



# MISSION COMMUNITY 1 BULLETIN

*Churches working together in Stretford & Urmston*

## ***A message from our Mission Community Leader:***

"Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and the good news that God's love is not limited to people like us, but embraces all people of all places and all walks of life. I love the fact that God speaks to the Magi through the stars, in a language they understand, meeting them where they are. He then leads them on a journey that shifts their expectations about kingship and which ends in adoration of Christ, the light who has come into the world.

Maybe, this month, we can make it our intention to pray for all those people who do not yet know Jesus, especially those from places and backgrounds very different to our own. May God's love be known far beyond the walls of our churches. Perhaps we could ask God to help us find ways of communicating his love that speak clearly to the hearts of those who have still to encounter him, using language that is familiar to them. And may our churches, always and in all things, keep the adoration of Christ as the centre and the foundation of all that we are and all that we do.

May God bless you this coming year, and may his light shine on and through you, to his glory."

*Revd Luke Maguire – Mission Community Leader*

## ***This month's guest slot: a view from St. Matthew's, Stretford***



Revd Kate Burgess

"Hello, I'm Kate Burgess, Rector of St Matthew's, Stretford. I've been here for 12 years, but it really doesn't feel that long. I only realise it is that long when I meet former pupils from St Matthew's School who are now young adults and are very much taller than me: "Hello Reverend Kate. Do you remember me?"

If you know Stretford, you will see that the large shopping centre, Stretford Mall, is changing. There are great plans to reshape it, open it up, create a mixture of shops as well as social spaces and some housing. At the moment it's hard to see how the plans will eventually turn into reality. One minute a large area is all grassed over, looking very nice, and then a year later it's all dug up and foundations are being laid for housing.

As the Mall is so close to the church we can't fail to see all the building work and mud and mess. 'It was looking so nice', we say. 'Why did they have to change it all?' 'When will it be finished?' It's good to see the work being done. It reminds me that this is life, this is what God does in our lives: there is always work to be done. What looks good and fine and neat and tidy isn't necessarily the finished product - God may have a greater plan, and the upheaval is the birth pangs of something better.

Who knows what 2023 holds for us? We may not know the details but we do know that God is still at work. We are his as yet unfinished creations. May our prayer be that we are willing to continue to be shaped by him, as individuals, as parishes, as a mission community, even if it seems messy and uncomfortable at times.

'Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.' Isaiah 64: 8"

*Revd Kate Burgess – Rector, St. Matthew's, Stretford*

## **Updates from the parishes**

### **St. Clement's, Urmston**

**Stretford Road, Urmston, M41 9GH**

[www.stclementsonline.co.uk](http://www.stclementsonline.co.uk)

**Please do join us for the Mission Community prayer time on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2pm or 7.30pm. We will come together from all parishes in our Mission Community to pray for our future ministry and outreach in this wonderful place God has given us.**

**Our 'Warm Hub' continues each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm, with hot drinks and refreshments. All are welcome!**

## Christ Church, Davyhulme

Lostock Road, Davyhulme, M41 0TD

[www.christchurchdavyhulme.org.uk](http://www.christchurchdavyhulme.org.uk)

[@ccdavyhulme](https://www.facebook.com/ccdavyhulme) [@CCDavyhulme](https://twitter.com/CCDavyhulme)

[ccdavyhulme](https://www.instagram.com/ccdavyhulme)

Our community cafe reopens on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Drop-by anytime between 9am and 11.30am for free refreshments in a warm and welcoming space.

We will be running our Explore course again in January. This is for anyone who wants to look into the Christian faith or ask any questions. Please get in touch if you'd be interested in joining us.

## St. John's, Flixton

Irlam Road, Flixton, M41 6AP

[www.stjohnsflixton.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsflixton.org.uk)

Messy church took place on the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was very well attended with approximately 40 children. There were crafts, Christingle-making and face painting. The children made a new wall hanging depicting the Nativity scene. The wise men have been re-christened: Bob, Stuart and Kevin. They will be in church until the end of Epiphany if anyone wishes to visit them!

Last month, we hosted and held numerous Carol services including Urmston Choral, and two from Wellacre School! We also held a joint Carol service with Flixton Fellowship. Our new Handbell ringing group played and it was all amazing!

## All Saints, Stretford

315 Barton Road, Stretford, M32 9RL

[www.allsaintsstretford.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsstretford.org.uk)

[@allsaintsstretford](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsstretford)

Our 'Warm Welcome' space is on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 1pm, which is free of charge and open to all.

Please pray for our young people and for their discipleship and involvement in the life of the church, give thanks for the work of our new pastoral care team, and do pray for strengthening links with our local schools, especially Moss Park Infants.

Revd Luke's new book 'Billy' is now available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

## St. Mary's, Davyhulme

Davyhulme Road, Davyhulme, M41 7BU

[www.stmarysdavyhulme.org](http://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org)

[@StMaryTheVirginCOFChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryTheVirginCOFChurch)

A big thank you for the many donations we received for the Stretford Food Bank (cash and food), as well as toys that we took to the Toy House for distribution to local families, and the toys that were donated to Trafford Domestic Abuse Service (TDAS).

We will be starting our own 'Warm Space' on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm to 3pm, meeting in the church hall. A hot drink, soup and a warm welcome await everyone. We offer various activities, plus board games and magazines.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 p.m. Children's church invite all ages to the Christingle service where we will be collecting for The Children's Society.

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the 'Eco Church' Bronze award.

## St. Michael's, Flixton

Church Road, Flixton, M41 6HR

[www.stmichaelsflixton.org](http://www.stmichaelsflixton.org)

[@StMichaelsFlixton](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton) [@StMichaelsFlix](https://twitter.com/StMichaelsFlix)

[stmichaelschurchflixton](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurchflixton)

One particular Advent memory that will stick long in the memory was our 'Beer and Carols'. Seeing a packed pub sing carols together side by side was simply amazing. God was at work in the pub that night and it was a sight to behold!

We now plan to get our head round the feasibility study that's recently been undertaken at St. Michaels. We pray that God will be at the centre of our discussions.

## St. Matthew's, Stretford

Chapel Lane, Stretford, M32 8HF

[www.stretfordstmatthews.com](http://www.stretfordstmatthews.com)

[@StMatthewsChurchStretford](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsChurchStretford)

[@StMattStretford](https://twitter.com/StMattStretford)

The re-plastering following dry rot has almost been completed, and blocked drains have finally been unblocked!

We start our 'Warm Spaces' on Thursdays at 2pm to 4.30pm from 12<sup>th</sup> January.