**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024**

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

**REFLECTION**

There is an old proverb that says that ‘March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb’. As I’m writing this in February, it remains to be seen whether or not this is true this year in terms of the weather, but there is certainly a truth about it for us Christians, especially this year.

In our lectionary, on 3 March we hear the story of Jesus, like a lion filled with righteous anger at the hypocrisy and corruption of the Temple institutions, driving out the moneychangers and those who sold sacrificial animals. The month then ends with the Passion and Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord, where the Lamb of God is sacrificed for us, and rises again from the dead on the first Easter Day.

We journey with Jesus through Lent, sharing His temptations and His frustrations with those who listened to Him, but failed to hear, and we try to reset our lives to be more like Him. Through our additional devotions, study and reading of scripture, we pray that we may see and understand more fully the sheer magnitude of God’s grace to us, freely given, in His Son. Through that greater understanding and insight, may we dedicate anew our lives to His service.

**REV MATTHEW CARLISLE**

We very much look forward to welcoming Rev Matthew and his family to St Mary & St Clement churches.

Bishop David will lead the service of welcome for Rev Matthew on Sunday 21 April at 10.30am at St Clement, Urmston. The service includes the institution and licensing of Rev Matthew. The service will be followed by refreshments.

At 6.00pm that same day at St Mary church, Archdeacon Karen will induct Rev Matthew as incumbent of St Mary. This service will also be Rev Matthew’s first Eucharist in the parishes. Hot drinks and cake will be served after the service.

On this occasion only there will be no 10.00am Sunday service at St Mary. This is to allow as many people as possible to support and welcome Rev Matthew and his family.

Everyone is warmly invited to join in these two services of celebration and welcome.

**SERVICE DATES FOR MARCH**

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

Instagram stmarysdavyhulme

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

**Sunday 17 March 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 6 March we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

**LENT**

Our Lent group meets in church on a Tuesday from 7.30pm. The theme this year is Prayer with a focus on different types of prayer. Please join for all / any of these meetings Tuesdays 27th February, 5th, 12th, 19th March. Each session is a standalone and you are welcome to join us for all / any of these.

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday** 24 March 10.00am Palm Sunday procession and Eucharist

**Tuesday** 26 March 7.30 p.m. Reading of St Mark’s Gospel

**Wednesday** 27 March 10.00am Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday** 28 March 7.30 pm Eucharist and stripping of the Altar followed by Watch until 10.00pm

**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

**DATES FOR YOUR MARCH 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.

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

**Friday 15 March** 7-9.30pm: Quiz night, tickets £5.00. Licensed bar and hot drinks.

**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. Tickets £10, please bring your own drinks, hot drinks will be available.

**CONFIRMATION**

We have a service of confirmation on Sunday 16 June. 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.

**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. There is a prayer tree to which any one can add their own prayer request.

**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 13 March at 2.30pm.Carol Cosham will speak about ‘My Visit to the Holy Land’. All welcome.

**BABY PEER LOSS GROUP**

Chelle and her support group meet on Sunday 10th March 6.15 -8.15. in the church hall . A supportive safe space for any one affected by baby loss. This group will be meeting alternate Sundays in term time.

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

We look forward to some of you joining us throughout Lent and Holy week. 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.

**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. GOOD FRIDAY family activities 11.30 till 1.00pm

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org

**WELCOME and COUNCILLOR THURSDAY**

The **local councillor surgery** is 7 March 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. This will be the last of the Thursday gatherings. Watch this space for future activities though!!

**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. Perhaps you can link with friends and family to take along the items you collect. Details on our church web site under Eco Church. Our church prayers include prayers for our climate and world environments.

**GO GREEN FOR LENT**

The weeks leading up to Easter are a time 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/

**FOOD BANK**

Thank you to everyone who continues to help and support the Food Bank. 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

**GROUNDS TIDY**

Come and join us on SATURDAY March 2nd  9.30 till 12 noon. SPRINGTIME GARDEN TIDY The snowdrops and spring bulbs will be popping through soon and we need to tidy the leaves and twigs etc We had a new volunteer this month, who , in a time that suites her, is work on the plant borders. More volunteers would be great. Early Birds Nursery and the families group will also be planting potatoes later this month.

**PRAYER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT**

God of life, we praise you for the beauty of creation,
its richness and variety;
yet, through greed and ignorance, we scar your world with plastic waste and throw so much away.
Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us,
that we may care more deeply for your Earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rt Revd Graham Usher
Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop on the Environment

**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.