**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024**

**A GROWING, SERVING AND NURTURNG CHURCH AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY**

**REFLECTION**

August 1st  is Lammas day. An old Christian festival, little

celebrated these days.

Lammas derives from the old English words Loaf Mass. And it celebrated the first grain harvest of the year. Sometimes it was known as the festival of the first fruits.

In previous times, and indeed not so long ago, this was a

joyful day. Yes, there would be hard work bringing in the

harvest but there would be no hunger.

The day was celebrated with processions to bakeries to bless them, and then once the churchy bit was over it was party time into the night.

There are still some Lammastide fairs, St Andrews in Scotland has one, but many towns and cities has areas of common ground called Lammas Land where the fair/party took place. In earlier times Lammastide was a time for farmers to consider the fruits of their labour and give thanks to God for the gifts given to them.

We too are called to reflect on the blessings that have been bestowed upon us throughout the year. So, in this season of abundance, let us not forget those who are less fortunate, those who struggle to make ends meet, and those who long for the warmth and sustenance of community.

As we gather together in fellowship every week, at this church or a church that you may be visiting on holiday, let us remember to share our blessings with others, to extend a hand of compassion and love to those in need.

Lammastide serves as a reminder that all that we have, all that we are, is a gift from the divine. It is a time to give

thanks for the blessings of the harvest, the warmth of the

sun, and the nourishment of the earth. It is a time to celebrate the interconnectedness of all living beings and to recognize our place within the intricate web of life.

Let us carry the spirit of Lammastide with us in our hearts.

Let us remember to cultivate gratitude for the abundance

that surrounds us, to share our blessings with others, and to sow seeds of kindness and compassion wherever we go.

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**SERVICES IN AUGUST**

**We can ensure you of a warm welcome as you join us for worship at any of our services.**

**Each Sunday and Wednesday**

**10.00am Eucharist**

**Children’s Church each Sunday at 10.00am**

**Tea and coffee are served in the hall after the Sunday morning service.**

**Wednesday 7 August - we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am Eucharist.**

For more information, please check the church website [https://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org/](about:blank), [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/](about:blank)

 [St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](about:blank)

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**GALA DINNER**

Following last year’s fabulous Gala Dinner, we have had numerous requests for this to be repeated this year. Good news! we have booked this event for Saturday 21st September, at the St John Henry Newman Centre, Davyhulme Road. Tickets this year are £37.50 each which includes a 3-course meal and entertainment.

As we continue to raise money for church funds, there will also be raffles and other games on the night. For tickets, please contact Angela or Liz. Donations of donate raffle prizes are much appreciated; please see Liz/ Angela.

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

I am sure that you have all appreciated the lovely flowers that enhance our church week by week. These are mainly sourced and arranged by Elsie- thank you!

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of these flowers, perhaps to mark a special occasion or in memory of someone special, please could you add you name to the list on the church noticeboard. Gift Aid envelopes are available if you able to gift aid your donation. donations. Thank you.

**CHURCH FINANCE**

Thank you to all those who give regularly and generously to the upkeep of this church. Only with the help of our church family can we keep continue to meet the rising cost of maintenance and repairs that are necessary to maintain our church in good order.

If you would like to join the church giving scheme, or have any queries about giving, please contact Niki, the treasurer or Yvonne. The Gift Aid that we are able to claim on Gift Aided donations makes a significant contribution to church finances. Please do pray about how you may be able to continue to help financially and in so many other ways.

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Saturday** **3 August** - Afternoon Tea with music by Andy and Elaine 2pm to 4.30pm. Tickets £10, pre-booked only and are selling out fast!

**Friday 25 October** – Back by popular request! Bingo Night with our very own Sue McGrane. Licenced bar.

**Saturday 30 November** – THE! Christmas fair! More information next month.

**DIOCESE**

* + 1. For up-to-date information about what is happening around our Diocese just click on this link and sign up to the weekly enews.
    2. [**enews@manchester.anglican.org**](mailto:enews@manchester.anglican.org)
    3. You are also invited to join the Diocese Transforming Prayer Community where you will receive a prayerful reflection in your inbox each week.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

We have a weekly activity sheet and reflection from Rootsontheweb.com that can be emailed wherever their studies and employment take them. You are always welcome to join us on a Sunday morning and if you can’t make it but would like to know more, please get in touch.

A prayer from arocha.org.uk

Please pray for all those at our nature reserves who engage young people with the natural world and pray for more opportunities for young people to come into contact with God’s Creation.

Maybe our local young people would be interested in our church green spaces…see below.

**CHURCH GARDENS**

The Early Birds Nursery enjoyed picking their potatoes in July. The vegetable bed continues to thrive with peas, beans more potatoes and a courgette plant. We have small areas of fruit and vegetables growing, flower beds to care for and lawns to be maintained. Together, this is a large area for all to enjoy. Help is still needed around the grounds. If you are able to spare any time, please let us know what would suit you, an hour a week would make a huge difference. Thank you

**NEVER FORGOTTEN**

**BABY PEER LOSS SUPPORT**

Chelle and her support group are not meeting during August but Chelle sends a big thank you for all the support from the church in making the group a success please. A supportive safe space for anyone affected by baby loss. For further information and future dates please contact [rachellenj@hotmail.com](about:blank)

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Children’s church activities are in the hall at 10.00am on a Sunday and then we join with everyone in church for the Eucharist. Stories, craft, songs, games, prayers for around 30 minutes. It has been special to welcome new families on a Sunday, and we are grateful for the extra adult volunteer who can lead the older children’s group with bible study and discussion.

[childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org](about:blank)

**MOTHERS’ UNION**

We have no meetings in August but look forward to meeting up with each other at services. You may like to look at [Homepage | Mothers' Union (mothersunion.org)](about:blank) to learn more about the work of MU both UK and world wide. An organisation for both men and women supporting family and friends through our Christian Faith.

**ECO CHURCH**

Many of us try our best at recycling, both at home and at church. Do many of us know about recycling containers for pre-loved items at our local tips. These are refurbished and sold to raise funds for community projects. Find out more at [About Us & What We Do | Recycle for Greater Manchester](about:blank).

Supporting Eco projects abroad, we continue our early journey of twinning our church garden with a garden in Migori, Kenya. By twinning our church garden, we are now helping families access 3 years training in sustainable organic farming. King Charles is head of the patrons supporting [Ripple Effect | About us](about:blank). You may want to consider twinning your garden too.

**FOOD BANK**

More people than ever are turning to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. Stretford Food Bank are requesting the following for the school holiday period: Cereals & long-life milk, chocolate spread & peanut butter, dried fruits, hotdogs and tinned ham, baked beans and spaghetti, tinned tuna & sweetcorn, pot noodles, crisps, cereal bars & crisps. Donations can be left at church on Wednesday and Sundays. They are also grateful for carrier bags too. Thank you.

**CHURCH AT HOME**

In recent years the Church has worked hard to try to meet the spiritual needs of those who cannot make it to Church, either through ill health or other vital commitments. One of our parishioners recently shared some information about services that can be accessed on TV and the radio:

**Sunday Worship** - Radio 4 at 8.10 a.m. A short service with hymns, prayers and address/ sermon.

**Songs of Praise** - TV (Sunday), usually 1.15 p.m. BBC 1 or 2 depending on sporting events etc

**Choral Evensong** - Radio 3 at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, repeated on Sunday at 4.30pm. The anthems, canticles, psalms and hymns are all sung to a very high standard and aid the worship.

You can also access daily prayer through the following link  <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

There is also a weekly online service you can access through this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services>

It is always best to worship with the Christian community in person, but these resources are a rich blessing for those who are unable to. They can also be accessed alongside our weekly services at Church as a way of enriching our public and private prayer and worship.

**WESTMINSTER ABBEY**

We now have a parish pass that gives free entry to Westminster Abbey for 2 adults and 2 children. If anyone would like to use it, please check with Rev Matthew. It can only be used a certain number of times in a year, so please don't borrow it for friends etc. If you do borrow it, please see Dr Simon who has tips on how to make the best use of it.

Look out for a splendid picture of King Charles in our church.

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**QR CODE**

This QR code will take you directly to the church contactless giving device. Using this via your phone, you are able to then make a donation directly to the church bank account. Thank you.