

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

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025

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

REFLECTION

Lent is soon upon us and it would be easy to reflect on that and promote the events and services we have for that Holy season. But you will find details of them elsewhere in this Newsletter.

However, on 9th March there is a national day of reflection. It is the 5th anniversary of when Covid-19 was declared a pandemic.

Yes, it is five years since the world was engulfed by the Covid-19 pandemic, a season marked by fear, loss, and profound uncertainty. As we look back, we do so not merely to recount suffering but to seek the fingerprints of God in the wilderness. The psalmist writes, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

These words, etched in Scripture millennia ago, became a lifeline for many during the storm. So, let us reflect on how the pandemic deepened our reliance on the One who holds all things together. The pandemic exposed our fragility. Plans dissolved, loved ones were lost, and isolation became a global experience.

Yet, in the chaos, we were reminded that God's sovereignty is not diminished by crisis. For Christians, the question was not "Why?" but "Where is God in this?"

The answer came in quiet moments of prayer, in frontline workers' courage, and in the resilience of faith communities. Even when churches closed, the Church persisted—a testament to Christ's promise that "the gates of Hades will not overcome it". Social distancing strained relationships, yet it also ignited creativity in fostering connection. Virtual worship, porch-side prayers, and grocery deliveries for the vulnerable became acts of radical love. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together,

The pandemic taught us that "meeting together" transcends physical space—it is the commitment to bear one another's burdens. Isolation reminded us that we are designed for community, reflecting the Trinity's relational nature. Grief was, and remains, a shared language. Many wrestled with God, echoing the psalmist's cry: "How long, Lord?" Yet, Christian hope does not bypass sorrow; it meets it. Jesus Himself wept at Lazarus' tomb affirming the sacredness of lament. The pandemic's scars point us to the deeper hope of resurrection: For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure. In loss, we long for the day when God "will wipe every tear". Covid-19 exposed societal inequities, healthcare disparities, economic divides, and systemic neglect of the marginalized.

As Christ's hands and feet, we are compelled to act. The prophet Micah's call rings clear: "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly." The pandemic was a summons to examine how we love our neighbours, particularly the forgotten.

Food banks, advocacy, and sacrificial giving became modern-day parables of the Good Samaritan.

Five years later, we carry lessons etched by the Refiner's fire. We learned that faith is both a fortress and a journey—a belief that God is good even when life is not. As we move forward, may we do so with humility, remembering Paul's words: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

The pandemic did not have the final word. Because of Easter, we live as people of hope, anchored in the God who makes all things new.

Lord, in our remembering, renew our trust. Where there is still healing needed, bring Your peace. Where there is division, bring unity. May we emerge from this anniversary not in fear, but in faith, knowing You are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen.

SERVICES IN MARCH

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.

Ash Wednesday 5 March 10.00am Eucharist (BCP) and imposition of ashes

7.30pm Eucharist and imposition of ashes.

Wednesdays 10.00am – Eucharist

Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 – 7.30pm Lent course followed by Compline


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 including Eucharist in the days leading up to Lent. The timetable has been 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. There is a leaflet in church with the full programme.

LENT COURSE

Our Lent course starts on Tuesday 11 March, 7.30pm in church and is every Tuesday for 6 weeks. Please do come along and join us for some / every session.

On the last two Tuesday evenings we will be reading St Luke's Gospel.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne and Fiona are at church each Sunday 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.

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

This will be on **29 March 10.30am – 1.00pm**.

Stalls include cake stall, Easter crafts, treats and gifts. All this plus a children's area with craft and Lego, raffle and refreshments including hot cross buns and soup+roll.

Donations of cakes welcome in church on the Friday evening beforehand or the day of the coffee morning. Donations of items for other stall including good quality bric-a-brac may be brought along to church at any service time.

Please do come along and bring your friends!

ECO CHURCH

To support our Eco church activities, we use the resources from A Roche. This is a recent example: "At this time of year, our thoughts can often turn to the hope of warmer weather and planning a summer holiday. Visiting new places and seeing God's creation is a great way to be refreshed and rested. Yet how we travel and where we stay, can either be positive or negative for the very environment we care about. Follow the link for simple prompts to help you plan a greener break this year: Have an environmentally friendly vacation. "

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 in church. 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 £59,000 a year, almost £5,000 a month and energy bills are around £1,000 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.

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 those 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. The formal notice for this will be given out in church on Sunday 23 & 30 March. You will be invited to submit and new electoral roll form between late April and early May.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting on Wednesday 12 March at 2.30pm. We welcome local history author Michael Billington talking about Park Hospital and its history. Memories for some, new information for others. All welcome to join hospital in our local area and the birth of the NHS.

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 meetings are Sundays 2, 16 & 30 March 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

YOUNG PEOPLE and CLIMATE CHANGE

March 22nd is Earth Hour at 8.30 p.m. The link below has resources and activity ideas. What will you do with friends and family to mark this hour? 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.

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.

