area Dean for the Ashton Deanery for many years.

Some of our more mature members of the congregation may remember Roger joining us at St Mary's as a curate in 1980. Roger helped to lead our youth groups at the time. In 1984 Roger was appointed Team Vicar of St Peter Newbold and later returned to the area at St Stephens.

Throughout his ministry Roger has kept up to date with developments at St Mary's and during his terms as Area Dean has supported, guided, and encouraged our ministry. A retirement card was sent to him from all the St Mary's Church family for which we have received his thanks.

Because of covid restrictions his retirement service at St Stephen's has been delayed until Sunday 5th September at 6.30pm. If you would like to attend the service (and refreshments beforehand) could you please let Roger know as soon as possible.

Roger's home phone number is 0161 432 2656 or email revrogerdixon@outlook.com.

We wish Roger a happy, healthy, fulfilled and blessed retirement.

Pat



Below is an email from MU office regarding the Thanksgiving service to be held at the Cathedral on 18th Sept 2021 at 2:30pm

They are also asking for help on the day with refreshments etc. If you are interested. please contact the MU office - they are now closed for the summer until 30th Aug 2021.

We are currently planning our next branch meeting for Tuesday 7th September, which is likely to be a service to welcome Meryl Crummack as a new member.

Giovanna Roberts
Branch Leader

Summer Holiday

On my summer holiday – based in Northumberland – I visited various places from Roman forts, stately halls and gardens, castles and cathedrals and abbey ruins. They were all special in different ways, especially Carlisle, Hexham and Durham Cathedrals.

The latter was my second visit, the first was many years ago on a Mothers' Union pilgrimage to Holy Island. I remember we stopped off at Durham Cathedral on the way and I was very much in awe of it all. We stayed at Durham University halls of residence and had out meals there before continuing to Holy Island to join MU members from all over the North of England. After some time for exploring, we all took part in a Holy Communion service in the grounds of the Abbey before returning to our various homes, what an experience it was!

With that in mind, I was thrilled to be able to visit Durham Cathedral again. It was even more splendid than I remembered, I loved it. Every hour we had a short prayer session, praying for the problems of the world, and about 12.15pm, it was announced that there would be a short Said Communion service in the North Transept, everyone welcome. Well, as I had already missed two Sundays at St. Mary's I was pleased to take part. The chairs ere set out two metres apart and we had a laminated sheet with the responses on and plenty of hand gel. The service had a congregation of about 15 and was plain, very meaningful and was to commemorate and give thanks for Mary Sumner and the work of the Mothers' Union! We ended with the Mothers' Union Prayer.

So, both my visits to Durham Cathedral were linked to the Mothers' Union. It couldn't have worked out better. Now I'm looking forwards to getting back to real meetings including the re-starting of Mothers' Union meetings.

Jill

Beanie Hats

For some years, members of St Mary's have kindly knitted beanie hats which are distributed to homeless people. Once again, I am collecting them for this winter and would be very grateful for any donations. A warm hat is one of the best things to keep someone a warm if they live outside. If you are able to knit them but don't have any wool let me know and I will see what I can do.

If you don't feel you could manage a hat but can do some straight knitting, a warm scarf would be very acceptable.

Susan Marsh



The Scout Group hope to return to holding section meetings during week commencing 6th September, for more information please see the contact number on the last page.

Hyacinth Pots

As we know the Christmas Fair didn't happen last year, but I planted hyacinths just the same and offered them for sale through the diary. What a fantastic response I had. Approximately 20 pots were ordered, and I had Derek running round trying to find extra pots and bulbs. In an attempt to try and avoid a repeat if anyone would like to order in advance, I am more than happy to take orders. This year the pots look like the photograph below and will cost £3.50 each again. (Derek will then run round delivering if needed – I'll let him know in December). Contact details are on the back page or let me know when you see me. If you can order by Sunday, 12th September I'd be very grateful.



Manchester Cathedral 600

Poetry Competition 2021

Sharpen your pencil, polish your pen, hit the keyboard, the **Manchester Cathedral 600 Poetry Competition** is here! This year celebrates six centuries since the founding of the Collegiate Church which grew into our cathedral. We are celebrating the Cathedral - this extraordinary home of spiritual life and diversity, the beating heart of a vibrant city.

We are looking this year for poems which reflect, express or connect with the Cathedral in some way. Poems will be short – no more than 15 lines – so that we can make them really visible in the city and beyond. Poems you submit should be broadly religious or 'spiritual' in nature and, like all good religious poetry, appeal to those who might not describe themselves as 'religious'. We would like to see poetry from different faith traditions, as well as from those struggling to discover a sense of the sacred. Write in any style or form – your poems will be judged solely on their merits as poetry.

And this year, rather than one *winner* and a lot of hopefuls, we will be simply offering TEN prizes of £100, and publishing the winning poems in a Celebration booklet.

The closing date is 30th September and winners are announced on 30th November. For full details and how to enter go to www.manchestercathedral.org/mc600-poetry-competition

Some Friends Stay Forever In Our Hearts

As we walk our path of life,
We meet people every day.
Most are simply met by chance,
But some are sent our way.
These become the special friends
Whose bond we can't explain –
The ones who understand us
And share our joy and pain.
Their love contains no boundaries,
So even when apart,
Their presence still embraces us
With a warmth felt in the heart.
This love becomes a passageway
Where even miles disappear
And so, these friends God sends our way
Remain for ever near.
By Lisa Pelzer Vetter
Submitted by Vivian Shaw

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