

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

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

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

REFLECTION

Love you

Have you ever had the experience of being told something at one point in your life which you didn't pay much attention to at the time, but later those words had great meaning? I remember someone saying that their mum always used to end their phone calls with the words 'love you'. At the time the person didn't really register the significance of those words. They thought it was just their mum's way of saying 'goodbye'. It was only when their mum died that those words took on much greater significance. They seemed to be their mum's parting words to her, a kind of gift which they treasured and brought to mind in times of sadness or stress.

In the Easter story, something similar happens to the women who go to the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning. We read in Luke's account that: 'they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.' (Luke 24.2-9)

Jesus had told the people who had followed him from the beginning that three things were going to happen to him: he would be handed over to sinners, he would be crucified, and on the third day he would rise from the dead. He had made all this plain from the start, but it seems that his words didn't really register with his followers until Easter Day. It was only when the events that Jesus had predicted took place that his words to them took on their full significance. Suddenly the women remembered what Jesus had said, and now it all made sense to them. We can imagine them saying, 'Oh, yes, remember how he said he would be handed over to sinners, crucified, and on the third day rise again?!

It's as if the penny drops for them. It's a kind of eureka moment. 'I've got it!' As we approach Holy Week and get ready for Easter, we have a number of opportunities to hear again the events of Jesus's death and resurrection in the extended Bible readings we hear on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. We can also read them on our own at home. In all these moments we are giving ourselves opportunities to 'remember', to bring to mind the events of Jesus's death and resurrection and let

them speak to us afresh. We may have heard a hundred times before, but the words of Jesus's death and resurrection always have the capacity to speak to us at this point in our lives in a way they may never have done so before.

The person I knew had heard her mum say 'love you' thousands of times on the phone but when their mum died, they heard them for the first time. The women at the tomb had heard Jesus speak about his suffering, death and resurrection on various occasions but it was on Easter Day that the penny dropped. In the same way, the Easter story always has the ability to touch our hearts and minds in a way it hasn't before. May the Easter story speak to us afresh this Holy Week and Easter; may we hear it in a way we have never heard it before; may we be as surprised as the women at the tomb as we hear Jesus say to us through the events of his suffering, death and resurrection, 'I love you'.

EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 13 April – 10.00am Palm Sunday Eucharist

Wednesday in Holy Week – 10.00am Eucharist

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm Eucharist, stripping of the Altar and Watch

Good Friday – 11.00am Children's activities and worship

Good Friday – 2.00pm Liturgy for the Last Hour

Easter Eve – 7.30pm Renewal of baptismal vows and Eucharist

Easter Day - 10.00am Easter Eucharist

SERVICES IN APRIL

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

Sundays – 10.00am Eucharist and Children's church.

Tea and coffee are 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](#)



Threads stmarysdavyhulme

LENT COURSE

To conclude our Lent Course, we will be meeting in church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th & 15 April to read St Luke's Gospel. Please do come along and join us.

CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM

Many of you will have noticed that our sound system keeps fading in and out during services. This system is old and no longer fit for purpose. The PCC agreed at their last meeting to purchase a modern sound system that will meet current standards. We need to raise £5,000 to cover half the cost of this new system. Please could you help, either with a donation, organising a fund-raising event, or even running a marathon!! Please contact Yvonne or Rev Matthew for more information.

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

This will be on **29 March 10.30am – 1.00pm.**

Stalls include cake stall, Easter crafts, treats and gifts. All this plus a children's area with craft and Lego, raffle and refreshments including hot cross buns and soup+roll.

Please do come along, bring your friends and support this fund-raising event for our new sound system!_

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership. Every person listed on the roll is eligible to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) where church officers are elected.

The roll is renewed every six years and will be fully renewed this year. This will involve those over the age of 16 living in this parish and those with a worshipping connection with this church, completing fresh electoral roll forms in order to be included on the Electoral Roll. The formal notice for this was given out in church on Sunday 23 & 30 March. You will be invited to submit your new electoral roll form until 23 April when the new roll will be compiled.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

We are marking the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day with a joint service and refreshments - Saturday 10th May - 2pm at St. Mary's, Davyholme. Light refreshments will also be available after the service in the hall as we commemorate this significant date together. All very welcome to join us for this significant event.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne and Fiona are at church each Sunday to prepare our worship sessions and welcome you. You may not be able to come every Sunday but when you can, there is a welcome, Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, word searches and more. Contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyholme.org. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday.

ECO CHURCH

Please note we can no longer accept candles for recycling as the firm has stopped doing this. We do still collect domestic batteries and also clean plastic bottle tops. We are meeting the school eco committee this month so watch this space for news of our next project with them. If you would like to be part of our church Eco team please let us know. This could be a link that you could do at home such as ideas as we work towards Gold award or computer research.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the church flowers, perhaps to mark a special occasion or in memory of someone special, please could you add you name to the list in church. Gift Aid envelopes are available if you are able to gift aid your donation. Thank you.

CHURCH FINANCE

Thank you to all those who give regularly and generously to the upkeep of this church. It is only with the help of so many that we are able to pay all our regular utility bills, and the high costs related to maintaining this church. This year our Parish Share has increased again and is now £59,000 a year, almost £5,000 a month and energy bills are around £1,000 a month.

If you do not already donate to the church on a regular basis, please consider the church giving scheme. Making a regular donation towards the costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church helps with the church's financial planning and enables the church to extend its mission.

The Gift Aid that we can claim on Gift Aided donations makes a significant contribution to church finances. If you are able to Gift Aid any donations and have not signed a Gift Aid form, please speak to Yvonne.

Please do pray about how you may be able to continue to help this church financially and in many other ways.

CONFIRMATION

We will be having a Confirmation service in church in June. If you have not yet been confirmed and this is something that you may wish to consider, please have a word with Rev Matthew for more information.

YOUNG PEOPLE and CLIMATE CHANGE

A link to an interactive calendar and QR code for all our young people caring about our climate and nature [2025 Environment Days and Key Events Calendar](#)
[Earth Day 2025 | Activities & Resources for April 22 - Earth Day](#)

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is on Wednesday 10 April at 2.30pm. Helen Rich will be visiting us with her accordion and her talk 'My accordion journey'. Join us for this and scones, cream and jam too!! All welcome.

CHURCH GARDENS

We hope you are able to enjoy the peaceful setting of our church grounds. Our thanks for the care of the Remembrance Garden, the spring planting and new small shrubs. Bee and butterfly friendly flowers will now begin to appear and the wilder areas with moss, lichens, grasses, log piles and compost are habitats for a range of nature. Help always appreciated in caring for the church grounds. Help the church and nature.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meetings are 12 April Wellness day 11a.m. till 4 p.m. and 27 April 6.30 pm till 8.30 pm in the church hall. For further information and future dates please contact neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

FOOD BANK

Peter and Sue continue to take our weekly collections to the food bank and thank you for all who help with items. Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday. Tinned and packet food, tinned vegetables, microwave rice, crisps, long life milk and fruit juice, shampoo, shower gel and deodorants, Laundry products. Thank you

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. Thank you.

