**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER JULY 2024**

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

**REFLECTION**

*‘Lord of all pots and pans and things…*

*Make me a saint by getting meals*

*And washing up the plates!’*

This prayer, attributed to Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, reminds us that every moment of our lives is potentially a moment of connection with God.

Brother Lawrence (c. 1614 – 12 February 1691) was a lay brother in a Carmelite monastery in France. After he died, a book called *The Practice of the Presence of God*was written, which included his teaching about prayer. Brother Lawrence’s great insight was that it is possible to stay close to God in all the business, busyness and even boredom of life. He was the cook in the large monastery he lived in and he was often busy preparing meals and clearing up after meals. He fulfilled this role for many years, and he found that as he went about his daily work, he was able to pray to God about what he was doing, he could pray about people on his mind, in fact, he could pray about anything. This practising of the presence of God became for him a source of deep grace and joy, and he taught others about how to do it. If you want to read *The Practice of the Presence of God* it is a really helpful book where Lawrence’s approach is set out. For example, we read in the book, the following advice:

*The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way.*

This is a practice that we could all develop over time. St Peter in his first letter writes: ‘Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.’ (1 Peter 5.7) Throughout the day or the night there are lots of moments when we can turn to the Lord to share our worries with him, or to share a joy, or pray for someone. When we are angry, we can share our anger and pray about what is making us angry – there will certainly be a lot of energy in such prayers! In lots of moments in our lives, between the times when we have to give our total attention to another person or a task, we can lift our hearts to God.

Many people already practice the presence of God without realising it – give it a go and see how it changes thoughts into prayers, how it lifts us out of our thoughts and lays them before God. We may well not feel the presence of God in such moments, but we trust that God hears us and gladly receives our prayers and that graces will flow from them.

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**SERVICES IN JULY**

**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 is served in the hall after the Sunday morning service.**

**Wednesday 3 July - we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.**

**Sunday 14 July at 2.30pm – A said Eucharist with music and hymns played by Andy & Elaine. The service is followed by refreshments. Please let us know of anyone who may like to come but needs support. All welcome.**

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](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryTheVirginCOfEChurch)

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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. If anyone can donate any raffle prizes, 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 to 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**

Lots to look forward to in the next few weeks. Please see Angela or Yvonne for more details. There is also more information on the church Facebook pages. Please come along and meet with friends for these lovely social events.

 “A Party in the Pews” with the Sweet Rythm band on **Friday 28 June** at 7.30pm. There will be a licenced bar, tea and coffee and snacks available. Tickets available on the door £5.

**Sunday** **21 July,** 11.30am onwards -   Summer BBQ. Burgers, Sausages and Ice Cream available to purchase. Please bring your own drinks. Come along and enjoy time with friends, all welcome.

**Saturday** **3 August** - Afternoon Tea with music by Andy and Elaine 2pm to 4.30pm. Tickets £10

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

As the academic year draws to a close and children and young people meet the challenge and excitement of new beginnings, we hold them in our prayers and wish them well for the future. 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.

**CHURCH GARDENS**

Our church grounds have been a focus for nature during June and the observations from our visitors, including the school, have been sent to Caring for God’s Acre. We have small areas of fruit and vegetables growing, flower beds to care for and lawns to be maintained. Together, it is a large area for all to enjoy. Could you spare a small amount of time to help with the gardening work? If so, please let us know a time that 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 meet on Sundays 7 and 21 July 6.15 -8.15pm in the church hall. A supportive safe space for anyone affected by baby loss. For further information and future dates please contact [rachellenj@hotmail.com](mailto:rachellenj@hotmail.com)

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Children’s church activities are in the hall at 10.00am 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)

**THANK YOU**

A very big thank you from Dr Simon, Father Chris, Fiona and Yvonne for all the kind messages and generous gifts given to us recently by the congregation. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with you all to serve the Lord as part of the great team at St Mary.

**MISSION COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

The next dates for Mission Community prayer gathering is Wednesday 31 July 7.30pm – 8.30pm at St John, Flixton. Please do come along and join in prayer with friends in our Mission Community. It is very informal.

**MOTHERS’ UNION**

The next meeting is Wednesday 10 July at 2.30 pm, for our pre-booked afternoon tea. We wish you all a lovely August and look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting on 11 September in church at 2.30pm.

**ECO CHURCH**

We have twinned our church garden with a garden in Migori, Kenya. As you may know, families in Kenya and beyond are struggling to grow enough food to eat because of climate change. They have experienced longer periods of drought and heavier rainfall.

This project, organized by rippleeffect.org/twin-a-garden, helps families in rural Africa plant hope for the future. By twinning our church garden, we are helping families access 3 years training in sustainable organic farming. Strating with small kitchen gardens, families can grow enough to eat, set up small businesses and secure an income to send their children to school.

**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. Thank you.

**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.

**PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, as we approach the General Election, we lift every candidate before you. We pray that whatever the outcome, you will be with each of the newly elected members of Parliament. Help those who are elected to be humble in victory and those not elected to be gracious in defeat. Amen

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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.