

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

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

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

REFLECTION

The Divine Artist

I have always had a huge admiration for people who can draw. I don't know the first thing about drawing or painting but I enjoy the way in which a drawing or a painting takes shape over time. In the image below we can see how the drawing begins with a few marks and lines. It's an outline of what will follow. If we could only see the image on the left, it would be hard to imagine how it would look when completed. The middle image gives more definition, but it's only in the final image on the right that we marvel at the completed work.



Our journey as Christians begins with Baptism, and it's as if in Baptism God begins the work of making an outline of who we will become in Christ. Just as a pencil artist begins with a rough sketch, so our journey as Christians begins with an outline of what we have the potential to become in Christ. We are all made in the image of God but the likeness of God is something we need to grow into. In baptism we begin the process of growing in God's likeness. With the prayers and support of the Christian community we make a start. We allow the divine artist to add shade and definition to our humanity. It's as if we are moving from the image on the left towards the middle image.

A second, really important, part of the divine work happens at Confirmation. Here God 'makes firm' the grace we received in baptism. It's as if God adds even more definition to who we are in Christ. We could think of the middle image as a moment when the artist 'confirms' all that's gone before and prepares for all that will follow afterwards. On 8th June at 10.30am at St. Clement's, and on 22nd June at 6.30pm at St. Mary's, nine candidates from our parishes will be confirmed by Bishop Mark. This will be a moment for them when God will confirm and

strengthen them as they continue to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Each of us are called by God to let God give shape and definition to our humanity. None of us really knows where we are on the journey but God can help us to grow. In the resurrection we will fully reflect the image and likeness of God. In the meantime God calls us to let him work at helping us to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus.

Part of letting God add more and more definition and shade to our humanity involves giving God opportunities to shape our humanity. Just as a person sitting for a portrait has to sit still to let the artist capture their essence, God calls us to give God time and space to shape our characters. Time spent in prayer, time spent in worship, time reading the scriptures are all times where we allow the divine artist to shape us. This then makes our active lives so much more fruitful, because our activities flow from God, not from our own anxiety, or need to be needed or busy.

Please pray for our confirmation candidates: Emily, Debbie, Joseph, Nicholas, Rachelle, Demi, Holly, Joe and Kara, that they will continue to grow in Christ. Pray too for one another, that we can all continue growing in the likeness of Christ.

SERVICES IN JUNE

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.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 4 June the service will follow the BCP.

Thursday 29 May – 7.30pm Ascension Day Eucharist
Sunday 8 June – Pentecost. We are pleased to welcome our Mission Community, Rev Luke McGuire, who will lead this service.

Thursday 19 June 7.30pm Eucharist to celebrate Corpus Christi – a day of thanksgiving for the institution of Holy Communion.

<https://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org/>,

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/>



[St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](#)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Parochial Church meetings Took place on 21 May. Fiona Jones and Yvonne Mackereth were re-elected as church wardens. A full list of appointments will be available at the back of church after the first meeting of the new PCC.

Copies of the Annual Report and accounts are available in church

Archdeacon's Visitation for Church warden members of the PCC and Sidespeople is on 30 June, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Platt.

CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM

The new sound system has been installed. We need to raise £5,000 to cover half the cost of this new system. We have almost reached this target. Please could you help, either with a donation, organising a fund-raising event, or even running a marathon!! Please contact Yvonne or Rev Matthew for more information. Huge thanks to those who have already donated towards the sound system.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership. The roll is renewed every six years and was fully renewed this year. Those over the age of 16 living in this parish and those with a worshipping connection with this church, are eligible to be included on the Electoral Roll. The list (names only) is displayed in church. Please see Sue McGrane for more information.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Two dates for your diary in July.

Sunday 13 July 11.30am – Parish Picnic with a BBQ.

Friday 18 July – An evening of 80s music with the Sweet Rhythm Band. Licensed bar. Doors open at 7.00pm., music from 7.30pm.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne and Fiona are at church each Sunday to prepare our worship sessions and welcome you. You may not be able to come every Sunday but when you can, there is a welcome, Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, word searches and more. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday.

Contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is 2.30pm on Wednesday 11 June. Maragret Bamber will be talking about The Toy House, a local charity, and we know many of you may be interested. As a parish, we support this charity during the year including through our Christmas Toy Service. All welcome to join us for an informative and social afternoon.

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. A special thank you to Elsie who arranges and cares for the flowers week by week.

ECO CHURCH

Throughout the month of June and June and June 7th - 15th is 'Churches Count on Nature' week and there will be activity and information stations around the grounds for all ages. Last year we made quite a data contribution of nature finds to submit to the conservation charity. Our church was one of nearly 6000 participants. Next to the bench in the church grounds there will be an information box with books, leaflets, some magnifying glasses and data collection sheets together with details of online submissions. Accessible for all ages, individually, friendship, family groups.

CHURCH FINANCE

Thank you to all those who give regularly and generously to the upkeep of this church. It is only with the help of so many that we are able to pay all our regular utility bills, and the high costs related to maintaining this church. This year our Parish Share is £59,000 year, almost £5,000 a month regular expenses have increased, and energy bills are around £1,000 a month.

If you do not already donate to the church on a regular basis, please consider the church giving scheme. Making a regular donation towards the costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church helps with the church's financial planning and enables the church to extend its mission.

The Gift Aid that we can claim on Gift Aided donations makes a significant contribution to church finances. If you are able to Gift Aid any donations and have not signed a Gift Aid form, please speak to Yvonne.

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

CONFIRMATION

We will be having a Confirmation service in church on Sunday 22 June at 6.30pm. Please come along to support and pray for Joe, Rachelle, Demi, Holly and Kara at their Confirmation.

YOUNG PEOPLE at CHURCH

This month we particularly think of children as they face the pressures of GCSEs, SATs and other exams. We hold in our thoughts all parents, carers, teachers, mentors, and loved ones. May they find strength, peace, and wisdom as they support the young people in their lives particularly during this exam season.

Let this prayer be a moment of calm, encouragement, and faith. "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." – Exodus 14:14

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings are June: 15th and 29th 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the church hall.

For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday mornings. As well as usual donations of packet and tinned food, in date please, clean carrier bags are very useful. 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.

