

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

NEWSLETTER January 2023

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

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

On behalf of the PCC we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year. We would also like to thank those who helped at the many services, social and fund raising events over the past year. Also a big thank you to those who donated toys, food and money to local charities this Christmas. These have enriched the life of our church family.

REFLECTION

The start of the New Year can be a bump back to reality. The glitter of our society's commercial Christmas has come and gone, it's cold and wet and it can be a long time to the next payday.

At this time of year the Free Churches often hold a Renewal of Covenant service. Indeed, we have a rarely used service hiding in Common Worship.

In that service we are invited to pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, to the New Covenant God has given us through His Son, our Lord and say:

"Therefore let us make this covenant with God our own. Let us give ourselves to Him, trusting in His promises and relying on His grace". If we do that then we will have made a good start to the New Year.

SERVICE DATES FOR JANUARY

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/>

and the church Facebook page

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Sunday 8 January 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

Children's church invite everyone to the Christingle service on Sunday 15th January 2.30 p.m. We will be collecting for The Children's Society at this service.

All welcome to join us in songs and prayers.



MISSION COMMUNITY

So many events and services were shared across our mission community in December. Thank You to Rob Chilton for coordinating these newsletters. The next MC prayer group is at St Clements Urmston 23rd January 2023 2 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT

Many of you will now be aware that the PCC have moved the main church bank account from HSBC to the Co-operative Bank. Thank you to all those who have amended their standing orders to make regular donations into the new account. 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.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL 2022

A big thank you to all who contributed to the charity Christmas card appeal, especially Ian Artus and Peter Williams who collected cash donations which were given to the local food bank.

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 November was £1,100, more than double what it was this time last year. We have not yet received the December bill, but it is likely to be significantly higher. The energy bills are just one of the major expenditures. Insurance is £4,440 and Parish Share is £56,000. 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.

CHURCH HEATING

Some of you will know we have no heating in the church and our services are currently in the warm church hall. The engineers have been and spare parts are on order but at the time of writing we don't have a date for the repair.

We have received permission required from Bishop David for our congregations to worship in the church hall and we will keep the Bishop updated.

We are very grateful to the team of people who are making the hall appropriate for worship and to all of you for your patience, understanding and wonderful participation in our services at the special time of the year.

WARM SPACE

I am sure that you will all be familiar with the term 'warm space' now. At St Mary we will be starting our own Warm Space on Thursday 5 January, 1-3.00pm, meeting in the church hall. A hot drink, soup and a warm welcome await everyone. Please do come along to enjoy the fellowship of others. We will be offering various activities, plus having board

games and magazines available. Please do spread the word and invite others to join this free event.

MOTHERS UNION

The next branch meeting is Tuesday 10 January at 2.30pm. We welcome Carol Cosham and her hand bell ringers with scones, jam and cream for the New Year. Please let us know if you would like Gluten free refreshments.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's church activities this month include Epiphany (kings' costumes and gifts are ready...we would love to have the families taking part). We also have the Christingle service on 15 January 2.30 p.m. childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org meet us each Sunday during 10 a.m. service.

ECO CHURCH PROJECT

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the Eco Church Bronze award. Thank you to all who have supported us in prayer and in actions. From small ways such as recycling at church events and at home, to walking, car sharing, switching lights off and supporting Fair Trade. We have also updated our registration as a Fair trade church and there are many ways to support this in local shops and online www.traidcraftshop.co.uk Now we continue to develop the next steps in this important support in God's precious world.

FOOD BANK

Many donations have been taken to the food bank in the past few weeks for Christmas. The donation box continues to be at the back of church. Thank you to Peter and Sue Williams for taking the weekly donations to the food bank. Thank you to Ian Artus for organising the cash collection for the Food Bank as well. For more details of helping and giving see [Stretford Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

DEANERY/DIOCESAN NEWS

December is always a quiet month for Diocesan and deanery meetings, but the work goes on to encourage and support parishes! The move to St John House Bury is taking pace and a date for the move will be announced soon. Please pray for our continued mission to our local community here in Davyhulme and across our Mission Community.

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.

INTERREGNUM UPDATE

We move forward with hope and confidence during this interregnum and ask for your prayers for all those working hard in so many ways to lead and support this church. Yvonne and Fiona have been appointed as the 2 parish reps to progress this. The Parish profile has been submitted. As yet there is no timescale for advertising and interviews. This vacancy will be linked to the vacancy at St Clement, Urmston. We thank Dr Simon and Father Chris for their continued support and ministry.

PARISH SHARE

Parish Share is the financial contribution that each parish is asked to make each year to the Diocese. This money contributes to the full costs of running the Diocese and includes the costs of clergy, all the support functions such as support for clergy, training, safeguarding, HR, maintaining vicarages and much more. The amount each parish is asked to contribute is based on the principal of mutual support with attendance and congregational income statistics as the basis for assessment. Our Parish Share for 2023 is £56,182. Thank you to all who contribute towards our parish both financially and in the giving of their time and thus enable us to pay our parish share.

FREEZY RIDERS!!!

Yes, an eye catching group name!! A huge thanks to Simon Orr and his gritting team who brave the icy cold mornings to make the carpark and paths safe. They have also filled many bags of leaves and the compost bins through the autumn. Work that goes unseen but is so important. Thank you all.

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.



Loving Lord, by the leading of a star you brought the wise men to come before Jesus. In our seeking lead us to know you, to love you and to worship you this day and always. Amen