

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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

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

REFLECTION

Christmas is long over now and the parties, exchanges of presents and cards, and so on is gone. The month of February now seems interminable, even if it is only 28 days long – Spring, let alone Summer, seems to be too far ahead to envisage, and life seems dull. The Christian year echoes this, and there is a hiatus between the joy of Candlemas and the additional spiritual disciplines of Lent. But the Psalmist says, 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Ps 46:10). Remember that just as we need the gaps between those exciting times in our lives, so that we appreciate them properly, so we need pauses in our spiritual lives to remind us that God is with us all the time, not just at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun. If we follow Him, Jesus's promise is to be with us till the end of time (Matthew 28:20), through all that life throws at us, good and not so good. The quiet of February is the opportunity to take a moment each day in which to be still and remember God's presence with us always.

SERVICE DATES FOR FEBRUARY

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

Every Sunday and Wednesday

10.00am Eucharist

Children's Church each Sunday at 10.00am

Tea and coffee is served in the hall after the Sunday morning service.

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

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Sunday 12 February at 2.30pm – Eucharist followed by refreshments. Please let us know of anyone who may like to come but needs support. All welcome.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to all who attended and helped at our recent Christingle service, both from school and church. The church was packed! The service was led by Rev Simon who told us about the Christingle and answered the children's thoughtful questions.

WARM SPACE

Our own Warm Space group meets each Thursday, 1-3.00pm, in the church hall. A hot drink, soup and a warm welcome await people of all ages. Please do come along to enjoy the fellowship of others, spread the word and invite others to join this free event. We have various activities available. On Thursdays 9 & 23 February Sue Maitland, a local councillor, will be holding her surgery at our Warm Space event. Also on

23 February, local historian, Michael Billington will be giving a short talk. Please get in touch if you would like more information.

MISSION COMMUNITY

Our next mission community prayers are at St Michael, Flixton, date and time to be confirmed. All welcome. Please do come along and join with others in prayer. All welcome. Watch this space for news of our Mission Community Eco champion.

CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT

Thank you to all those who have amended their standing orders to make regular donations into the Co-operative Bank account following our move from HSBC. The swap has resulted in a shortfall each month from regular giving of around £350. If you would like to join the church giving scheme either to donate via standing order or with weekly envelopes, or have any queries about the changeover of accounts, please contact Niki, the treasurer or Yvonne.

CHURCH FINANCE

We are trying hard to keep the church as a warm and welcoming space over the winter months. Like you, we have noticed an increase in energy costs. The gas bill for December was £1,800, and the electricity bill for the last quarter was £1,300. It is becoming increasingly difficult to meet these large bills together with paying all the other expenses associated with day to day church running. Only with the continued generosity of our congregation, can we maintain this level of expenditure and keep the church as a warm and welcome space. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next branch meeting is Tuesday 14 February at 2.30pm. This is our AGM meeting, but we hope that many of you who have enjoyed our monthly meetings will come along and support Shirley and Jean who do such a wonderful job running our group.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

A reminder that on every first Wednesday in the month, we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Thank you to all our children who have taken part in readings and prayers. Children's church activities are in the hall at 10.00am and then we join with everyone in church for the Eucharist. Please get in touch for more information and a big 'hello'.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

ECO CHURCH PROJECT

As we continue to develop our ECO church with trying to be energy efficient and with recycling, we are also supporting Fair Trade. This month we will take orders for the Real Easter chocolate egg, £4.80 with an Easter Story booklet; also a chocolate Easter Blessings bar, £3.00. Orders and money in a labelled envelope for Sue Wright or Fiona.

FOOD BANK

There is a new list of requests from the Food Bank, see posters in church and online. Thank you to Sue and Peter Williams for delivering the donations each week. Thank you also to everyone who continues to help and support the Food Bank. For more details please see [Stretford Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

THANK YOU

Elaine and Debbie Pennell would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and kind messages.

CHURCH HEATING

Many of you will be aware of the issues we have had with the heating in church over recent weeks. Last Autumn the PCC commissioned a full survey of the heating and lighting in church. Following on from this the PCC have agreed to start the process of replacing the 20 year old church boiler and the Victorian heating system with a new, Eco-friendly system that is more cost effective and reliable. This will be a long process and will be required to seek Diocesan approval for any scheme we use. This will also be a costly process for which we will be seeking grants and donations. The first part of the process is to engage a specialist to project manage and support the PCC through this. To this effect, and to cover any initial costs, we will need to raise £10,000 quite quickly. We will be having fund raising events in the coming weeks and also seeking donations. Your support and prayers for this project as we move forward is much appreciated. Thank you.

DEANERY/DIOCESAN NEWS

The College of Bishops and the House of Bishops met recently to discern a way forward for the Church of England on questions of identity, sexuality and marriage. This meeting marked the culmination of a process of discernment that began six years ago. Over 6,000 people responded to share their learnings, insights and reflections. As a result, for the first time same-sex couples will be able to come to church to give thanks for their civil marriage or civil partnership and receive God's blessing.

The Diocese have some exciting training courses taking place from April. Open to anyone who wants to get more involved in the life of their church, all ages are welcome. These courses last 12 weeks and are a mix of online and in-person sessions at a variety of venues around the diocese. Simply choose one of the many options including - Children and families, Community outreach and social action, Digital church and online media, Pastoral outreach and listening.

COFFEE MORNING

We are having a Coffee Morning and Raffle plus various stalls on Saturday 18 March, 10am – 12.30pm. More details to follow.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The flowers you see in church each week are very often funded by donations in memory of a loved one or a

special event. There is a list on the church notice board if you would like to make a donation. Thank you to all donors and Elsie and friends for the weekly arrangements.

ELECTORAL ROLL

If you are not on our church electoral roll, please have a word with Sue McGrane for a form. This is especially important as we move towards our Annual Meetings in May.

INTERREGNUM UPDATE

The paperwork for this post has now been agreed and we hope that the vacancy will be advertised shortly. The post will be linked to the post at St Clement, Urmston. We thank Dr Simon and Father Chris for their continued support and ministry.

FREEZY RIDERS!!!

A huge thanks to Simon Orr and his gritting team who brave the icy cold mornings to make the carpark and paths safe. Work that goes unseen but is so important. Thank you all.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

Following discussion at the recent PCC meeting, it has been agreed to trial a short time of quiet prayer on a Sunday morning in the church hall from 9.30-9.45am. This will be led by Dr Simon. All welcome, no one has to pray out loud, you can just sit quietly and join in. We'll use the prayer tree if anyone wants to ask for a prayer.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday, 22 February, 10.00am and 7.30pm. Both services will be Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes. All welcome.

LENT GROUPS

These informal groups will be held in church on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm starting from Tuesday 28 February and will run for 5 weeks. At our Baptism, we are instructed to, 'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father'. The 5-part course is called 'Shining as Lights' and explores what it means to be a Light for Christ, and how we might develop a personal Rule of Life. All are welcome, please do come along and join us.

CHURCH GROUNDS!!!

As the weather warms our grounds begin to bloom again. Fiona would love to hear from anyone who can help in any way, either on a Thursday afternoon or in their own time. Many thanks to Elsie who keeps the Remembrance garden area so tidy.

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.

