

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

NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

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

REFLECTION

I always feel sorry for our brothers and sisters in the southern hemisphere because they have Easter in the autumn. It must seem strange celebrating the feast of the Resurrection when all around nature is dying back. We are much more fortunate in our part of the world, because during these fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, all around us is growing new, displaying a constant reminder of new birth.

The thing about nature, though, is that, given a chance, it never comes back just the same as last year. My garden, which, if I'm honest, would never feature in any RHS setting, always grows new plants. Sometimes the new plants are seedlings coming off existing ones, sometimes they're gifts from the birds as they drop seeds, most frequently, of course, they're weeds brought in by the wind (but a weed is only a plant that we humans think is in the wrong place!), and sometimes I deliberately plant new seeds - the point is that nature expands year on year.

I think all of us enjoy spring, and we Christians enjoy Eastertide as we walk with the Risen Christ in His Resurrection ministry. Equally important, though, is the next season of Ascensiontide, which starts this month. If Jesus had not ascended into heaven, there would be no church; the Risen Christ and His disciples, bound by the human necessities of time and space would have been limited in their ability to spread the Gospel. In addition, the disciples would not have wanted to leave their Master. It was the Ascension, together with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that freed them to take the message to the ends of the world, and to allow the church to grow far beyond the confines of Judaea and Galilee.

As we celebrate our new birth in the Risen Christ, we must recognise that we follow the original disciples in their new-found freedom to preach the Gospel, and our task is to ensure that we all play our part ensuring the Church expands just as nature does.

SERVICES IN MAY

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

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


Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 7 May the service will follow the BCP.

Thursday 29 May – 7.30pm Ascension Day Eucharist. 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](#)

 [Threads stmarysdavyhulme](#)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

In every parish, the annual parochial church meeting must be held in the period which begins with 1 January and ends with 31 May.

The Annual Church Meetings form an important part of the life of the church. Our meetings will be held in church on Wednesday 21 May at 7.30pm.

At these meetings church wardens and PCC members are elected, the Accounts for 2024 and the Annual Report are accepted.

In addition to the clergy of the parish, every lay person whose name is on the roll of the parish, is entitled to attend the annual meetings and take part in its proceedings.

We look forward to welcoming you on 21 May.

CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM

The new sound system has been installed. We need to raise £5,000 to cover half the cost of this new system. Please could you help, either with a donation, organising a fund-raising event, or even running a marathon!! Please contact Yvonne or Rev Matthew for more information. Huge thanks to those who have already donated towards the sound system.

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 is being fully renewed this year. This will involve those over the age of 16 living in this parish and those 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 was given out in church on Sunday 23 & 30 March. No new electoral roll forms can now be submitted until after the Annual Meetings on 21 May.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

We are marking the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day with a joint service and refreshments - Saturday 10th May - 2pm at St. Mary's, Davyhulme. Light refreshments will also be available after the service in the hall as we commemorate this significant date together. All very welcome to join us for this very special event.

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. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday. Contact us at

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is on Wednesday 14 May at 2.30pm. Tony Banks from RNLI will be joining us to talk about his work with the RNLI. All welcome to join us for an informative and social afternoon.

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. A special thank you to Elsie who arranges and cares for the flowers week by week.

ECO CHURCH

St Mary school will be supporting some of the events noted on the dates below. There is a chalk drawing competition linked to the Endangered Species day You may like to click on these dates and share with your children / grandchildren.

Endangered Species Day - Endangered Species Coalition 16th May

Home | World Bee Day 2025 | Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations 20th May

Water Saving Week | Campaign | Waterwise May 12th to May 16th.

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 on 22 June at 6.30pm.

Confirmation classes have now started. They are at 7.00pm at St Clements and it is not too late to join. 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 at CHURCH

It was lovely to welcome some older primary school children who joined us for our Good Friday gathering. Some of these young people also join us for Sunday worship.

As study time allows, families and young people are very welcome to join us at our short Wednesday morning Eucharist.

CHURCH GARDENS

Thank you to Elsie who tidies and plants out around the Memorial Cross and Remembrance Garden. It looks so pretty.

As well as tidying around the main grounds and planting, Fiona and a small number of people are slowly beginning work on a little seen area at the back of the garage. This is a wilder area of our grounds that is being nurtured for wildlife and pollinators. Fruit bushes, native flowers and small shrubs are being planted.

Our lawn team are working hard too and in the wilder area we will be doing NO MOW May to give insects a chance! Help with jobs around the grounds always welcome

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings are 11 May 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the church hall.

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

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday mornings. As well as usual donations of packet and tinned food IN DATE please, clean carrier bags are very useful. There is also a request for pet food. Thank you to Peter and Sue who continue to take your donations to the Food Bank each week.

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.



A Prayer for those who lost their lives in conflict

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.