

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

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

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

REFLECTION

A Time to Lengthen: A Reflection for March

As March arrives, we stand at a threshold where winter's grip loosens and the earth begins its slow, sure turn toward spring. The days are noticeably lengthening, offering us more light, more time in the evening, a gradual unfurling of creation. It is no coincidence that our journey through Lent falls in this season of physical lengthening. The very word Lent comes from the Old English *lenten*, meaning "springtime," and itself rooted in the word *langian*, "to lengthen." This connection between the natural world and our spiritual rhythm is a beautiful gift, inviting us into a deeper understanding of this sacred season.

Lent, then, is our spiritual spring. It is our intentional participation in this cosmic lengthening. Just as the daylight stretches, so too are we invited to stretch—to lengthen our spirits, our patience, our compassion, and our attention to God. In the barren landscape of late winter, we see the bare truth of the branches, unadorned. Lent calls us to a similar honesty, to strip away the clutter and noise that so easily entangles our souls, and to stand before God in the simple truth of who we are. It is in this uncluttered space that the light has room to grow.

This lengthening is not merely about adding more—more tasks, more disciplines, more guilt. Rather, it is about creating capacity. It is about allowing God to stretch our hearts to make more room for grace, for forgiveness (both given and received), and for love of neighbour. The traditional practices of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—are not ends in themselves, but tools for this holy stretching. Prayer lengthens our conversation with the Divine. Fasting lengthens our awareness of our dependencies and creates space for true hunger for God. Almsgiving lengthens our reach beyond ourselves, stretching our care into the lives of others.

As the sunlight lengthens across your floor each day, let it be a gentle reminder of this invitation. Where in your life is God calling you to lengthen? Is it in setting aside five more minutes for quiet reflection? Is it in stretching your patience with a difficult situation? Is it in extending a hand of friendship to someone who feels isolated? This March, may we not simply observe the lengthening days, but actively cooperate with the Spirit who seeks to lengthen and renew us from within. May we, like the emerging shoots in the garden, grow steadily toward the Light, ready for the joyous resurrection that spring promises. For in the lengthening, we are being prepared for an eternal dawn. **Rev Dr Simon Wright**

ECUMENICAL LENT BREAKFASTS

A series of 4 breakfasts on Tuesday mornings, 3rd, 10th, 17, & 24th March at Cornerstone Methodist church, Hayeswater Rd. Breakfast will be at 10.30am and will be followed by reflection and worship. Each session will be led by a local minister. All are very welcome.

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.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 4 March 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](#)

LENT GROUPS

These will continue on Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th 24th March at 7.30pm. All welcome to come along. The sessions are based on the booklet Draw Near.

HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week we have a variety of services and events which help us to walk the way of the cross with one another and with Christ. These services and events are an opportunity to pause, reflect, and experience again the fathomless depth of God's love for us in Christ.

Setting aside time during Holy Week makes a difference to our experience of Easter, as we allow all the dimensions of Holy Week, from the Last Supper to the cross, to speak to us in fresh and powerful ways.

Monday 30th March, 8.00pm Compline (St Clement's)

Tuesday 31st March, 7.30pm hearing the Gospel of St Matthew together, part 1.

Wednesday 1st April, 10.00am Eucharist, 7.30pm, hearing the Gospel of St Matthew together, part 2.

Maudy Thursday 7.30pm Eucharist, followed by watch until 10.00pm

Good Friday 11.00am Children's worship and picnic.

Good Friday 2.00pm Liturgy for the Last Hour

Easter Eve, 7.30pm Easter Vigil, renewal of baptism vows, Eucharist.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 28th February 2-4.00pm Join Sweet Rhythm Big Band and step into a world of music and imagination for a fun-filled afternoon of songs from your much-loved animated movies – costumes encouraged!!

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cake!! All for £5 for adults, £1 for children. Tickets available in church or via welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

Saturday 21st March Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12.30pm. Come along and meet friends for coffee, toasted teacakes and bacon butties! Stalls include craft, good as new toys, bric-a-brac plus activities for children.

Friday 8 May 7.30pm Quiz Nite

CHURCH FINANCE

Each month I write about money and the church, and I make no apology for this. It is only with the help of so many that we are able to pay our Parish Share, £62,000 this year, church insurances, all our regular utility bills, and the increasing maintenance costs, both one off and regular inspections. All this helps to keep St Mary church as a beacon in the local community, a place where people can pray together, a place of

peace and calm, a place to learn about the word of God. 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. If you would like more information about how to donate on a regular basis 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 2026

Our confirmation service this year will be on Sunday 21 June at 6.30pm. If you or a family member are thinking about confirmation and would like to know more, please have a word with Rev Matthew.

ELECTORAL ROLL

This is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and stand for election to the PCC.

Being on the Electoral Roll does NOT make you a "member" of the Church; simply regarding St Mary's as your spiritual home does that.

You can, of course, be a full and active member of St Mary's Church without joining the Roll. Being on the Electoral Roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments, however, it does help the Church show its strength. Representation on the governing bodies of the church depends on the number on the Electoral Roll.

Joining the Roll is compulsory if you wish to:

Stand for election to the PCC or other synodical council (such as the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod)

Attend the APCM (this year on Sunday 10 May at 11.30am) and participate in votes.

To be entitled to be included on the Electoral Roll, a lay person must have:

been Baptised, and attained their sixteenth birthday on or before the date of the annual parochial church meeting, and submitted a signed application form for enrolment, and must be one of the following:

* a member of the Church of England, or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, and resident in the parish; or

* a member of the Church of England and, not being resident in the parish, to have habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment; or

* a member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment.

For more information please have a word with Rev Matthew, Sue McGrane, Yvonne or Fiona.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne, Chelle and Fiona are at church each Sunday during term time to welcome you. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday. You can contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This is on Friday 6 March and local prayers will be at St Monica's, Flixton at 5pm. All welcome to join in praying

together reflecting that the same service will be used across the world.

ECO CHURCH

The church Christmas tree was collected by Big Christmas Tree Cycle Appeal which contributed to funds for Francis House and Moya Cole Hospices as well as helping to protect the planet.

March 3rd is United Nations World Wildlife day celebrating wild animals and plants and recognizing the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.

March 28th at 8.30pm is EARTH HOUR switch off and connect with nature

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting on Wednesday March 11th at 2.30pm. Michael Billington will be talking about his latest book 'The churchyards and cemeteries of Urmston Flixton and Davyhulme'. All welcome to join us at our meetings

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.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings, at 6.30pm, are Sunday 8th & 22nd March 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 please contact Rachele at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

CHURCH GROUNDS

In our busy world our Church grounds provide a peaceful place (minus the road traffic!) and are used by young and not so young enjoying a walk through, people visiting the Remembrance Garden or just having a quiet sit on one of the benches.

As our small band of volunteers potter around keeping the grounds tidy, they often meet people enjoying the space, some for just a quiet time, others valuing a chat. If you would be interested in finding out more about what we do please get in touch.

YOUNG PEOPLE and CLIMATE CHANGE

Thank you to some of our young people who help in many ways with tidying, helping after the services and in many other ways. As always you are all welcome to join our services and we hold you in our prayers as you continue your studies and enjoy your friendships.

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday morning e.g. tins/ cans to give a warm winter meal, long life milk and juice, deodorants and personal care, empty half dozen egg boxes to enable the food bank to give out eggs. 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.

