

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

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

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

MESSAGE FROM REV MATTHEW CARLISLE

I am really looking forward to meeting everyone on 21 April and am glad that the wait is nearly over! It will be really good to be able to start with you in the Easter season.

We do not associate Easter with waiting (as Easter was such a surprise to all involved) but in recent weeks I have been reflecting on the theme of waiting, and what it means for us as Christians to wait well. Waiting is at the heart of our faith. As we wait, we learn to live with a sense that our lives, and our life together in Christ, are always going somewhere, even if we can't predict where!

I am amazed at the ways you have worked together as a parish during the interregnum, and wonder as you look back, if it feels less like a time of waiting and more like a time of unexpected growth. My own experience of waiting is one of seeing that unexpected things happen in the so-called wait maybe all the action is in the waiting!

The truth is, I am not the one you have been waiting for! I come as a fellow pilgrim, a fellow 'waiter'. However, I believe that our Lord has been preparing all of us for the next stage in our earthly pilgrimages and our life together in Christ. He has been preparing us and teaching us and will continue to do so in the future.

In Mark's gospel, the women who arrive at the tomb of Jesus on Easter day are both prepared and unprepared for what happens at the tomb. They are prepared in the sense that they had bought spices with which to anoint Jesus's body, but they are unprepared for the resurrection! In times of waiting we learn to adapt and respond to events. During times of waiting God helps us to let go of some of our treasured possessions and receive unexpected gifts. The women at the tomb have to leave their spices to one side in order to receive the risen Lord! In recent years I am sure you have learnt similar skills of letting go and receiving, of stepping into the future without sight but with a sense of shared purpose and hope. May God help us all take the next steps in our journey together as we learn to wait well, trust God, and love one another along the way.

REFLECTION

There is a very funny and, in some ways, moving YouTube video-It's Friday But Sunday's Coming by Tony Campolo, an Italian-American pastor and writer. The video describes how he lost in a preaching competition (I kid you not) to a black pastor who's one line/message was It's Friday But Sunday's Coming.

The Friday being Good Friday the Sunday, Easter Sunday. The message was that on the original Good Friday, Jesus was dead on the cross, the disciples disappointed and scattered, hope lost-but that was Friday and Sunday was coming.

Well, Sunday is indeed coming. Easter Sunday annually reminds us that the God has decisively intervened in the

world, that death is defeated, hope restored, justice proclaimed and the impossible made possible.

There is nothing outwith the power and love of our God. So, when our Christian predecessors were told that small boys made excellent chimney sweeps, that clean air, universal education and social justice were impossible this side of heaven - they took that as Friday talk, ignored it and worked for the Kingdom because they knew Sunday's coming.

So, when we're told the Israeli-Arab conflict is intractable, that 3rd world poverty inevitable, that church decline unstoppable- remember Christ death, remember Christ resurrection and remember that pessimism is Friday's talk because Sunday's coming.

EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday 29 March 11.30 a.m. - 1pm Children's activities and worship, join us with your own picnic, drinks provided.

2.00pm-3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

Easter Eve 30 March 7.30pm Renewal of Baptism Vows, Eucharist

Easter Day 31 March 10.00am Eucharist , children's worship, followed by Easter Egg fun

SERVICE DATES FOR APRIL

We can ensure you of a warm welcome as you join us for worship at any of our services.

Each 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/>



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



[Instagram stmarysdavyhulme](#)

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Sunday 14 April at 2.30pm – A said Eucharist with music and hymns played by Andy & Elaine. After this service the ashes of our late friend Margaret Barker will be buried in the Garden of Remembrance. The service is followed by refreshments. Please let us know of anyone who may like to come but needs support. All welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR APRIL DIARY

Please do come along and support these events that people work so hard to put on. An opportunity for fellowship and outreach in our community.

Saturday 13 April 10am-12.30pm: Coffee morning: sausage and bacon barmes

Friday 19 April 7-9.30 pm: Curry night, non-curry option will be available. Tickets £10, please bring your own drinks, hot drinks will be available.

CONFIRMATION

We have a service of confirmation on Sunday 16 June at 6.30pm. If you have not yet been confirmed and would like to explore this further, please have a word with Dr Simon or Father Chris. Application forms are available at the back of church.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Wednesday 3 April we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

CHURCH FINANCE

Thank you to all those who give regularly and generously to the upkeep of this church. Only with the help of our church family can keep the church as a warm and welcome space that is well maintained.

If you would like to join the church giving scheme, or have any queries about giving, please contact Niki, the treasurer or Yvonne. The Gift Aid that we are able to claim on Gift Aided donations makes a significant contribution to church finances.

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 10th April at 2.30 pm Lesley Culf will be talking about Streford Food bank and we be pleased to receive Food bank donations... a list is available at the back of church. All welcome.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY PEER LOSS

SUPPORT

Chelle and her support group meet on Sunday 7th April 6.15 -8.15. in the church hall . A supportive safe space for any one affected by baby loss. For further information and future dates please contactracheljenj@hotmail.com

YOUNG PEOPLE

It is great to welcome some of you at our Sunday mornings. We also appreciate it is a busy time at school with exam revision and further education studies and send our best wishes and prayers for you all.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

These will be held on Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm in church. The Annual meetings form an important part of the life of the church. This is where accounts are received, churchwardens and PCC members are elected, and other volunteer posts filled. If you would like more information of how you can get involved with church life, please have a word with Yvonne or Fiona. Also please have a word with Sue McGrane before 6 May if you are not on the church electoral roll.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

After the morning service at St Clement on Sunday 21 April at 10.30am, there will be a buffet. There is a comprehensive list at the back of church and contributions are very welcome. These can be taken to St Clement on the day.

After Rev Matthew's first Eucharist at St Mary at 6.00pm, that same day, we will be sharing cake and hot drinks. Donations of cakes would again be most welcome. Thank you so much.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's church activities are in the hall at 10.00am and then we join with everyone in church for the Eucharist. Stories, craft, songs, games, prayers for around 30 minutes. Drinks and biscuits after the service. Please get in touch for more information and a big 'hello'. It has been special to welcome new families on a Sunday and we are grateful for the extra adult volunteer who can lead the older children's group too with bible study and discussion.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

CURRY NIGHT

If you are able to donate a curry for the Curry evening or loan a slow cooker, please have a word with Yvonne. Thank you.

MISSION COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The next dates for Mission Community prayer gatherings are 24 April, 2-3pm at St Michael; 22 May, 7.30-8.30pm at Christ Church. Please do come along and join in prayer with friends in our Mission Community. It is very informal.

ECO CHURCH

In addition to the candle and battery recycling there are now details of local recycling for bottle tops and small hard plastic lids. Recycle for Rehabilitation at Urmston collection post office.

Thank you to all who help to recycle after our church events and for the car sharing, walking, cycling as we pray for God's creation, nature's preservation, and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.

YOUR OWN PRAYER WALK arochoa.org.uk

SIT Find a spot to sit down. As you look around at God's creation, what can you see? What can you hear? Use this space to pray for our leaders, both locally and nationally, as they make decisions that affect the natural world. Pray for wisdom and discernment. Pray that they will recognise the urgent need to protect and restore nature and to put policies in place that will safeguard and renew nature in the UK.

FOOD BANK

. More people than ever are turning to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. Donations can be left at church on Wednesday and Sundays. Shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, toilet rolls washing up liquid laundry detergent, tinned products such as meat, fish, fruit veg, meals; long life milk and juice, pasta sauces, jam and spreads Thank you

PRAYER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Heavenly Father,
You have taught us, through your servant St Francis,
That all creation is your handiwork.
Grant us your grace that we may
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;
Tread lightly upon it;
And cherish its resources;
That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations,
And your name be glorified through all that you have made.
Amen.

Rt Revd David Walker
Bishop of Manchester

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.

