**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023**

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

**MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW VICAR**

Dear all,

I am delighted to be able to write this message to you and am very much looking forward to becoming the next vicar of St Clement's and St Mary's. I trust that God will guide us all as we enter into a period of preparation and new beginnings. I would really appreciate your prayers for me and my family as we prepare to say goodbye in Gatley and get ready to move to Davyhulme and Urmston. Please pray that the move will be as smooth as it can be for all of us.

You have been in my prayers in the past few weeks and will continue to be so in the months and years ahead. I am really looking forward to meeting you all and learning about how God is present and active among you. I also look forward to learning how we can work together as God's people in Davyhulme and Urmston. The one who calls us is faithful.

Every blessing

Rev Matthew Carlisle

**A VERY WARM WELCOME**

We very much look forward to welcoming Matthew, Emily and their family to this parish and St Clement parish and to the community here in Davyhulme and Urmston in the New Year. We pray for them all as Matthew prepares to start his ministry among us.

**REFLECTION**

Advent is nearly upon us, the beginning of the church’s year. Traditionally it is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. It is a time of expectation, a time of waiting and anticipation.

Traditionally it was a time of fasting and pray to be ended by the great Christmas feast lasting 12 days. In medieval times all but the breeding stock of animals would have been slaughtered to save on fodder, so for once there was plenty of meat to be eaten!

The modern commercial pressure of Christmas has made this hard to sustain, and we are perhaps worse off for it.

Christmas is now dragged on for several weeks prior to its actual date and then the real Christmas Day can be an anti-climax, the main event on Boxing Day being the packing up of the decorations for another year.

This year at St Mary’s we have our own unique Advent-we wait with great anticipation for our new vicar Matthew Carlisle. We should use this time thoughtfully, prayerfully. What is God calling us to do in Davyhulme? What do we hope Matthew can bring to the parish? How can we help his ministry?

We have been in vacancy for two years, but we have remained faithful. Now is not the time to sigh a collective breath of relief. Now is a time to thank God for the advent of this new chapter in our witness and to remain faithful, prayerful and observant. It would be to the glory of God that Rev Carlisle found a prayerful, faithful and joyful church to minister to and with.

**SERVICE DATES FOR DECEMBER**

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

**Every 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](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryTheVirginCOfEChurch)

Instagram stmarysdavyhulme

**CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY**

Sunday 3 December 10.00am. Toy service. All toys will be donated to the Toy House in Flixton for distribution to local families.

Sunday 10 December 2.30pm Eucharist with Carols, mince pies and hot drinks.

Friday 15 December 7.00pm Christmas music and fun with the Sweet Rhythm Band, licensed bar

Sunday 17 December 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 24 December 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 24 December 4.00pm Crib Service

Sunday 24 December 9.00pm, First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day 10.00am Eucharist.

**ADVENT GROUPS**

A little different this year as we will be able to enjoy music from Andy and Elaine at the evening gatherings. The theme is the history of church music. We will meet on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm starting on 5 December. Please do come and join us.

**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

A reminder that on every first Wednesday in the month, we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS**

We have a short time of quiet prayer on a Sunday morning in church from 9.30-9.45am led by Dr Simon. All welcome, no one has to pray out loud, you can just sit quietly and join in.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

**Sunday 10 December at 2.30pm –** A saidEucharist with music and carols played by Andy & Elaine. The service is followed by refreshments. Please let us know of anyone who may like to come but needs support. All welcome.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Our Christmas Fair **Saturday 18 November over £2500 – an amazing total** Thank you to Elsie and everyone who worked so hard to make the fair a success and thank you to all who supported us on the day.

**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. Your generosity also enables us, as a parish, to continue to fulfil our obligation to pay our Parish Share in full each year. Our Parish Share for 2024 will be £56,161. This is roughly £1,000 a year for each adult worshipper on a Sunday. In addition we have to raise around £35,000 for the day to day expenses of running the church. So, again, thank you all so much.

If you would like to join the church giving scheme either to donate via standing order or with weekly envelopes, 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.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS APPEAL**

Once again Peter Williams and Ian Artus will be collecting small cash donations for the Stretford Food Bank. Instead of giving each other loads of Christmas
Cards please consider donating to this worthy cause to help others have a Good Christmas.

**MOTHERS’ UNION**

The next branch meeting is on Wednesday 13 December. Brian Hallworth will be making a return visit to talk about “In the Bleak Mid-winter” followed by refreshments including mince pies.

A date ahead … Cath Brownhill will be giving a Defibrillator Demonstration. So important to feel more confident about using this. We have one in our church hall entrance corridor.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

Parents, Grandparents and carers please share.

Have you come to church services in the past from school. Have you been confirmed in recent years? We would love to welcome you to a Sunday service whenever you can. Why not come along with a friend? We look forward to seeing you.

**CHURCH LAWNMOWER**

A big thank you to Liz Miller for the generous donation of funds to purchase a new lawnmower. This was much needed and has already been put to goods use by the Lawn Rangers and Elsie.

**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’. We have activities for KS2 children too.

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

**ECO CHURCH and CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### As we work towards the Eco Silver award, we are asked to think about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on Christian communities elsewhere in the world. ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’. We might pray for the earth in response to any number of environmental crises.

We have now registered with the Diocesan Eco team to recycle candles. Any types of wax candles, any colour, scented ones, ones in foil or glass containers. There is a box for these in church.

[Prayer diary | Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-diary)

[Prayer library - Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-library)

Creator God , who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours.

Inspire us to care for the environment; to help rebuild lives and communities; to share in the griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes of all your people, so that all your creation may flourish. Amen

**FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

We have a weekly worship and activity sheet available. It is a resource to encourage family faith at home**.** It is called THRIVE and has readings prayers and fun activities**.** Ask Fiona for a copy or please email childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

**FOOD BANK**

Thank you to everyone who continues to help and support the Food Bank. For more details please see [Stretford Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](https://stretford.foodbank.org.uk/). Donations can be left at church on Wednesday and Sundays. Tinned ham, salmon, fruit, potatoes, custard, carnation cream. Stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy mix, shortbread, mince pies, trifle mix, Boxed biscuits, crisps, peanuts, Christmas Puddings. Let’s help make a good Christmas dinner! .Thank you

**HEATING PROJECT**

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated to our heating fund in any way to enable the work to take place. We are so grateful for all you support and for the very generous donations. Financially we are nearly there! We have a bit more money to raise, hopefully through donations, or fund raising. Thank you all so much for your support over the past months.

**LEAF SWEEPING AND GROUNDS TIDY**

Thank you to Simon and his team ( including a recent young family) for all the leaf and path clearance. Grounds tidying will continue over the winter months so please help if you can.

**WELCOME THURSDAYS**

These afternoon gatherings are open 1pm till 3 pm .The **local councillor surgery** Is 7 December and also on that date Michael Billington will be talking about his new book “A History of Simpson Ready Foods”. His books and calendars will be available to buy. Please spread the word and come along to support.

There will be no group on 21 or 28 December.

**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.