

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

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026

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

REFLECTION

As we turn the page on our calendars to 1st August, we arrive at one of the oldest and most beautiful festivals in the Christian year: Lammas Day. The name itself is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, coming from the Old English hlaf-mæsse – 'loaf-mass'. It is a day that speaks directly to our souls about God's provision, the work of our hands, and the deep, unshakeable joy found in His abundance.

Lammas is, at its heart, a harvest festival for the first fruits. In the agricultural world our forefathers knew, the ripening of the wheat was a moment of intense significance. The success or failure of the harvest meant the difference between plenty and starvation. It was customary for the community to bake a loaf of bread from the new grain and bring it to church to be blessed. This simple, profound act was a tangible expression of thanksgiving. It was the people's way of acknowledging that every good gift, every ear of grain, and every daily loaf comes not from our own efforts alone, but from the gracious hand of a loving God. This act of offering the first fruits is a thread that runs through our faith. It echoes the Old Testament commands to bring the first sheaf of the harvest to the priest as an offering to the Lord. In bringing that simple Lammas loaf to the altar, our ancestors were connecting their daily, physical lives with their spiritual worship. They were, quite literally, offering their work, their sustenance, and their dependence back to God in an act of joyful devotion. This custom survives in the liturgical provision of the Church of England, where the Lammas loaf may even be used as the bread for the Eucharist.

But what does this ancient day mean for us today, in a world where we can buy bread from a supermarket all year round and the rhythm of the harvest can feel distant? Perhaps more than we might think. Lammas is a powerful antidote to our concerns of scarcity and anxiety. It is a powerful reminder that we live in the midst of God's generous provision. Whilst the harvest may have begun in the fields, its source is the Creator who makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall. Lammas reminds us of our dependence upon God for the life-giving order of the universe and on the co-operation of the whole community to bring in the harvest. This should stir in us a profound joy. It is a joy that comes from recognising that we are not self-sufficient but are beloved children of a Father who delights to give us good things.

This joy is not a fragile, fleeting happiness. It is the deep gladness of knowing that we are part of a divine order of abundance. When the early Church gathered to bless the first loaf, they were celebrating the God who provides. When we, in our modern context, stop to thank God for our daily bread—whether it's the food on our table, the love of our families, or the friendships that sustain us—we are joining that timeless chorus of praise. Even as we acknowledge the "challenges and setbacks" our Church and communities may face, Lammas points us to the

"good news" of a God who is at work in the harvest of our lives and our nation.

Lammas Day is a call to joy. It invites us to pause, to look at the abundance around us, and to give thanks. It's a day to bake a loaf of bread, or in my case buy one, and as we break it, to remember that we are sustained by a bountiful God. It is an invitation to celebrate the first fruits of our labours, not with anxiety about what is to come, but with a confident and joyful hope in the One who holds the future. So this Lammas tide, let's lift our hearts in joyful thanksgiving for the abundance, both material and spiritual, that God pours out upon us, for He is the giver of all good gifts.

Dr Simon

REGULAR SERVICES

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 activities.

Tea and coffee are served in the hall after this service.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 5 August 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](#)

MORNING PRAYER

Daily Prayer is the official app to help you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer and the one followed when Morning Prayer is said in church each Thursday and Friday morning at 9.30am.

Daily prayer is available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. For every day of the year, it presents the three services in full and includes Bible readings (NRSV translation), psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.

Prayers are led by our clergy team, and all are very welcome to come and join.

ANDY and ELAINE (SOSPIROSO)

.... are proud to present their first ever CD collaboration. Showcasing a varied mix for all tastes, they will currently be available to buy in the church after the Sunday service, or directly from 'us two' on demand! All proceeds from the sale of these CDs will be donated to St Mary's church funds. Minimum donation £7. Thank you.

PARISH BARBEQUE

An invitation to join us for a Parish Barbeque on Sunday 9 August from 11.30am. Tickets will be £1 each, the price of which is deducted from the food that you purchase on the day. Veggie option available. Hot drinks and cordial available, please bring other drinks. Hope that lots for you can join us.

NEW RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

We are going to start recycling the empty blister packs of tablets from the doctors/chemist. This is the bit of foil/plastic you have to push the pill out of. There is a box at the back of church to put them in and the packs will be taken regularly to Boots to recycle. So please

bring your empty blister packs, both prescription drugs and anything over the counter like vitamins and supplements. St Clement's are already doing this very successfully.

CHURCH FINANCE

It is only with your help that we are able to pay our Parish Share, church insurances, all our regular utility bills, and the increasing maintenance costs, both one off and regular inspections. Recent costs include annual inspection of the fire extinguishers and the fire alarm system; the photocopier will require replacement and the cleaning costs have increased. We now employ a cleaner to clean the body of the church on a weekly basis. Please could you help? The choir vestry needs a weekly dust and Hoover.

Making a regular donation towards church costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church helps with the church's financial planning and enables this church to continue to play a part in the local community.

Regular donations can be made by standing order or by having weekly giving envelopes. If you would like more information about how to donate on a regular basis in either way please speak to Yvonne.

If you are a UK tax payer, Gift Aiding your giving allows us to claim money back from HMRC. In the past financial year Gift Aid averaged at £1,000 a month.

Please do pray about how you may be able to continue to help this church financially and in many other ways.

RECYCLING FOR ECO CHURCH

We continue to collect batteries for recycling and, as a church, use the green bin for food waste and garden tidying although some of the leaves, grass, pruning and dead flowers go into our compost heaps.

Members of our Church team also recycle paper and card and at our social events all our volunteers recycle our bin bag contents in their recycling bins at home. A real team effort. If you would like to know more about our Eco journey or help in any way please ask Fiona in church.

ELECTORAL ROLL

This is your parish church's register of electors. Joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters and stand for election to the PCC.

For more information please have a word with Rev Matthew, Sue McGrane or Yvonne.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our Children's Church leaders have a short break over the summer as they, along with some families, are away on holidays but there is still a warm welcome and the children's corner in church. Fiona plans to be in church Aug 2nd and Aug 30th and will lead activity for any families that come.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

MOTHERS' UNION

There is no meeting in August. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 9 September at 2.30pm with a Corporate Communion in church followed by a social gathering in the church hall.

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.

Help with flower arranging would be much appreciated.

Please speak to Elsie or Yvonne for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our Children's Church leaders welcome you on Sundays during term time as we gather at 10 a.m. in church. In the hall our activities are based on Bible themes and include stories, songs, prayers, games and craft. Our sessions are inclusive for all ages from babies up to Year 6 primary. We rejoin the congregation for the Eucharist. During the holidays there is a welcome as always to our services and children's books and activities in the children's area.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

There is no meeting during August but for support links and/or future dates please contact Rachel

neverforgotten1708@gmail.com.

CHURCH GROUNDS

There is a lovely new notice board by our Remembrance garden with the following words.

"Gracious God, Grant to our loved ones rest and peace, and to us comfort and hope.

Lead us all to share in the joyful resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen "

As you will have experienced the hot weather has left the ground parched and the flowers are not at their best. Linda and Fiona have continued to tidy round as best as they can in this hot weather. Thank you also to 2 of our congregation who are also spending time around the gardens. More help very welcome. For more info please contact welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday morning e.g. tins/ cans to give a warm meal, long life milk and juice, deodorants and personal care, empty half dozen egg boxes. Thank you to Peter and Sue who continue to take your donations to the Food Bank each week.

PRAYER

Dear Lord as the summer holidays begin, we pray that all those on vacation or spending time at home, may find a time of rest and relaxation. We pray for all those who are moving to new schools, new places of education, new work experiences and new chapters in their lives that they may know your presence with them.

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.

