

OFFICIAL

April 2026 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

Church Wardens

Pat Catterall 0161 370 0039

Beth Cutler 0161 964 9106

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

OFFICIAL

April Services 2026



3rd April - 10.30am – Good Friday Devotional Service

5th April - 10.30am – Easter Day Holy Communion

Acts 10: 34-43 and John 20: 1-8

12th April - 10.30am – Holy Communion

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 and John 20: 19-31

19th April – 10.30am – Holy Communion

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 and Luke 24: 13-35

26th April – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Acts 2: 42-47 and John 10: 1-10

27th April – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion

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

Easter Hope

Soon we will follow, again, the experiences of the first disciples through Holy Week and Easter in readings and songs, with palm crosses, Easter gardens and lit candles. This living through it year on year shapes us and gives us a particular outlook on life.

We shout 'Hosanna!' with the crowd, as they welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, and then see them soon turn on him and shout 'Crucify!'. Are we also those who follow the crowd?

We watch with dismay (and maybe understanding) as the disciples abandon Jesus at his arrest, and Peter, gathered with others around a fire, denies he even knows Jesus. But not long after, around another fire, Jesus has breakfast prepared for his tired, confused and discouraged fishermen-disciples, and reaffirms Peter with his call to 'feed his lambs' (he is forgiven and sent out with a new role to do - forgiveness in action!)

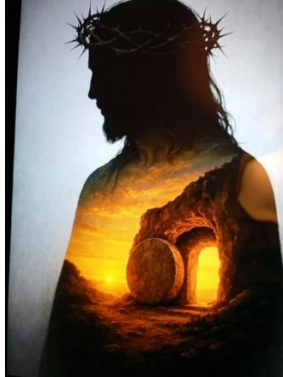
We watch and wait with the women who went to the tomb with spices and ointment to anoint Jesus' body, and sense the confusion, shock and then joy, of Mary as she finds that the man she assumes is a gardener is in fact her risen Lord! (And she too is given an important role, in proclaiming the resurrection to the other disciples.)

As we bring ourselves, our lives and our little mustard seed of faith we might find these stories of disciples long ago reflects aspects of our lives today and we too might find hope through his presence in our lives, his forgiveness for our failures, and his promise of life in the midst of struggles, sorrows, and bereavements.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you all as we walk with Him.

Rev Cath

OFFICIAL



Easter Services

(At St Mary's unless otherwise indicated)

**29th March – 10.30am – Palm Sunday Holy
Communion**

30th March – 4.30pm – Prayer Meeting

**2nd April – 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Holy
Communion**

(At St Andrew's Church, Edge Lane, Droylsden)

**Friday 3rd April – 10-30am – Good Friday Devotional
Service**

Sunday 5th April – 10-30am – Easter Day Holy Communion

Holy Week

Holy Week, the Holiest week of all, of sharing with the Lord in all that He suffered for us.

Lord, be our strength as we enter into the spirit of Holy Week,

To share with You in Your Passion and death,

We ask You to Bless us in our prayers and devotions

In Your goodness, help us the week to understand more fully all that you suffered for us.

Grant us a trusting heart, knowing that through your Passion and death

You take our faults on yourself to free us and bring us joy.

May You forgive us as we bring to You our faults In thought, word and deed

Pour Your Spirit upon us so that we may rejoice in Your resurrection

I know You will be our strength

Amen

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience and kindness. Those who belong to Christ Jesus.

Ann Holland

Prayer Tree

If you are new to church, our prayer tree is located at the back of the church, next to the Book of Remembrance. There are pens and cards to write your prayers and prayer requests on. Please be assured every card left is prayed over with faith, courage and strength that each one is heard no matter how small.



Tea and Toast Drop In

Tea and Toast Drop In. Every Wednesday morning from 9am during term-time. Everyone is welcome, come along for a chat and a chance to meet someone new.

Fellowship and Holy Communion



The fellowship lunch and Holy Communion Service for April will be at 12noon on Monday 27th April

The service in March is Monday 23rd March



Bible Study Groups

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



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 or Stephanie (Tuesday group) or Christine, Pat or Jim (Thursday group).



Next Meeting – 7pm Tuesday 7th April

Holy Communion followed by the Annual General Meeting

Please keep an eye out for things that are coming up to celebrate our 150th anniversary on the new notice display in the church room near the kitchen.

The Sunday Group

The Sunday morning children's group is now running on two Sunday's a month, the 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

All children of primary school age are welcome to come along. Sessions will be held in the Church Room at the back of church.

Kathryn



Craft Group

The Craft Group is a friendly group, meeting every Monday during the school term time in the Emmaus Room from 1.30pm.

OFFICIAL

Novice knitters are always welcome so if you'd like to learn or improve a new skill for the new year, please have a chat with Rosemary or Rev Lorraine.

The group support the Mothers' Union by knitting dozens of beanie hats and blankets for the neo-natal unit at Tameside Hospital – thank you ladies.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7pm – Monday, 27th April 2026

Everyone is very welcome, but you must be on the Electoral Roll to vote at the meeting. For more information, please speak to Rev Cath or Pat and Beth.

The Electoral Roll closes on Monday 13th April 2026.

Useful Information!

Are you a Carer?

A Carer is a person who provides informal and/or unpaid support to a partner, family member, friend or neighbour and they could not manage without this help. You could be supporting someone with finances, shopping, cooking meals, dressing, medication, providing personal and emotional support and/or helping them to access services. This could be for many reasons such as mental and/or physical health issues, frailty, long-term illness or substance misuse issues. If you look after someone,

OFFICIAL

make sure you register as a carer, especially with the GP as you will then be able to discuss health issues with them.

Find the Carers Centre at The People Place at Tameside One, Market Place, Ashton-Under-Lyne, OL6 6BH.

Call the team on 0161 342 3344 or email CarersCentre@tameside.gov.uk

Connect on [Facebook](#) for regular updates on information, upcoming events and activities.

There is a team of friendly Wellbeing Advisors who can provide tailored emotional support, advice on benefit entitlements such as Carers Allowance, signpost to local support services, social groups and much more.

They can also help you to access [Radar Keys](#), [Message in a Bottle](#) and [Tameside Emergency Cards \(TEC\)](#).

Drop-in Support

Call in between 10am – 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for information, advice or if you just want a chat and a brew!

Appointments are not needed, just simply call in.

Coffee Mornings

Enjoy some time out on the last Tuesday of each month from 10am until 12noon. This is a relaxed session where you can talk to our Wellbeing Advisors, local services and meet other people who look after someone over a brew. There are also lots of different activities and events for you to get involved in. From craft sessions to theatre trips, there's something for everyone. The Carers centre will ensure that you will be supported as well as the person you care for. You can't care if you don't look after yourself too!

(if anyone can think of other groups of people / need please let me have the details and I'll gladly put the information in the diary, Christine)



Nigel Harris retired as CEO of Tearfund last June. He joined the staff in November 2015 having previously served with Save the Children.

He was inspired to join Tearfund by a visit to Nigeria. Pastor Isaac had planted a church. There was a brand new church building, a school for 100 children, a six bed health clinic and public toilets – all paid for by the community. Nigel thought “Why can’t this happen anywhere?”

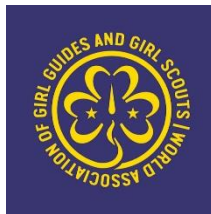
During the last ten years. Under his leadership, Tearfund has developed and promoted the idea that “a transformed church transforms its community” and this has been proved to be possible (see tearfund.org/cctimpact).

Nigel has seen his faith radically develop and his belief in what is possible with God at work in his churches. The church is God’s tool for this work, His vessel to transform. When he joined Tearfund he’d already worked with secular agencies and widely travelled, but it was a new concept to see the worldwide family of churches at work, locally doing and being, and he didn’t feel a complete stranger to it.

Now in retirement he will be supporting and cheering on massively as the work continues. “Thank you all of you” he says and Tearfund gratefully thank him.

At Christmas, St Mary’s Church family donated £75.00 to Tearfund in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

Ann Holland



World Thinking Day 1926-2026

In 1926, Guild Guides and Girl Scouts met for the 4th World Conference in the USA. They asked if there could be a special day when everyone could celebrate being part of the Worldwide Movement and Thinking Day was founded.

22nd February was set as the day as this was the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, founders of both Scouts and Guides and at the time, Chief Scout and Chief Guide.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary, Ashton Division got together for fun and friendship.

The Rainbows had their own activities of crafts from around the world and learning about being part of World Guiding.

Then it was the Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders turn to celebrate with a sleepover. The girls had crafts from different countries to make, and new friends were made too.

Everyone made or renewed their Promise, we heard about why Thinking Day is a global celebration, campfire songs wer sung and friendships were made, supper of hotdogs and then beds were made allover Albion Church in Ashton. Sleep didn't come quickly, it was 1-30am before I went to bed and all the girls were up again by 6am!

Everyone enjoyed it and at Brownies on the following Friday all my Brownies asked when they could go on another sleepover!

For the Leaders, that's all we want to hear, the girls asking to do it again.

Rosemary



The members of St Mary's Mothers Union, Droylsden are teaming up with the pupils of St Mary's Church of England primary school in Droylsden as they too celebrate their 150th anniversary.

OFFICIAL

MU members met with the school Ethos group and explained that MU support those admitted to hospital by providing emergency toiletry bags. The children will raise funds to buy some of the items in the bag and later in the spring term they will pack the bags with the MU members in support. They will also create a postcard to add to the bags to show patients who have gifted the bags. The joint enterprise will see 150 bags packed.

The school and Mothers' Union will buy things between them, so if you are able to help out by contributing:

- Facecloths
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Please pass them on to Pat or Christine.

Later in the summer term the children will deliver the bags to the hospital with the support of MU.

A wonderful example of support across the generations for those in need in our community.

We will keep you updated. Below you will see some photos from our first meeting.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch.

Pat Catterall, Christine Withers

Mothers Union members

OFFICIAL



The first of the Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary Celebrations took place on Saturday 14th March at Manchester Cathedral.

A Service of Celebration for York Province lead by Bishop Mark, was held and what a joyous, inspiring service it was.

Beth, Maureen, Pat and Christine were able to attend. The Cathedral was full of MU members from all over the north of England including Carlisle Diocese, York, Newcastle, Southwell and Nottingham and of course Manchester. Twelve Diocese were represented in all and a special "Worldwide Alter" had been set up.

Bishop Mark spoke about his experience of Mothers' Union and The Very Reverend Rogers Govender spoke about his late mother's involvement in MU in his homeland of South Africa.

There was the dedication of the memorial stand in honour of Mary Sumner, founder of MU who was born in Swinton, Manchester and Baptised in Christ Church, Eccles.

OFFICIAL



Knitted Scouts

Recently Finley took eighteen assorted knitted Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels into the scout group to be passed on to the North Tameside District as part of their 100th Anniversary celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who knitted, you were declared “amazing!!!”

It's not too late to contribute, there are patterns printed in the church room if you'd like to give it a go as well as the one published in last month's diary.

Thank you

Christine



Squirrel Scouts

Hi Everyone,

My name is Julie and I run the Squirrel Scouts with Janet.

Before Christmas we awarded the Acorn Badge to all our Squirrels. They have now all joined Beavers. At present we have spaces for 6 children aged 4 and 6 years old. We meet at 5pm each Wednesday for one hour. We play games and take part in craft activities. Our hut is nice and warm thanks to a grant from Better Youth Spaces. The first session is free. Contact me at 250thsquirrels@ntscouts.org.uk

Kind Regards,

Julie and Janet

Squirrels

Branch out to Squirrels

Jump into Squirrels, a place where
4-6 year olds can join in too.
Wednesday 5-6p.m.
250th Scout Hut, Ellen St., Droylsden, Manchester
M43 7YA
Contact the email below for more details.
250thsquirrels@ntscouts.org.uk



scouts.org.uk
#SkillsForLife

Copyright © 2021 Scouts Registered Charity, numbers 2061213 England and Wales and 60296417 Scotland. Photography by Tom Hall.


Scouts
250thManchester(St
Mary's) M43 7YA

Even as persecution continues to grow and intensify around the world, the church is growing too – and your ongoing prayers and support are a huge encouragement. Thank you for all the ways in which you are standing alongside and lifting up our persecuted church family. You can help by supporting our coffee morning on 4th April.

As violence and fear continue in Iran, there have been some recent glimpses of hope. After a prolonged time of total communication blackout, some Iranians are now managing to speak with their relatives and friends. “It was such a relief to finally hear the voices of our sisters and brothers after nine days of silence,” shares an Open Doors partner who recently managed to have brief calls with some people in Iran. “Praise the Lord, they are safe.”

Others are still desperate for answers. Another Open Doors partner shares about a Christian family in Iran who haven’t seen their eldest son since January, when he went missing during the protests.

“The family has searched desperately for answers, visiting prisons and even mortuaries, yet they have received no information about his whereabouts,” says the partner. “Please pray for protection over their son, wherever he may be, and for comfort for his parents as they wait for any clue or news about their son. The silence and uncertainty have been incredibly heavy for them.”

Please pray for the whole of the Middle East as conflict continues to hit the area.

St Mary’s Church, Droylsden

Coffee Morning

OFFICIAL

Saturday 4th April

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds to Open Doors



A picture to colour for Easter Day



Jesus Is Risen

Read John 20: 1-8

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:

OFFICIAL

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:

Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers

Sides People

**Maureen Allison, Elaine Burrows, Carole Clayton, Joyce Cox,
Gaynor Kirby.**

Treasurer: Kathryn Hampson, 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

Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers - 07973739041

5th Droylsden Brownie Guides - 339 0016

Rainbow Pack - 301 4251

St John's Band - 285 3583