



Parish Profile



Vision and Values

Playing our part in the diocesan vision of a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community, our desire is to be

‘a welcoming all-age community, growing and sharing God’s love’

Our values are to be grounded in **biblical preaching**, to be **family** for one another with Christ at the centre, to **welcome outsiders**, to be **prayerful** and to **grow in our gifts** to God’s glory and for the extension of his kingdom in our community and beyond.

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Our New Rector

We wish to retain and develop worship patterns and styles to cater for all ages and needs. We are hard-working and caring in serving our community, with a strong core of committed members in our congregation. You will find an openness and honesty within the PCC; a PCC ‘Code of Conduct’ has been developed; we are a group of individuals looking forward to a new chapter under new leadership.

We are looking for a Rector who will bring experience and gifting to help us with:

Leadership – someone who can:

- Work collaboratively with our Ministry Team;
- Encourage and maintain team building within our church;
- Communicate effectively in day-to-day work in the Parish;
- Embrace, encourage and develop the gifts in our community;
- Celebrate our volunteers; and
- Make decisions and lead with confidence...

And, do all this with a sense of humour!

Discipleship and prayer – someone who can:

- Continue to encourage, enable and equip others for ordained and lay ministry;
- Help us to further develop our discipleship and the prayer life of the church; and
- Engage with and appeal to a wide-range of people through preaching and teaching.

Growth – someone who can:

- Take ownership and lead on the next phase of the development programme for the church building already in the planning stage;
- Honour, respect and nurture our traditions whilst embracing and developing new styles of worship to support new Christians;
- Enable us to build new relationships with our wider community; introduce and develop new community initiatives; and
- Guide us in reviewing and encouraging stewardship.

How we will support our new Rector

Whilst this list may seem challenging, there is a strong team already in place to support our new rector. We recognise too, that the life of a rector can be very demanding and so the PCC would encourage the new incumbent to balance taking time for themselves to maintain their own well-being whilst being able to focus their efforts on serving the needs of the Parish. We feel the success of our partnership lies in respecting days off, taking all allocated holiday and ensuring that time is set aside for personal development. We sincerely hope if you read this and you feel you are the right person, that God will guide you to us.

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Welcome

Welcome to our Parish Profile. In this document, the PCC has set out a description of our church, our mission and our community. We hope this will form a good basis for helping you to discern if St Mary’s is the right church for you to lead.

Who are we?

St Mary’s is a thriving Christian community which lives for the glory of God. We are a welcoming Anglican church, serving the communities of Droylsden and Audenshaw in the borough of Tameside in Greater Manchester. We are a diverse community; a family of people of all ages and outlooks. Our aim is to be a church in which Jesus is the centre, where people are encouraged to grow in faith and develop in their relationships with the Lord and one another. Where we reach out to share God’s love with the community around us.

What point have we reached?

Over the years, the congregation has enjoyed strong Bible-based teaching and preaching from our clergy. We have encouraged and enabled members of our church to move into ordained and lay ministry. We work collaboratively and have developed many teams to support our leadership group. The church building has been partially reordered to allow for greater flexibility for worship. Some community relationships have been fostered and developed.

Where do we need to go from here?

To continue to encourage and enable members of our church to move into ordained and lay ministry and to make disciples and grow the church. We want to maintain our strong sense of family and close relationships which we value so highly. We want to reach out further into our community to better understand their needs and further reorder our building in support of this ministry.

What are our greatest challenges?

St Mary’s has a committed and capable congregation with a vision of where we want to be, but as age catches up on some of our most faithful servants, it can be a challenge to find others to take on roles. Our aim is to reorder the building to better meet our vision to support the community needs. We want to motivate our young families and meet the needs of our youth. We need encouragement, teaching, practical guidance and leadership to achieve this.

What do we need from our new rector?

St Mary’s is looking for someone who will build on what we have already achieved, help us to overcome our challenges and move us to the next phase of our journey. He or she needs to be someone with a strong personal faith and leadership skills. A person who is a collaborative team-player, able to nurture, motivate and affirm the talents and contributions of others. Someone, who in their preaching and teaching, can relate the Bible to everyday, modern life.

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Life in the Church

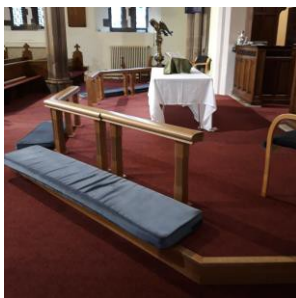
Our Building’s History



Droylsden became a separate Parish in October 1844 and the Revd Philip Thompson was appointed Rector. In August 1846, the building of a new church began at a cost of £3,500. On 1st February 1848, the church was dedicated to St Mary by Bishop James Prince Lee, being the first church consecrated by the first Bishop of Manchester. The stone wall which surrounds the church and the grounds was erected in 1857 to celebrate the end of the Crimean War and was paid for by public subscription at a cost of £147. The building is Grade II listed.

The building has seen several changes over the years, including the re-siting of the font from the baptistery allowing this area to be opened as the main entrance. The old choir vestry was demolished, and a new larger room built named the ‘Emmaus Room’. This room is used for meetings and by the Foodbank as a stockroom.

At various times, pews have been removed to allow for a room at the west end of the building as well as kitchen and toilets to be built. These facilities are now used almost daily, and we are now looking to further redevelop this space.



In 2014, major changes to the building were made; the pulpit was removed to allow for a raised platform to be constructed, the floor in the nave was levelled and some of the rear pews were removed and replaced with chairs. Holy Communion is now predominantly ministered from the platform with removeable rails in place.

The current seating capacity is 240.

Our Building’s Future

Our vision now is to further reorder the nave to allow for additional flexibility of the space. Initial plans for future development have been drafted and it is hoped that most of the required funds will be in place shortly.

The plans of the current layout and the proposed layout once this next phase of reordering is complete are available separately. These are draft plans and no faculty has yet been applied for.

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Ministry Team

It’s all about team work at St Mary’s. God has given us each different gifts and talents to use in His service; these gifts are recognised, encouraged and strengthened through training, prayer and support.

Over the past few years, we have seen members of our church family called to various forms of ministry.

Revd Nancy Alexander
Assistant Priest



Revd Susan Ball
Curate



Doreen Harthan
Reader Emeritus



Both Revd Nancy & Revd Sue have employment outside of St Mary’s.

There are also three Authorised Lay Ministers:



Elizabeth Cutler – Pastoral Care
Stephanie Rigg - Children’s Ministry
Christine Withers – Prayer & Spirituality
(L – R)

The Bishop has also authorised 17 members of our congregation to be Eucharistic/Communion Assistants.

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Worship

This is the pattern of worship:

First Sunday	10:30am 6:30pm	Family Service Holy Communion
Second Sunday	10:30am	Holy Communion & Lighthouse Group for Children
Third Sunday	10:30am	Family Communion or Family Service with Holy Communion at 11:45am
Fourth Sunday	10:30am	Holy Communion & Lighthouse Group for Children
Fifth Sunday	10:30am	Holy Communion or Family Service

We use Common Worship and All Age Lectionary with the clergy wearing cassock and surplice with preaching scarf. Our church tradition is ‘Open Evangelical’.

An AV system is used for family services with music supplied via an iPod. For special services, a member of our congregation who is an organist plays. There is also an occasional music group and for most services, an informal choir.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday during term-time, St Mary’s Church of England Primary School hold their daily assembly in church with a member of the ministry team leading the worship.

St Mary’s holds special services throughout the year.



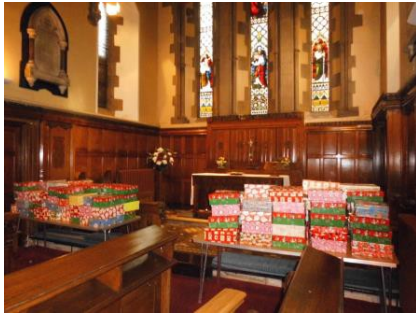
Easter Sunday is a special day when we see the transformation of the wooden cross into a living symbol of Christ’s resurrection to new life.

At our Harvest Festival Service, items donated go to support our local foodbank and a homeless charity.



A biennial Service of Remembrance is held for those in the community who have lost loved ones.

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Each November, we hold our Operation Christmas Child Service where the shoeboxes from the congregation and community are gathered in for distribution to children across the world. Our scouting groups, school and wider church family support this project.

Our Christmas services are always well-attended and include our family Christingle Service.



The Christmas Eve Crib Service delights both children and adults alike as we enjoy taking part in the telling of Christ’s birth.

The Carols by Candlelight Service welcomes all into the warmth of the Christmas Story.



Our Silver Service is held six times per year on a Monday. Those no longer able to join us on a Sunday are brought to a Holy Communion Service, enjoying fellowship and a light meal together.

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults; it involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It’s primarily for people who don’t already belong to a form of church. Messy Church takes place six times per year, during term-time (currently under review) on a Thursday at 3:15pm as school finishes. We include a welcome drink and biscuit, a creative time to explore a biblical theme by getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer and a song. Sandwiches, crisps, fruit and cake are then shared. All elements include both children and adults; it’s fun but exhausting!



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Our Support Teams



Welcoming Team

St Mary's is a welcoming church – not our words but from those who were once new to our services.

We not only welcome our congregation as they arrive, we also encourage each other to extend that welcome to others.

Tea Team

No church can function without those willing to provide tea, coffee, cake, biscuits and any other form of sustenance. Whether it is following Sunday worship, at a Fun Day or for meetings, the team is always available with the kettle on.



Cleaning Team

Our Cleaning Team meets every Friday morning to clean, dust, vacuum and polish to make sure the building is always looking at its best. A special challenge following a Messy Church!

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Flower Team

Cash donations are made in remembrance of loved ones and floral displays adorn the church in their memory.



Building Team

There is always day-to-day maintenance to be done both inside and outside the church. The most recent Quinquennial Report states that the building is in good repair. Health and safety is also given due consideration with the appropriate files being maintained. Not all tasks are as simple as the photograph suggests!

Finance Team

The Treasurer is supported by the Gift Aid Secretary and the team who count all cash donations. The church is encouraging members of the congregation to consider donating via standing order or direct debit and to sign up for Gift Aid. More of our number are choosing these options for their regular giving.



Administration Team

This team covers many elements within their role; the monthly diary is written, laid out and proof-read. There are numerous reports to be compiled and submitted and wedding and baptism registers and certificates need to be completed and returned. Posters and flyers for special events and invitations are also designed and produced by this team. The church has a Book of Remembrance which records the anniversary of death of former members of the congregation.

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Social Team

In addition to the Community Fun Days, the team has arranged several quiz nights. These are typically held at an outside venue, are well-attended and are family-focused.

We have also held a family movie night in church with popcorn and ice creams. We hope that with the further reordering of the nave, we will be able to accommodate other events for the church family and community.



Vergers

For both weddings and funerals in church, we have a team of vergers who support the clergy at services.

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Our Church Groups

St Mary’s is a busy church with a variety of groups exploring faith and serving others.

Bible Study

Over the years, we have created several groups who meet to study the Bible and to better understand how it relates to us today. The groups meet fortnightly at leaders’ homes or in church.

There are three evening house groups where its members can build relationships with each other to give support in times of challenge whilst studying the Bible and learning together. Some of these have developed from Start and Alpha courses. Each year, the groups get together for fellowship, a meal and to share their study feedback and experiences. There is also a church-based weekday fellowship group which provides support alongside bible study, listening to and singing hymns.

The church family sometimes meets together to study during Lent as we follow diocesan and Church of England courses. The PCC also has a Saturday study day where we consider where God may be leading us, as well as working from the PCC Tonight study course.

Mothers Union

The MU group was established many years ago and continues to thrive. At each monthly meeting, there is a short service, a speaker and refreshments. Outside of these meetings, the group supports various initiatives globally, nationally and locally. Causes close to their heart include the supply of emergency toiletry bags to our local hospital which are valued, with letters of appreciation often received in response. The MU also knit for the premature baby unit and, so too, are these donations gratefully received. There are also two outings per year; one in the summer and one at Christmas. The group is open to all, including men.



Craft Group

This group of ladies meets each Monday afternoon to knit and natter; a time for them to get together to enjoy crafting whilst catching up with each other and sharing in a biscuit and a brew. Their crafts are sold at our Christmas Fair and help raise funds for church.

Tots Time

Held every Tuesday during term-time, the group meets in a welcoming atmosphere where adults and children meet one another and make new friends. On average, there are 16 children, from new born to three-years old, attending each week with their adult helper. The session starts with free play where children choose from a variety of play activities, including a craft time, enabling children to develop and learn new skills in preparation for transition to nursery or school. After an hour’s playtime, tidy up time is shared by all as we encourage children and adults to help in this task in readiness for snack time. Children enjoy fresh fruit, toast and juice whilst adults have a hot drink and toast.

Circle time which follows is an important element for all; it is here that a simple bible truth is introduced using story, choruses and nursery rhymes.

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In July, there is an end of school year party and graduation ceremony where the children leaving tots receive a certificate and Scripture Union book to help them and their parents in the transition. We have seen families start to attend our Sunday Family Services and bring their children for baptism.



Community Drop-in

Every Wednesday morning during term-time at 9am, St Mary's doors are open to welcome mums & dads, grandparents, childminders and anyone else who is passing, to enjoy a hot drink and toast. We know that sometimes, the adults will not have had breakfast before dropping their children at school and this is an opportunity for them to sit, natter and relax for an hour. One week it will be busy, another it'll be less so, but the service provided is always welcomed. This is also an opportunity for those visiting the drop-in to share in the school assembly taking place in church.

Public Speaking Group

Led by a member of the congregation used to public speaking, this group seeks to give others confidence to speak in church and take a wider part in services as well as in the community.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

On the first Saturday of each month, a coffee morning is held in support of different Christian charities. Both members of the church family and residents support these events and help to raise awareness and funds for both small and larger charities. The charities supported in 2018 included:

- Leprosy Mission
- Children's Society
- MAF
- Open Doors
- CAP

250th Manchester (St Mary's) Scout Group



The group is linked to St Mary's Church through a deed set up by John Dean, the founder of the unit. A yearly rent of 5p is paid to the church to maintain the link between the two. If the link with the church is broken, there are consequences for the group, land and hut. Today it is still a strong group and an active member of the local community, with a section night for Scouts, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Explorer

Scouts.

There are groups for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides who also meet at the hut.

The Guiding Unit holds a service each year in church for the district and there are plans for the Beaver unit to hold a similar service in December 2019. Both scouting and guiding units support St Mary's Operation Christmas Child project. We would like to develop our links with the units further in the future.



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Our Schools

St Mary’s Church of England Primary School

The school building is next to the church and we enjoy a happy and fruitful relationship with the pupils and staff. Each classroom has a prayer station and children are encouraged to share their prayer requests. Whoever is appointed Rector becomes an ex-officio member of the school’s governing body.

The school’s **Mission Statement** is:

‘Our school is a community where Christ is the centre. Every individual is appreciated and valued. All are encouraged to develop their full potential: spiritually, morally, intellectually and physically. The ethos of sharing, caring and friendship is fundamental to children becoming responsible citizens in God’s world’.

We believe in: **Citizenship**
Happiness
Responsibility
Interdependence
Self-control
Tolerance

Each Tuesday and Wednesday, the school hold their assembly in church with a member of the ministry team leading the worship. The children manage the AV equipment and lead prayers. They also hold concerts for parents and the congregation in church; last Easter during the last week of term, the Year 5 pupils planned and presented an excellent ‘Experience Easter’.



One child, after knocking nails into the cross commented how much it must’ve hurt Jesus’ hands and feet when he was crucified.



iSingPop Concert

There are a small number of parents who join our congregation in order to secure a place for their children into the school as it is oversubscribed. Members of our congregation are school governors, with parents, children and staff worshipping alongside us on Sundays.

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Within our parish, there are a further five primary schools:

Aldwyn Primary School hold their Christmas Carol Service in church and the ministry team are occasionally invited to lead an assembly at school. They have visited our ‘Experience Easter’ and Christmas projects. The school always supports the Foodbank with the harvest collection.

Hawthorns School is a special educational needs school for children with moderate to complex needs, aged 4-11 years old. They have visited our ‘Experience Easter’ and Christmas projects. They also visit the church building each year to look around, touch and feel the furniture to widen their experiences. The visits are always humbling and fun.

Moorside Academy has few links with St Mary’s although there is a good relationship with the Foodbank, and they have supported the Droylsden Nativity Project. We would like to develop a closer relationship with Moorside Academy.

St Stephen’s Roman Catholic Primary School is on the edge of our parish boundary.

Fairfield Road Primary School is adjacent to the Fairfield Moravian Settlement in Droylsden and again, links with St Mary’s are few.

All our primary schools have been invited to join us at Messy Church.

Secondary Schools

There is one all-girls school within the parish boundary; **Fairfield High School for Girls** is situated in the heart of the Moravian Settlement and therefore has strong links with that church.

The School House adjacent to St Mary’s Primary School is an alternative education provision run by Ashcroft School and commissioned by Manchester Secondary Pupil Referral Unit. It works with young people aged 11-14 years old who have struggled to cope in traditional school settings. There is little contact with the church.

Laurus Ryecroft is on the border of our parish and Christ Church Ashton-under-Lyne. It is a non-selective, non-denominational free school and opened in September 2018 on a phased intake basis as the new school building is currently under construction.

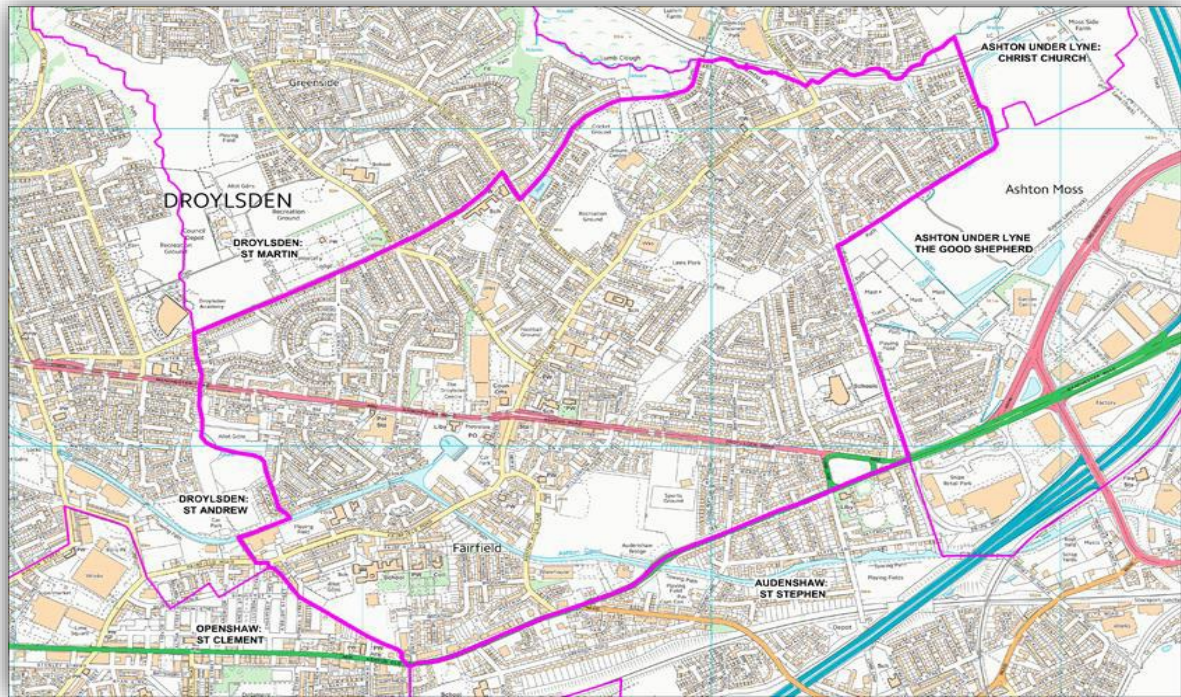
Nurseries

St Mary’s Church of England School has its own nursery and in addition, there are several independent nurseries within the parish.

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Our Community

The parish of St Mary’s covers areas of Droylsden and Audenshaw and the population totals 13,763 with 6,012 occupied households. The church is situated in the centre of the parish.



Audenshaw has always been a residential area with mainly privately-owned homes with some privately-rented. There is little social housing in Audenshaw within our parish. Little has changed within this area of the parish for many years.

Droylsden has seen significant changes in the recent past. Once renowned for its manufacturing, by the end of the 20th Century, that had mostly closed. Tesco opened a store in Droylsden in 1997 and in 2007, construction of a marina on the canal side began. In 2008, Robertson’s Jam Factory, a significant employer in the area, closed and the site demolished; the site has remained vacant ever since.

The Concord Suite, in the centre of Droylsden, was built in the early 1970s to house Droylsden Council. The word ‘Concord’ comes from the town’s motto ‘*Concordia*’ meaning harmony. Although now empty, it is around this building that the shopping centre for Droylsden was built. The Greater Manchester Pension Fund, who previously occupied the Concord Suite, has built new premises directly across the road and are a large employer in the area.

The decision to extend the Metrolink to Droylsden has had a significant impact on the community. There were many delays during the construction of the line impacting Droylsden retailers; because of the delays and difficulty in accessing the shopping centre, many businesses were forced to close. Once the route into Manchester was opened in 2013, the opportunities for residents to commute into the city and for visitors in the city to explore our area became possible. As with many other towns, there is no longer a bank. It is only recently that opportunities for development and regeneration are being fulfilled. The town

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centre was purchased this year and the new owners are working with businesses and the community to bring about changes with the hope of renewed prosperity.



CGI showing the first phase of works in Droylsden Town Centre

The housing stock is mainly privately-owned. There are several sheltered housing properties and a few social housing estates. Modern transport links are excellent with a Metrolink station and proximity to the M60. The parish is predominantly white working-class although there is a rise in the ethnic minority population, particularly British Muslims. There is a significant proportion of retired residents as well as young professionals though most of the population are families.

The former Robertson’s Jam Factory site, although a brownfield site, has recently been granted planning permission to build approximately 300 houses.

Isolation and loneliness amongst the older population are some of the issues facing our community, particularly as some bus routes have been changed recently affecting accessibility to town centres. There are pockets of deprivation in the parish and occasional incidents of anti-social behaviour, but these are not always perpetrated by residents.

There are a good number of sporting and leisure clubs, including football, rugby and cricket with activity centres and a theatre all within the parish boundaries.

How we as the parish church get involved and minister in our community

Droylsden Town Team

Droylsden Town Team is made up of representatives from the community, churches, voluntary groups, businesses and councillors with the aim to regenerate the town centre, build community links and encourage support networks.

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St Mary's has active members on the Town Team. The church participates in community fun days by providing free children's crafts and general support on the day.

Nativities Festival

The Droylsden churches began working together more closely and in 2014, with the Droylsden Town Team, arranged to place nativity scenes in local businesses. The nativity scenes were made by local church groups, schools and community groups (including Scouts, Brownies, the Foodbank and swimming club) and each linked with a local business. The aim of the project is to increase footfall in the town centre, put the birth of Jesus at the heart of Christmas in our town and to publicise the Christmas services of the local churches, as well as building community relationships. In 2017, the number of nativity scenes created and displayed was over 60. The project received a 'Church for a Different World Award' in 2017.



Droylsden & District Foodbank

In 2013, the local churches (St Mary's, St Martin's, Church of the Epiphany along with our Methodist, Moravian & URC colleagues) with the support of the Town Team, opened the Droylsden & District Foodbank (affiliated to the Trussell Trust) to meet local need. The project manager and several trustees are members of St Mary's Church alongside additional volunteers. The distribution centre for the foodbank is located at church and is open each Friday 12pm-2pm. The warehouse is in a vacant unit in Droylsden Town Centre.



During 2018, the foodbank fed 912 people, providing 8,208 meals and received 9,252kgs of food. Food donations are made via the local Tesco store, churches, schools, businesses and by individuals. Over 50 agencies hold vouchers with most referrals being made through schools, children's agencies and the Job Centre.

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Heritage Open Day



The church regularly opens its doors for HOD weekends. As we hold marriage and baptism records dating back to the opening of the church, we see many people visit to learn more about their family history. In 2018, we built up a profile of the people behind the 46 names on the WW1 memorial in the chancel and displayed our findings.

Family Fun Day

Our family fun days have seen rain, sun and everything in between. The church family, schools and the community are invited to join us for a BBQ, crafts, music, bouncy castle and fun.

Music is provided by St John’s Brass Band who are affiliated to St Mary’s Church.



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Finance and Stewardship

Stewardship

Our last formal stewardship campaign was held in 2017. This was supported by the Diocesan Stewardship Officer who has helped us with previous campaigns. He has also preached at services since the campaign on the biblical teachings on stewardship. In addition to focussing on the financial aspect of stewardship, time and talents featured heavily. As you can see from this profile, our church has many people with skills and talents willing to offer these in service.

Our finances have not seen an increase in recent years. Several committed members of our congregation who gave sacrificially to the church have passed away. Although we are seeing young families start on their Christian journey, their depth of faith has not yet seen them commit sacrificially to giving and it may be that their circumstances will not allow them at this time.

This area is a challenge for future years.

Charitable Giving

Up until 2018, the practise of the church was to tithe the committed giving and collection plate for the benefit of Christian charities both globally and nationally. Because of the PCC’s commitment to paying the parish share this was not possible in 2018. The PCC has therefore made the decision to hold four Sundays focussed on specific charities with speakers and opportunities to donate to the relevant charity. This will raise awareness of the charity with the congregation and hopefully build long-lasting relationships.

We have a Mission Partner through CMS and this will become one of our focussed charities. We also have a commitment to support Je Fea through Compassion via individual donations and a coffee morning. Our monthly coffee mornings also supports other Christian charities which are suggested by the congregation and confirmed by the PCC.

Finance

Our congregation are encouraged to give regularly via the weekly envelope giving scheme and if possible, to contribute by standing order and to Gift Aid donations where applicable.

Parish Share

Along with other parishes, we negotiated our Parish Share for three years. These figures are:

Parish Share Year	Amount (£)
2018	26,000
2019	28,000
2020	30,000

St Mary’s paid the Parish Share in its entirety in 2016 and 2018. In 2017, the PCC prioritised tithing commitments and consequently was unable to pay the full Parish Share. The PCC is committed to paying the Parish Share in total and as explained above has reviewed the form of charitable giving.

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Information and Statistics

Website: <http://www.stmarydroylsden.co.uk/>

Facebook: St Mary’s Droylsden

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Marys-Droylsden-636203966405697/posts/>

Area Dean: Revd Roger Dixon revrogerdixon@outlook.com 0161 370 1863

Archdeacon: Revd Cherry Vann CherryVann@manchester.anglican.org 0161 678 1454

Rectory: St Mary’s Rectory, Dunkirk Street, Droylsden, M43 7FB



Electoral Roll: 115

Average Weekly Attendance	
2016	70
2017	72
2018	71

Average Weekly Attendance (under 16s)	
2016	20
2017	23
2018	22

2018	
Baptisms	23
Marriages	5
Funerals	11
Christmas Communicants	62
Easter Communicants	96
Confirmations	4
2019	
Admitted to Holy Communion	6