**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**REFLECTION**

Officially on 2nd Feb we will say goodbye to the Christmas season with the festival of Candlemas also known as the festival of the Presentation of Christ. Actually we’re celebrating that festival a little early this year on 28th Jan, which is just as well as it’s a relatively early Easter.

Candlemas marks a change in our liturgical journey-famously we move our gaze from the cradle to the cross and begin to anticipate Lent and then the great Easter festival.

This year we start our Lenten journey half way through February with Ash Wednesday on 14February.

In today’s culture Ash Wednesday is counter cultural. It is a day when we take sin seriously.

In the Western church we talk a lot about being forgiven and Jesus taking on our sin and that’s quite right. But this can sometimes lessen the danger of sin and the damage it can do and lessens our responsibility.

Christ first calls for repentance, and importantly a commitment to a change in ways from us before that forgiveness and a lifting of the burden of sin.

On Ash Wednesday at the imposition of Ashes we’re told

***Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.***

***Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.***

It is advice we would all do well to follow-and not just Ash Wednesday.

**SERVICE DATES FOR FEBRUARY**

**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

**ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT SERVICES**

There will be Eucharist with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday at 10.00am and 7.30pm.

This year we will be having Lent groups in church as usual on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm. The theme this year is Prayer with a focus on the different types of prayer.

Lord, grant us the faith to wait together in darkness and uncertainty – for it is there we will find you. May we come to know you this Lent in ways we have not yet discovered or even imagined. Amen

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

**Sunday 11th February at 2.30pm –** A saidEucharist with music and hymns 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.

**BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

Wednesday 7 February we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

**LICENSING SERVICE FOR REV MATTHEW**

Many of you will have noticed that work is now going at the Vicarage. This is in preparation for Rev Matthew and his family moving in in the spring. We will let you all know as soon as a date for his Licensing Service has been confirmed.

**CONFIRMATION**

This year our confirmation service will be on Sunday 16 June at 6.30pm. It is always a very special event for the parish. If you have not yet been confirmed, please do confirmation this year. There are forms at the back of church or have a word with Dr Simon or Father Chris.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Lots happening in the next few months, something for everyone. 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.

**Friday 9 February** 7-9.30pm Valentines musical evening with Elaine & Andy, with bar

**Saturday 17 February** 10am to 12.30pm; Valentines Coffee morning with sausage & bacon barms

**Saturday 9 March** 10am -12.30pm; Coffee morning and Mothering Sunday and Easter crafts

**Friday 15 March** 7-9.30pm: Quiz night, tickets £5.00 licensed bar.

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

**Friday 19 April** 7-9.30 pm: Curry night, non-curry option will be available.

**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.

**MOTHERS’ UNION AGM**

Wednesday 14 February at 2.30pm. After a very busy year with well attended meetings, our AGM is an important meeting as we look to the year ahead. We hope that many of you who have enjoyed our meetings will come along and support the committee.

**BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

We are pleased to welcome Chelle and her support group starting on Sunday 4 February 6.15 -8.15. in the church hall . A supportive safe space for any one affected by baby loss, just come along.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

It was lovely to welcome so many young people over the Christmas services. Thank you to those who helped with prayers and readings in our services. It is great to see new faces too on a Sunday morning. All are welcome at any of our services.

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Children’s church activities are in the hall at 10.00am and then the families 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

**WARM WELCOME and Councillor THURSDAY**

The **local councillor surgery** is 1 February 1-2 p.m. There will be drinks and biscuits and we would also be pleased to welcome anyone calling in for a cuppa and a chat.

**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. Just you’re your energy bills, the church energy bills are significant. The gas bill was over £950 in December. Our Parish Share for 2024 is £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 this church. So, again, thank you all so much.

If you would like to join the church giving scheme either 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 also makes a significant contribution to church finances.

**ECO CHURCH**

We continue to develop ways in which we help each other care for our environment and now have recycling tubs for wax candles and batteries in the church and church hall. Our church prayers include prayers for our climate and world environments.

**GO GREEN FOR LENT**

The weeks leading up to Easter are an opportunity for self-reflection, repentance, and emulating Jesus’ obedience to the Father. Is there something you’d like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet’s well-being and enhance others’ lives through sustainable, ecofriendly living? Explore some of these changes at arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

**FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

We have a weekly worship and activity sheet available. Ask Fiona for a copy or please email childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

It is a resource to encourage family faith at home thatis called THRIVE and it has readings, prayers and fun activities**.**

Date for your diary 29 March Good Friday family picnic, prayers, songs. Details of this and all our Easter services soon.

**FOOD BANK**

Thank you to everyone who continues to help and support the Food Bank. This winter will be our busiest ever. More people than ever are being driven 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 :- meat, fish, fruit veg, meals, long life milk and juice, pasta sauces jam and spreads 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.

**GROUNDS TIDY**

The snowdrops and spring bulbs will be popping through soon and we need to tidy the leaves and twigs etc We had new volunteer this month, who , in a time that suites her, is popping round to do a bit of plant border jobs. More volunteers would be great. Thank you to the early morning team who keep our paths safe in frozen weather too.

**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.