

**PARISH CHURCH OF
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

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

REFLECTION

David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times, wrote a book in 2017 called 'The Road to Character' where he traced the lives of various people, and how they were shaped by a growth towards character. In the introduction to his book, he wrote: 'Recently I've been thinking about the difference between the resume virtues and the eulogy virtues. The resume virtues are the ones you list on your resume, the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to your external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper. They're the virtues or values that get talked about at your funeral – whether you are kind, brave, honest or faithful; what kind of relationships you formed.' For Brooks, character is something that develops over a lifetime. Brooks believes the eulogy virtues are ultimately more significant than what we might call the C.V. virtues, and so he looks at the lives of both well-known and not-so-well-known women and men to see what they might teach us about the road to character.

Brooks' book seems significant in a culture which the cultural historian Warren Susman describes as having shifted from a 'culture of character' to a 'culture of personality'. In our present context it seems that personality is regarded as more important than character. Susan Cain, writing about this phenomenon, says, 'In the culture of character, the ideal self was serious, disciplined and honourable. What counted was not so much the impression one made in public as how one behaved in private. The word personality didn't exist in English until the eighteenth century, and the idea of having 'a good personality' was not widespread until the twentieth.'

At the beginning of February we celebrate Candlemas, also known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus to the Lord in the Temple. The gospel reading for Candlemas introduces us to Simeon and Anna, both of whom are people of character. Luke describes Simeon as 'righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.' Anna is described as someone who 'worshipped' in the Temple, with 'fasting and prayer' night and day. She is a woman of great fortitude - it was no mean feat to live into old age as a widow in her culture. Both Simeon and Anna have qualities which Luke commends, and which enable them to recognize that the child Mary and Joseph present to the Lord in the Temple is the one who will bring God's salvation to Israel and all the world.

Luke describes Simeon and Anna as people of character (he says nothing about their personality!). He doesn't list their resume virtues either, rather he tells us that Simeon was a righteous man and that Anna was someone who put her hope and trust in God.

At the heart of our Christian faith is the understanding that God calls us to reflect Jesus's character in and through our lives. The road to character is not without wrong turns and yet we are called to be on the road, to follow the way

Jesus makes possible. We are called to be like Simeon and Anna, to let God shape our characters so that more and more we resemble the one we follow.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

Sundays – 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church. **Tea and coffee are served in the hall after the Sunday morning service.**

Wednesday 5 February 10.00am We will be using the Book of Common Prayer at this Eucharist.


Wednesday 10.00am - Eucharist


Thursdays - 7.30pm 'Being With'

For more information, please check the church website

<https://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org/>,

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/>

 [St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](#)

 Instagram [stmarysdavyhulme](#)

Pre-LENT QUIET DAY

There will be a pre-Lent Quiet Day for our parishes at St. Clement's on Saturday 1st March, from 10am-3pm. The aim of the Quiet Day is to create some space for prayer, reflection and worship in the days leading up to Lent. More details will follow, and the timetable will be organised so that you can come to all or some of the day. We will also be sharing lunch together, so bring a packed lunch! Light refreshments will be provided.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne and Fiona are at church to prepare our worship sessions and welcome you. You may not be able to come every Sunday but when you can, there is a welcome, Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, word searches and more. Contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Two events to look forward to:

February 14 7.00 – 10.00pm. A musical evening with Andy & Elaine. Licensed bar. Proceeds split between the Toy House and St Mary church.

29 March 10.30am – 1.00pm. Spring Coffee morning with a wide variety of stalls.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the church 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 are able to gift aid your donation. Thank you.

AREA DEAN

Congratulations to our Area Dean, Rev Nick Watson, on his appointment as Archdeacon of Salop. Rev Nick starts his new post at the beginning of May. We will miss his support and pastoral care for the parishes within our deanery and send our very best wishes to

him and his family as he begins this new stage in his ministry.

CHURCH FINANCE

Thank you to all those who give regularly and generously to the upkeep of this church. It is only with the help of so many that we are able to pay all our regular utility bills, and the high costs related to maintaining this church. This year our Parish Share has increased again and is now £59,000 a year, almost £5,000 a month.

If you do not already donate to the church on a regular basis, please consider the church giving scheme. Making a regular donation towards the costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church helps with the church's financial planning and enables the church to extend its mission.

The Gift Aid that we can claim on Gift Aided donations makes a significant contribution to church finances. If you are able to Gift Aid any donations and have not signed a Gift Aid form, please speak to Yvonne.

Please do pray about how you may be able to continue to help this church financially and in many other ways.

CONFIRMATION

We will be having a Confirmation service in church in June. If you have not yet been confirmed and this is something that you may wish to consider, please have a word with Rev Matthew for more information.

LENT COURSE

We will, as usual be holding a Lent course at St Mary, every Tuesday in Lent at 7.30pm in church. More details next month.

YOUNG PEOPLE and CLIMATE CHANGE

Here is a link to an interactive calendar and QR code for all our young people caring about our climate and nature

The [2025 Environment Days and Key Events Calendar](#) features key days, weeks and months which are associated with the environment, climate change awareness, and reaching net zero carbon.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership. Every person listed on the roll is eligible to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) where church officers are elected.

The roll is renewed every six years and will be fully renewed this year. This will involve all of us over the age of 16 and with a worshipping connection with this church, completing fresh electoral roll forms in order to be included on the Electoral Roll. You will be invited to do this between late March and early May

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting on Wednesday 12 February is our AGM. We hope many of our members will attend and show our support for Shirley and the committee who keep our branch active. All welcome to join us at 2.30 p.m.

CHURCH GARDENS

As the weather warms, we will be tidying around the grounds getting ready for Spring. We look forward to new faces helping us this year Please get in touch welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org, or with Fiona on a Sunday.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting is Sunday 9 February at 6.15 pm till 8.15 pm in the church hall.

For further information and future dates please contact neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

FOOD BANK

Peter and Sue continue to take our weekly collections to the food bank and thank you for all who help with items. Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday. Tinned and packet food, tinned vegetables, microwave rice, crisps, long life milk and fruit juice, shampoo, shower gel and deodorants, Laundry products. Thank you

THANK YOU

A big Thank you to all who supported the Canon Wray Sock Appeal. Two very full bags of new socks, hats, gloves and scarves have been donated.

Also Thank You to those who supported the Christingle service in January. We were able to donate £400 to the Children's Society following donations from school and church.

ECO CHURCH

For ten years, The Climate Coalition has united communities every February through its [Show The Love — The Climate Coalition](#) Pray for people to join in with this year's campaign as they are encouraged to think about the things they love in nature and ways they are helping to protect it. Ask God to move people's hearts and inspire them to play their part in speaking up for and protecting nature.

PRAYER

Creator God, We thank you for nature all around us and for the vital ways it supports all living things. We ask that we can help to do our part to protect nature and do all we can in actions and prayers to make small differences so our climate can begin to repair. We pray for all communities that we may unite through prayer and urgent action to tackle climate change and protect nature. We give thanks for the skills you give each one of us to do our own small bit.

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.

