

OFFICIAL

# October 2025 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 376 9407

*Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your souls before him;  
God is a refuge for us.  
Psalm 62: 8*

## **October Services 2025**



**5<sup>th</sup> October - 10.30am – Harvest Holy Communion**

**Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 and John 6: 25-35**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – 6.00pm – Informal Holy Communion**

**12<sup>th</sup> October - 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 and Luke 17: 11-19**

**19<sup>th</sup> October - 10.30am – Holy Communion**

**Jeremiah 31: 27-34 and Luke 18: 1-8**

**26<sup>th</sup> October – 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Joel 2: 23-32 and Luke 18: 9-14**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – 12noon Fellowship Lunch and Holy Communion**

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

## **Great Work is Done While We're Asleep!**

Harvest celebrations bring many lessons to us: the reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness; the good gifts we receive from God – of food, and fellowship and faith; thankfulness and generosity; interconnectedness of our communities. This poem from Wendell Berry (an American farmer, poet, and theologian) reminds us that much depends on our hard work, and the ability to persevere with eyes of faith when we see only cold and rain (or difficulty and weariness) but that even then, it is God who brings growth and life. This fact frees us up to take time to stop, and rest, and give thanks, and not only labour on in whatever we are working on.

Whatever is foreseen in joy  
Must be lived out from day to day.  
Vision held open in the dark  
By our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.  
And yet no leaf or grain is filled  
By work of ours; the field is tilled  
And left to grace. That we may reap,  
Great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day, and finds it good.

By Wendell Berry

In our thankfulness this harvest may we also find strength to keep on going with our faithful Christian service, remembering that 'great work is done while we're asleep'!

*Revd Cath*

## Mid-Week Informal Holy Communion



An informal mid-week service of Holy Communion is being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6pm.

Everyone is very welcome, especially those who find attending services at the weekend difficult. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending, please pass on the information.

## Prayer Tree

You may have noticed that a new prayer tree is now 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 October will be at 12noon on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

September's service will be Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 12noon, everyone is very welcome. If you know of anyone who would like to come to this service, please let them know.

## **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).



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 7pm**

**Speakers – Christine and Meryl**

**Journeys to Rome**

**(Rearranged from September)**

Wanted for emergency toiletry bags for Tameside Hospital:

- Small tubes of toothpaste
- small bars of soap.



Please speak to Pat, Maureen or Christine

## **The Sunday Group**

The Sunday morning children's group is now running on two Sunday's a month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



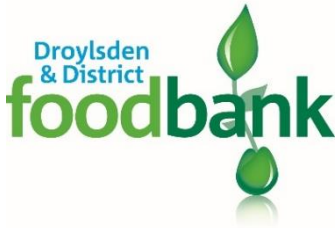
## **Sunday Morning IT Support**

The music to accompany our hymns and PowerPoint presentations on Sunday mornings are played through our sound system on the vast majority of Sundays by Barbara with Christine filling in when necessary.

We would really like to set up a rota with a few more people helping out. If you think this is something you might be able to help with (full explanations will be available) please have a word with one of the wardens.

Thanks

Pat and Beth



Over the summer we have continued to see new clients referred to us because they are facing a financial crisis. Maybe it is new school uniforms, a broken appliance, increased utility bills and until they can resolve the crisis we can support them with food to release funds to help.

We anticipate that in the lead up to Christmas and over the winter period the need for our support will continue to be a lifeline for many families.

Our work could not happen without the dedication of our volunteers some of them having been with us for over 11 years. Do you have a couple of hours to spare on a Friday from 11-1pm? Are you happy to pack and lift shopping bags full of tins etc. If you would like to know more, please have a chat with Pat.

## Harvest Festival

At our church service on 5<sup>th</sup> October, we will accept the harvest gifts from our church family which will once again be shared between the Droylsden & District Foodbank and Lifeshare

**LIFESHARE** 



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Both organisations support those in crisis locally and throughout Greater Manchester and rely on donations to be able to carry out their services. But again, this year is proving to be as tough as ever. The economic uncertainty has fuelled the growing need for support for those in crisis at the same time as households are seeing a squeeze on their budgets. Donations to both charities continue to be a challenge.

If you are able, please support both organisations with donations of long dated non-perishable items. Your donations will be much appreciated

Some suggestions for donations are:

Cereal

Pasta sauces

Rice pudding

Tinned meat

Tinned vegetables

Cereal Bars

Carton milk

Tinned Fish

Tinned and packet soups

Meat free tinned meals

Tinned fruit

Pot Noodles

Biscuits

Carton fruit juice

### **Matthew 25:35**

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

Pat

## **Christmas Fair**

### **Wanted!**

Wanted – new items suitable for the tombola at this year's Christmas Fair.

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Items for adults, children or the home will be gratefully received but they must be new and unused.

Thank you all in advance and please pass your donations onto Pat.

### Confirmation and Admission of Children to Communion

On 19<sup>th</sup> October there are to be two special services. The first will be here in church at 10.30am when we will be admitting four children to Communion.

The second to be held later in the day (6pm) at Christ Church, Denton, we will have three candidates from St Mary's being confirmed.

Those candidates are:

Dawn Robinson, Mark Shemeld.

Please pray for all of very special step along

*Heavenly Father, be sisters as they say yes you and knowing you*

*May they continue grow in their faith and love for you.*

*Amen*



Williams and Ash

them as they take this their journey in faith.

*with our brothers and to continuing to follow as a friend and guide.*



Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September saw the return of Messy Church after school. It was a 'New Beginning'!! – the theme of our session. It was lovely to see some new faces who had only just started school the week before. There was also a chance to catch up about the summer holidays and new classes with our usual children and carers.



**Glittery butterflies** reminding us that we can grow and change for the better. 2 Corinthians 5:17 'If anyone is in Christ the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here'



**Kites** representing a new hope and future dream. Isaiah 40:31 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on the wings like eagles'



**New life flowerpots** were decorated ready for planting seeds or plants which start small and flourish with care just like us with God's love for us.



Linked to this, children tried sunflower seeds and then turned a plain **biscuit into a flower**

with chocolate buttons and smarties. Isaiah 43:19 'See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up'

**Rainbow bracelets.** Each coloured bead symbolised different qualities. Genesis 9:13 'I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'



New life



Hope



God's faithfulness



Jesus' love



friendship



forgiveness



faith and trust



peace



**Bookmarks** were designed as not only for reminding us where we stopped reading but as a reminder of God's promises. Younger children used words or pictures and older children they were encouraged to think about verses from the Bible eg. 'I am making everything new' Revelation 5:17

A short talk and song were followed by mini cheese pasties with beans and chocolate caterpillar rolls were enjoyed by all. Many had seconds.

If you were unable to be there, reflect on the biblical quotes and their significance for you. The next Messy church is Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. Pop along and join us for a fun free afternoon.

Kathryn

### **St Mary's School Ethos Group**

At St Mary's, the Ethos Group plays a pivotal role in promoting our school values and theologically rooted vision. Composed of two representatives from each class, the group serve as courageous advocates within our school community.

Their primary responsibility is to model the school values of CHRIST through their actions and interactions, setting a positive example for their friends. They actively engage in initiatives that promote citizenship, happiness, responsibility, interdependence, self-control and tolerance.

In our monthly meetings, we discuss how we can support each other and the local community by thinking about how small changes can make a difference. They are a dedicated group that not only enhances the school's ethos but also support their friends and teachers to help celebrate being part of a 'Hub of Love'.

The children have enjoyed delivering assemblies in both school and church, sharing stories from the Bible such as Noah's Ark and St Valentine. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that each week's Collective Worship is celebrated and documented by reflecting on the sessions delivered by Mr Quinn, Rev. Cath and the teachers at St Mary's.

In recent months, the children have been learning the school values in sign language as a way to make them more inclusive and meaningful for everyone in the school community. We have just welcomed 2 new Year 1 pupils to the team and we look forward to another positive year!



We love

We flourish



We learn

We flourish?



Please could you knit a poppy (or more) for our poppy display for Remembrance Sunday?

Here is an easy and quick poppy pattern

You will need: Red double knitting wool and a pair of 4mm (UK8) needles

Cast on 80 sts.

Row 1 to row 8 Knit every row

Row 9 Knit 2 together (K2tog)

Row 10 K2 tog to end (20 sts)

We flourish

Row 11 K2 tog to end (10 sts)

Cut yarn with a long end and thread a sewing needle through remaining 10 sts, pull up tight, sew up side seam and fasten off

Sew a black button or felt circle or use black wool to make the centre of the poppy.

Kathryn

### **The Ancient Art of Tai Chi.**

Interested in trying a different form of exercise?

I've been going to a tai chi class for many years now, with the same teacher. It's a class I've never got tired of. Initially doing tai chi was a way of keeping joints mobile, improving breathing and relaxing after a morning's work and it did all of this. I found also that it helped me to a better awareness of the pleasure of silence and in time, to improved meditation on the things of God.



Against a background of gentle music, we start the session with warm-ups of all our joints, then breathing techniques and stretches in flowing low-intensity movements and after a break for tea and biscuits, we go on to the series of movements called the 'form'. We end using gentle movements with a fan and then sit down for a 'quietening' session to end.

We're in the process of moving to a shorter 'form' more suitable for older people and this will make the class easier for beginners and those

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wanting to join. Over the years numbers have inevitably gone down and we're seeking new members.

We meet on Thursday mornings 11.30 to 12.50 at Waterloo Methodist Church, Vale Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL7 9QE. It's off Oldham Road and faces Farmfoods Supermarket car park.

No special clothes are needed, tracksuits/trousers/leggings are ideal, along with flat, comfortable footwear. If you'd like further information, please let me know or contact our patient and very considerate leader, Xianglin Li on 07500 827965. Website address [www.taichiforlife.co.uk](http://www.taichiforlife.co.uk).

Revd Lorraine



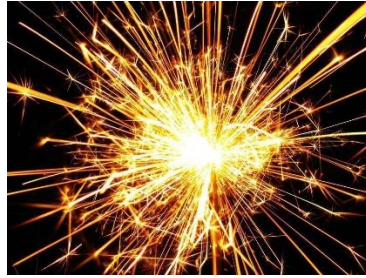
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**From 2pm – 4pm**

**Messy Light**



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**Come along and join in with free crafts, songs  
and light refreshments**

**All Primary School children welcome with  
their parents / carer**



# Christmas Band Concert

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December 2pm

St Mary's Church  
Droylsden

Tickets available  
from Church soon  
priced £5.00

including

Mulled wine and  
mince pies after the  
performance

See Pat



I always think of OCC as an opportunity to send a child in a faraway country a Christmas Gift box. There are many worthy charities and the demand is great these days, so we can find ourselves overwhelmed by requests. I can only say that this giving is different, in that it will make a child happy with a gift-box of their own and knowing the person who sent the box is their friend.

At the OCC Coffee Morning on 4th Oct and during October, there will be OCC leaflets, boxes to take, a Fillers Box to put in shoe-box items (if you cannot manage a box) or take out items to help make your own box, and a Donations box, helping with logistics costs. This gives us all of October



to make up our boxes and bring them back to church by the end of October or at the latest Sunday, 2nd November, for their presentation and blessing.

OCC, in conjunction with local churches or schools, gives children an opportunity to do a simple Christian course and a book, 'The Greatest Gift', in their own language. Samaritan's Purse, which is an International Christian Organisation that runs OCC. It also gives other long-term aid in several countries around the world.

Please see - <https://samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do> You can watch videos [samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child](https://samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child)

Thank you.

John Sporne

**\*\*Please note, from this year, please do not put soap into boxes\*\*** any questions, please ask John

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St Mary's Church, Droylsden

# Coffee Morning

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am – 11.00am

In the Church Room



All Welcome

Proceeds Operation Christmas Child



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A THEATRE PIECE EXPLORING DOMESTIC ABUSE



Live theatre  
Followed by an informal Q & A

St Martin's Church, Droylsden

Greenside Lane, M43 7SJ

PRESS RED PRESENTS

# CONTROL

WEDS OCT 1 2025 7PM

FREE ADMISSION

Supported by Tameside MBC



## A Picture to colour



**Read Luke 18: 9-14**

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:***

***[christine.withers12@talktalk.net](mailto:christine.withers12@talktalk.net)***

***Telephone 0161 371 8825***



**Who we are:**

**St Mary's Church Website is**

**[www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk](http://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:**

**Susan Marsh, Stephanie Rigg, Christine Withers**

**Sides People**

**Maureen Allison, Elaine Burrows, Carole Clayton, Joyce Cox, Julie Farrow, 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**

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**Rainbow Pack - 301 4251**

**St John's Band - 285 3583**