**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024**

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

**REFLECTION**

Autumn has arrived and it’s the time to put the heating on (at least occasionally), and the nights are drawing in. However, I hope we can look back and give thanks for some of the positive moments of longer days and (rare!) better weather which came with the summer.

During August, I was lucky enough to get a break away in North Norfolk, and while I was there, I visited the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham – voted the nation’s favourite spiritual place by Radio 4 listeners. This was my first visit for over 50 years, and a fellow priest I met there asked me whether it had changed at all. The answer had to be ‘no’ – it remains the same place of great peace and devotion to Our Blessed Lord, God Incarnate by the Virgin Mary, our patron saint, situated in a sleepy country village - and it was wonderful to be back.

As Anglicans, we can sometimes be a bit ambivalent towards the saints, despite the fact that about 15,500 of our churches out of a total of about 16.500, are dedicated to one of them. However, they do play an important part in our faith because they show how ordinary human beings, just the same as us, can be transformed by the Risen Christ to live out our faith and become God’s ambassadors in our world.

As members of a church dedicated to the St Mary the Virgin, we do well to remember who she was and what she did. She was a very ordinary Jewish peasant woman, but one who responded to God’s call with humility and obedience, bearing His Son and remaining true to Him through pain and hardship until she stood at the foot of His Cross. Then 3 days later she rejoiced in His Resurrection.

Sometimes living as a Christian can seem difficult, but the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the other saints are there to remind us, by the example of their devotion, that it is not impossible.

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**SERVICES IN OCTOBER**

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

**Wednesday 2 October - we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am Eucharist.**

For more information, please check the church website [https://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org/](about:blank), [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/](about:blank)

 [St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](about:blank)

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**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Our Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday 6 October ay 10.00am. As is recent years, our harvest gifts will be donated to Stretford Food Bank as will the gifts from St Mary school Harvest Festival. Please could you bring your gifts to church or on the day or beforehand if more convenient.

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

I am sure that you have all appreciated the lovely flowers that enhance our church week by week.

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 if you 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.

In August our church income was £6,826. This was made up mainly of regular giving, cash collections and church hall rents. The expenditure for the month was £8,046. This included the monthly parish share contribution of £4,600, maintenance costs, clergy and other expenses and utility bills. As the days get colder the cost of heating and lighting for the church and church hall will inevitably rise.

In addition, we will have some bigger maintenance bills in the next few months for work on the tress in the church grounds and the fabric of the church.

If you would like to join the church giving scheme and make a regular donation towards the costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church, please contact Niki, the treasurer or Yvonne.

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.

**BINGO NIGHT**

**Friday 25 October, 7.30pm** –Bingo Night with our very own Sue McGrane. Always a fun evening, please do come and support Sue. Licenced bar.

**DIOCESE**

* + 1. For up-to-date information about what is happening around our Diocese just click on this link and sign up to the weekly enews.
    2. [**enews@manchester.anglican.org**](about:blank)
    3. You are also invited to join the Diocese Transforming Prayer Community where you will receive a prayerful reflection in your inbox each week.

**ADVENT COURSE**

There will be an Advent course in church on Wednesday evenings starting on 20 November at 7.30pm for 4 weeks. More information about next month.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

Some of our young people come along to the Sunday morning Eucharist now. Do remember there is also the Wednesday 10 a.m. service that may fit in with your commitments.

We also have a weekly activity sheet and reflection from Rootsontheweb.com that can be emailed wherever your studies and employment take you.

**CHURCH KITCHEN**

Following two generous donations, we are now able to have our church kitchen completely updated. The original kitchen was fitted out in 1990 and partially refurbished in 2010. We will have new kitchen units and a new cooker. The work will take place over the half-term break and the kitchen will be out of service from Saturday 26 October until Sunday 3 November.

**MOTHERS’ UNION**

The next meeting is Wednesday 9 October at 2.30 pm, all are welcome. The talk will be ‘Your Foot Health ‘ by Gail McDonagh There will also be the sale of MU cards, 2025 Diaries, etc and of course a cuppa/ chat.

**CHURCH GARDENS**

In coming weeks help will be needed to keep paths and car park clear of leaves and twigs. This is to ensure that the paths are safe for all to walk on. There will also be summer bedding plants to tidy and the sapling weeds to clear. Please let us know if you could help. [welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org](about:blank)

**NEVER FORGOTTEN**

**BABY PEER LOSS SUPPORT**

12th October 12 till 3p.m. A one-off day event for Baby Loss awareness week. For further information and future dates please contact [rachellenj@hotmail.com](about:blank)

**INFORMATION GATHERING**

As usual during the month of October, we are asked by the Diocese to keep a record of attendance at all our church services.

In addition, church members are asked to complete a confidential income survey.

The information gathered is then sent to the Diocese. This information helps the Diocese assess how much each parish should pay in parish share – our contribution to clergy costs and much other work across the whole of the Diocese.

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Children’s church activities are held in the hall at 10.00am on a Sunday and then we join everyone in church for the Eucharist. Stories, craft, songs, games, prayers for around 30 minutes. We are now collecting each week for our Garden Twinning with the Ripple Effect (our twinned garden is in Kenya) [Ripple Effect Kenya](about:blank) as well as our own contributions to our weekly giving for our church here in Davyhulme.

[childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org](about:blank)

**ECO CHURCH**

We continue to collect items for recycling - candles including tea lights and jar candles, batteries and now plastic bottle tops and hard plastic lids that one or two people have given me on a Sunday morning. There is also a collection point at Urmston collection office for larger hard plastics such as hard plastic trays and pots. At our church events people take home their litter and recycle it in their home bins. Thank you everyone.

**ELECTORAL ROLL**

* 1. 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).

The roll is renewed every six years. In years when the roll is not renewed, it is updated with the names of any new members and the names of those who are no longer members are taken off.

If you are not already a member and wish to be entered on the roll please have a word with Sue McGrane.

**FOOD BANK**

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 on Wednesday and Sundays. They are also grateful for carrier bags too. Thank you.

**PRAYER**

Generous Father, giver of all good gifts,

We thank you for our church here in Davyhulme and for the wider church, and for all that this means to us as we work to strengthen and widen our mission.

Generous Son, who said that it is more blessed to give than to receive,

May we respond with generous hearts, giving of our talents, time and money.

Generous Spirit,

Pour your blessings upon this church community that together we may work together to strengthen the mission and ministry of this parish.

**QR CODE**

Qr code

Description automatically generatedThis 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.