

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

NEWSLETTER JULY 2026

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

REFLECTION

As Christians we believe that God is actively at work in the world all the time. Creation is going on all the time! But in a world of natural disasters and terrible acts of evil, how do we understand how God is active? The reflections in this article are based on a chapter called 'Providence' in a book called Café Theology by Michael Lloyd. He begins by exploring providence (how God is active in the world) by contrasting it with fate and chance. Fate would say that everything is pre-set, pre-arranged and predetermined – there is absolutely nothing we can do to change the course of the world or events in our lives. An alternative way of making sense of life's events is to see them as the consequence of chance, or perhaps we might say good luck or bad luck.

Michael Lloyd writes: 'There is a degree of luck in what happens to us...When one person gets stuck in traffic and misses a plane and another gets to the airport early and catches it, and the plane then crashes, it is not because God wanted it that way. It is because luck has played its part...But to acknowledge that there is an element of chance at work in our world is not to accept that chance is all that is at work in our world. Chance is a player, but it is not the whole game.'

As Christians we believe in providence, that God is always active in creation, working with us, through us and even despite us. 'Providence is the belief that God works within events – messy and obscenely tragic and blasphemously inimical to His will though they may be – to bring about his purposes.' As St Paul puts it: 'We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose' (Romans 8.28). God is always working for good and calls us to join him in that work, especially where there is great evil or suffering.

We also believe that the creation itself is moving towards what the Bible describes as 'the new heavens and the new earth' when evil will be finally and fully destroyed. The death and resurrection of Jesus points the way to the new creation where sin and evil will cease to exist. We might call this God's final providence.

As Christians we believe that prayer also makes a difference. As Michael Lloyd puts it, 'If we lived in a universe ruled by fate, intercessory prayer would be pointless because everything would turn out the same whether we prayed or not. And if we lived in a universe ruled by chance, then there would be no-one to pray to.' Yet, we believe that our prayers, our actions and our words can and do make a difference. Jesus said, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you' (Matthew 7.7). Jesus' words help us to perceive that our prayers are a means through which God can and will bring new life and new possibilities to our lives and the life of the world. Our prayers also prompt us to align our wills to God's loving purposes; to become agents of God's providential love and care for us and for the whole the world.

Rev Matthew

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

The Service on Sunday 28 June will be a said service.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 1 July 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 of you can join us.

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. Parish share payment was £5,500.

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 significant 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.

CONFIRMATION 2026

It was wonderful to share with Gary, Belle and Hallé as they were confirmed by Bishop Mark on Sunday 21

June. We look forward to welcoming them to worship with us in the future.

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 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.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

INVITATION

Following his Ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday, 27 June 2026 in Manchester Cathedral, Revd John Alex Muyita warmly and cordially invites you to attend the First Eucharist Service at which he will preside on Sunday 28 June, 10:30 am at St Clement's Church. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall next to the Church after the service.

Your presence, prayers, and fellowship will be greatly appreciated by Revd John as we give thanks to God for this special occasion.

"Here I am, Lord. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

St MARY SCHOOL

The school Values Ambassadors have been very busy recently. They have made posters to encourage pupils to bring in healthy snacks, been litter picking around the school, Cornhill Road and the Peace Garden, and started a campaign to make Cornhill Road safer by making posters asking drivers to be more careful and writing to Andrew Western, who is coming to visit soon.

In addition the school will be raising money for WaterAid in July. They hope to raise at least £350 towards a toilet for a school that does not have one. If you would like to make a contribution towards this fund raising please contact Yvonne or leave your donation in a marked envelope in church . Thank you

MOTHERS' UNION

Our July meeting is 8th July at 2 p.m. Rev Huw Thomas from St Michael's Flixton is coming to talk to us about Prisons. All very 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.

If anyone would like to help with arranging the church flowers, please have a word with Elsie or Yvonne.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

COUNT FOR NATURE

Thank you to all who took part in the count for nature that is part of a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. The 2 apps, Seek by iNaturalist and Merlin bird ID by Cornell lab, plus the identification charts etc in the resources box helped us all to learn more. We will send all our results to wildlife@cfga.org.uk.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting is 6.30pm, on Sunday 12 July 2026. A non-judgemental safe space, share as much or as little as you want. A space to remember our babies. For further information and future dates contact Rachelle neverforgotten1708@gmail.com. There will be no meeting in August.

PLASTIC FREE JULY

It's Plastic Free July and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at [plastic free July.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/](http://plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/) and more about this year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org.

CHURCH GROUNDS

Thank you to all who help around the grounds. These take a lot of looking after and we are grateful for any help, either in your own time or joining Linda and Fiona most Thursday mornings 10 till 12 in the grounds. A BIG thank you to all who came to our working party morning. So much was achieved. Donations of general peat free compost, bark or perennial pollinating plants (shrubs that only stay small) very welcome. Please leave them by the water butt near the Remembrance Garden. For more info please contact welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org

ECO CHURCH

During the summer our Eco journey continues. We have a water butt at the front for the plants that continue to bloom for the bees and pollinators. A water butt at the back provides water for the little fruit and vegetable plot that is looking productive (Strawberries enjoyed in June!). There are tubs to collect batteries for recycling in church. If you would like to know more about our Eco journey If you would like to know more If you would like to know more about our Eco journey or help in any way please ask Fiona in church.

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.

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.

