

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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

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

REFLECTION

On Sunday 5 th October we are celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving in our parishes with special harvest services. Harvest still captures the imagination of many people. Most primary schools mark harvest in some way; often collecting food for foodbanks or supporting an eco-project.

For those of us who don't work on the land (i.e. most of us!) harvest helps us to recognise our reliance on God and others for our daily bread. It's good to give thanks each year for the bounty of creation. Certainly, in recent years we have seen how war and climate change can threaten supply chains across the world. Food costs continue to rise. For many this can be a matter of life and death.

In the Church we have a rich heritage of agricultural festivals which reconnect us with God, the earth and one another. One of the oldest of such festivals was 'Plough Sunday' which goes back to medieval times. Plough Sunday usually fell on the first Sunday of Epiphany. A plough was brought into Church and blessed as a way of commending the year's agricultural work to God.

Another moment in the year when the Church asks for God's blessing on the work of those who work on the land or sea is 'Rogationtide'. This falls on the three weekdays before Ascension Day. Rogation comes from the Latin word rogare, which means 'to ask'. It is a moment when the Church 'asks' for a good harvest and God's blessing on those who work to provide us with our food. In some parishes people 'beat the bounds' of the parish at Rogationtide by walking as a group around the boundary of the parish and praying for the land and the people who live in it.

On 1st August there's a festival called 'Lammas Day' which comes from an Anglo-Saxon word Hlafmaesse which means 'Loaf Mass'. It's a day of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. A newly baked loaf would often be presented in Church at 'Mass' as a way of giving thanks to God for the abundance of the earth.

Finally, 'Harvest Thanksgiving' has developed from a celebration which took place on the first Sunday in October in a parish in Cornwall in 1843. Harvest Thanksgiving quickly spread to other parishes and has been widely celebrated ever since. From rural parishes to urban parishes, Harvest Thanksgiving still thrives as a festival where we give thanks to God for our daily bread, where we give thanks for those who produce it, and where share what we have with those who don't have enough.

Festivals such as these help us to reconnect us with the earth, with the seasons of the year, and with the patterns of our lives. Plough Sunday is about commending anew project to God and asking him to bless our work. Rogationtide is about asking God for what we need. Lammastide is about giving back to God the fruits of our labours in thanksgiving. Harvest Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for God's

provision and sharing what we have with others. Such festivals are a rich blessing.

May many be blessed this Harvest-tide.

Rev Matthew

BIBLE STUDY

Autumn Bible Study Series - The Challenge of Acts, continues on Thursdays at 7.30pm at St. Clement. This is an opportunity to explore the Acts of the Apostles together.

The course is based on a book called 'The challenge of Acts' by Tom Wright. It offers a bird's-eye view of the Acts of the Apostles. All the materials for the course are provided but it would be very beneficial to have read the relevant chapters in Acts in preparation for each session.

Session 3 – Thursday 2 October

Acts 17-20: Completing the circle (chapters 17-20), including a more in-depth study of 17.16-34 – The unknown God?

Session 4 – Thursday 9 October

Acts 21-28: Trouble in Jerusalem (chapters 21-24); And so to Rome (chapters 25-28)

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

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 1 October the service will follow the BCP.

Thursdays – 9.30am Morning prayer in church.

Fridays – 9.30am Morning prayer in church, , <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/>

 [St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](#)

50th ANNIVERSARY

I just want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you at St Mary's. The eucharist on 21 September to mark my 50 years as a priest was a wonderful occasion, and the lunch afterwards excelled, even by St Mary's high standards. This church and congregation have been special both to me and to Sue since we first came here for 3 month's 'cover' in 2010. It is a great sadness to me that Sue wasn't able to be with us for this celebration (although I have no doubt she was with us in spirit), but your love and support to me following her death have been invaluable, and I remain ever grateful. My family joins me in saying thank you for a great day, and may God bless you all.

Father Chris

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Harvest Festival- Sunday 5 October at 10.00am.

The children will be leading parts of the service so please come along and support them. As in previous years, our harvest gifts will be given to the local food bank, only non-perishable foods please, no fresh produce. Thank you

All Saints - Sunday 2 November at 10.00am

Archdeacon Karen Best will preach at this service.

All Souls - Sunday 2 November at 7.00pm

A said Eucharist service where there will be an opportunity to each light a candle as names of departed loved ones are read out.

Remembrance Sunday 10.00am 9 November

The laying of wreaths and poppy crosses at our war memorial, will form part of our 10.00am Eucharist.

Parish Quiet Morning Saturday 15 November 9.30am – 1.00pm. The morning will close with Eucharist. All are welcome.

Toy Service 10.00am Sunday 30 November. The children will be leading parts of the service so please come along and support them. All donations of toys will be given to the Toy House for distribution to local families.

Advent Carols 6.30pm on Sunday 30 November

at St Clement church. Members from all churches in the Mission Community are encouraged to attend.

MORNING PRAYER

All are very welcome to join Rev Matthew and Rev John for morning prayer in church each Thursday and Friday morning at 9.30am.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 4 October 10.00am – 12 noon. Fair Trade / Eco church coffee morning. With toasted teacakes, tea and coffee. There will be information about Fair Trade. There will be activities for children and a book stall selling good quality, used, children's books.

Saturday 18 October 2.30-4.30pm. Songs of Praise with a chance to pick your favourite hymn to be played by Andy and Elaine. Tickets £5.00 including tea and cakes.

Saturday 29 November Christmas Fair 11.00am-2.00pm

This is our main fund-raising event of the year. The raffle tickets are available now so please take some and sell lots!! Red bags for donations are also at the back of church. There will be a wide variety of stalls in the church hall and church, a wide choice of refreshments and the school choir will entertain us in church at 12 noon.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne, Chelle and Fiona are at church each Sunday during term time to welcome you. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday. You can contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

OCTOBER COUNTS

Each October all parishes across the Diocese are asked to gather and then submit some data to the Diocese. The first is of these relates to attendance where we record attendance across all services, recording total attendance on the day and an estimate of those who have attended 12 or more times across the past 12 months.

Secondly, those aged 16 and over who have attended worship at least 12 times in the past 12 months, are asked to complete an anonymous income survey. The forms for this will be available at the back of church. Thank you.

MOTHERS' UNION

We meet on 8 October at 2.30pm when our speakers will be Liz Miller and Guy who will tell us about The Friends of Davyhulme Park. All welcome

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.

ECO CHURCH

We continue to collect batteries and plastic bottle tops for recycling. As the days lengthen and the natural light

fades, we at church, like you at home, are conscious of our energy use, switching off when we can.

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.

The total cost of recent repairs is likely to be in the region of £28,000. Any donations towards these significant expenses would be much appreciated.

If you do not already donate to the church on a regular basis, please consider this. 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 in the wider community.

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.

YOUNG PEOPLE at CHURCH

Some of our young people now come along and share in the whole Eucharist service. You are always welcome. There is the opportunity after the service for a chat and catch-up with your friends in the church hall. Our prayers and best wishes to all our young people as continue their studies, move on to other schools or plan for future challenges ahead.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings are Sundays 12 October, 9 November, 23 November, 14 December, all at 6.30pm. For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

CHURCH GROUNDS

The grounds are open all the time for everyone to enjoy. We have 2 benches by the Garden of Remembrance for a rest and contemplation. We are now seeking volunteers to help with tidying around the borders of the grounds and flower beds for weeds and little tree saplings before the autumn leaves fall. As always, we are grateful to our lawn and hedge helpers. Please let us know if you could help. welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday mornings. As well as packet and tinned food, in date please, clean carrier bags are very useful. Empty half dozen egg boxes enable the food bank to give out eggs. 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.

