

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

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

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

REFLECTION

By the time you read this, the turkey will be just a carcass (or even soup) and the presents will have been unwrapped and normality will almost have been restored. One of the problems of all the special events happening before Christmas is that after the day itself, everything seems flat.

But there are 12 days of Christmas, or even 40 if you want to be really old-fashioned with it not finishing till Candlemas on 2 February. And, of course, the reason for this is that as Christians we need time to take in the enormity of what happened on that first Christmas. Here is the God who created and sustains not just the earth and us humans, but the whole universe, becoming one of us in the person of a human child.

At Epiphany we celebrate the fact that this was done not just for His chosen people the Jews, but for each and every one of us here on earth. We need time to reflect on this, which is indeed a 'great and mighty wonder', in the words of the carol. This act of sheer love on the part of our God demands a response from us.

It is annual habit for many to make New Year's Resolutions, a lot of which will fall by the wayside within days or weeks, but every year our resolution ought to be to look at and seek ways to enhance our faith and what it means for us in terms of action in response to God's overwhelming act of love in the Incarnation. Maybe for this year our resolution should be 'love God more in twenty-four'!

SERVICE DATES FOR JANUARY

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/stmarysdavyhulme)

 Instagram stmarysdavyhulme

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Sunday 21st January at 2.30pm – A said Eucharist 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.

CHRISTINGLE

Our Christingle service will be on 14 January 2.30 p.m.

Would be delighted to welcome you to join with our families and school community for this very special service.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT

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. More details next month.

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 19 January 7-9.30pm; Bingo evening with Sue McGrane; licensed bar. Tickets £5.00, available at church.

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 barm

Saturday 9 March 10am -12.30pm; Coffee morning 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 barm

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.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

As we enter this New Year, we look forward to welcoming Rev Matthew and his family. We send best wishes to you all for a happy and peaceful 2024. Thank you so much for all your help in so many ways that have enriched the life of our church community.

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 going up, over £1,00 last month. 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 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 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.

MOTHERS' UNION Defibrillator talk

The next branch meeting is on Wednesday 10 January. Cath Brownhill is coming to give a Defibrillator Demonstration and help us understand more.

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.

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

WELCOME and Councillor THURSDAY

The **local councillor surgery** is 4 January 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.

ECO CHURCH

We are delighted to announce that just before Christmas we were awarded Silver Eco Award. So many people have worked towards this at home and in the church community.

Research and coordination of our heating project has resulted in us halving our carbon generation, our parish energy buying is a green supplier. Our PCC and finance team enabled our banking to be ethical with the Cooperative Bank. Our grounds continue to be cared for with native plants, fruit trees and vegetables with a small team, donations of plants, our children's and uniformed groups helping with bug hotels and bird feeding. A congregation member took part in a climate consultation with Trafford. We have links with our church school Eco team.

All of this has been alongside worship, hymns, and prayer in services, shared online, in newsletters and in family eco activity days. A particular thanks for the 'fiddly recycling' when we keep items separate at church tea / biscuit times and after functions and then

take it home to our own bins Also thanks for the car sharing, candle recycling, walking and cycling and all each of you do in your own way to care for God's World and help nature to re build for the climate for generations to come.

A special Thank You to Fiona for leading this.

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 that is called THRIVE and it has readings, prayers and fun activities.

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

Even in January there are jobs around the grounds, picking up twigs and branches, clearing leaf pile that blow around, keeping paths clear of slippy moss and muddy areas. We are all volunteers are such a valuable help with many things around church and we would really appreciate help with the grounds. Please get in touch with church and ask for Fiona.

PRAYER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

O God, you fashioned us to live in harmony with the world you have made.

Deepen our respect for the gifts of you creation, That working with the earth in ways that are sustainable, we may provide enough to feed all the peoples of this planet now and for generations to come.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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.

