

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

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

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

REFLECTION

A few years ago, some members of my family bought us a weekend in Cologne for the Christmas markets. While we were there, two things struck me more than anything else, and they weren't related to the markets (the stuff on sale there is just the same as you can get in Manchester, without the additional cost of the air fare!). The first was that every shop, square, station, park or subway was displaying a crib – there was no hiding the fact that the forthcoming festivities were about the coming of the Christ-child. This was a religious festival, not a secular excuse to over-indulge. As a Christian, I found that wonderfully refreshing.

The second was the Shrine of the Magi in Cologne's wonderful and huge Cathedral, which incredibly survived the bombing of the second world war (many years ago, while travelling through by train I once overheard an American tourist explaining it was a miracle because they'd built it too close to the railway!). The relics of the Three Wise Men, gifted to Cologne in the 12th century are held in a magnificent, gilded triple sarcophagus behind the High Altar. Whatever your take on shrines and relics, this is a very special and holy place which links us to the coming of these three men to see Jesus – a place to stand in awe. From the moment of their arrival and adoration of the Christ-child, human history was changed. No longer was possible salvation confined to God's chosen people, the Jews, it was for everyone, no matter what their lineage. We tend to take this for granted now, but it was not always the case – we only have to read the New Testament to see the arguments the early church had about admitting gentiles (that's us!).

We wish you all a very happy, healthy and blessed New Year, but as we start the year, remember and give thanks for this huge change in God's relationship with mankind, and through it, our own access to His salvation.

SERVICES IN JANUARY

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

Wednesday 1 January 10.00am We will be using the Book of Common Prayer at this Eucharist.

Sunday 5 January 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church

Wednesday 8 January 10.00am Eucharist

Thursday 9 January 7.30pm 'Being With'

Sunday 12 January 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church

Sunday 12 January 2.30pm Christingle

Wednesday 15 January 10.00am Eucharist

Thursday 16 January 7.30pm 'Being With'

Sunday 19 January 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church

Wednesday 22 January 10.00am Eucharist

Thursday 23 January 7.30pm 'Being With'

Sunday 26 January 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church

Wednesday 29 January 10.00am Eucharist

Thursday 30 January 7.30pm 'Being With'

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

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](#)

CHRISTINGLE

Please come and join us for our Christingle in church on January 12th at 2.30 p.m. 2025. We will be joined by families from St Mary Primary School for this very special service.

All your donation helps the Children's Society to run the services and campaigns that make life better for the young people who are facing so many challenges right now. The Children's Society is so grateful for your support, especially in these difficult times.

BEING WITH

This is a 10-week course which will give people on the fringe of church or started attending again after a time away, an opportunity to discover more about the Christian faith. The essence of the course is that God calls us in Christ to be with God, with creation and with ourselves. The course is based on the understanding that as human beings, isolation is crippling. Please contact Rev Matthew for more information.

SOCK APPEAL

Once again Manchester Cathedral is having a 'SOCK APPEAL'. This is inspired by Canon Cecil Wray, a very popular, who died in 1866 after serving in the church for 56 years. Canon Wray decided each year on his birthday, 21 January, he would collect and donate socks to the poor and needy.

Drop off any new socks, scarves and hats at church between now and 21 January and we'll ensure that they are delivered to the Cathedral for donation to the Booth Centre as they support those who find themselves homeless in the New Year.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our thanks to Angela, Joanne and the many extra hands that helped 25 of our children have a special Advent Sunday party and Wiggle Worship in December. We look forward to sharing our Children's worship activities with our many families as their time allows. It has been lovely to welcome new families in the past year. 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:

January 24 7.00pm Curry Night. A non- curry option will be available. Tickets £10.00, bring your own drinks. Always a popular event – tickets limited to 50 for catering purposes so get your early! Andy & Elaine will be playing for us in the church hall.

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

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 your name to the list on the church noticeboard. Gift Aid envelopes are available if you are able to gift aid your donation. Thank you.

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 over £60,000 a year, £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.

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.

YOUNG PEOPLE

There is a warm welcome for young people. Do call along on a Sunday or Wednesday or ask about the 'Being With' course in January. You may want to join in Children's church where we have our Thrive sheets for older children (©Roots for Churches Ltd) that accompany the Bible activities for each Sunday.

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 in 2025. This will involve all of us completing fresh electoral roll forms in order to be included on the

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is Wednesday 8th January. A Musical afternoon, with Helen Rich on the Piano Accordion. Refreshments of scones, cream and jam. All welcome to join us at 2.30 p.m.

CHURCH GARDENS

Recent work has taken place ensuring mature trees are cared for and some walled garden beds have seen a change. Spring planting will see new additions that are right for the borders and nature for all to enjoy. If you would like to be involved in caring for our grounds and nurturing nature, please contact us, welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

MISSION COMMUNITY

Please join us at All Saints, Barton Road on Sunday 19 January, 6.00pm for a Service of Unity as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings are Sunday 12 & 26 January at 6.15 pm till 8.15 pm in the church hall.

For further information and future dates please contact rachellenj@hotmail.com

FOOD BANK

Stretford Food bank send their thanks for all the continued donations and for the total cash donation of £335 from the Christmas collection. More people than ever are turning to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday. Donations of rice puddings, custard, tinned fruit and other tinned goods are requested at the moment plus spare carrier bags. Thank you.

ECO CHURCH

In December our 2nd large box of recycled candles went off to the recycling candle company. Batteries and bottle tops continue to be collected. At our church social events people have been very supportive of taking rubbish bags home to recycle items in their own bins. A great team effort. Our heating systems are now working to timing as appropriate to use energy as carefully as we can. Thank you to those who have set this up.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we stand at the brink of this new year, we thank You for all that You have done in our lives throughout the past year. Your unwavering faithfulness and love have been our anchor, and we are grateful for every blessing and lesson learned.

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.

