

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

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

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

REFLECTION

Evidence of God's Grace Ahead of His People: A Curate's Grateful Beginning.

When God called Moses to lead the Israelites, He gave this powerful promise that: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14). As I reflect on the first weeks of my curacy at St Mary's Davyhulme and St Clement's Urmston, those words have become more than just a Bible verse, but our lived experience and therefore a reality in our lives. Many people will agree with me that arriving as a new Curate is both a joy and a step into the unknown. In fact, for me and my family, there was excitement, but also anxiety. We repeatedly asked ourselves: How will it go? Shall we be received well? How about the children? Shall we feel at home? But God, who promises to go ahead of His people, had already prepared the way. And that preparation has now been reflected in His people in these parishes.

Although it all started even before we arrived, we can confirm that from the moment we arrived, we have felt surrounded by warmth and kindness. Different people have knocked on our doors simply to say hello. Many have visited us, prayed for us, and welcomed us not just into the churches, but into the hearts of many. We have received generous gifts, including vestments, shopping vouchers, financial support, cards with kind words, and even specially baked cakes, lovingly made to make us feel embraced and remembered. Scripture reminds us again that new beginnings are part of God's gracious plan and in this case, we have been made to believe how God goes before us as reflected in Deuteronomy (31:8), that "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you"

Our new beginning of ministry within this community is not something we can walk into alone, but something God walks ahead of, preparing relationships, opening people's hearts, and sending what I like to call "destiny helpers", who are people placed by God at just the right time to offer encouragement, support, and strength. You have been those destiny helpers for us. We have been deeply touched by these gestures of love and personal care, especially in this world today, which is often marked by business and where such acts are becoming very rare. As we now look forward to the journey ahead, worshipping, serving, and growing together, we are expressing a heartfelt thank you for the ways we have been received. Thank you for making space for our family. With love and deep gratitude, we thank you for being evidence that God is always at work, and always ahead of His people. As Paul writes in Philippians (1:3), "I thank my God every time I remember you." Those words now echo in our prayers, as we give thanks for each of you.

Revd John Alex Muyita

BIBLE STUDY

Autumn Bible Study Series - The Challenge of Acts

This coming autumn, starting on Thursday 18 September at 7.30pm at St. Clement, there is an opportunity to explore the Acts of the Apostles together.

The course is based on a book called 'The challenge of Acts' by Tom Wright. It offers a bird's-eye view of the Acts of the Apostles. All the materials for the course will be provided but it would be very beneficial to have read the

relevant chapters in Acts in preparation for each session.

Here is the running order for the sessions:

Session 1 – Thursday 18 September

Acts 1-8: To the ends of the earth (chapter 1); The new Temple (chapters 2-4); Mission and Martyrdom (chapters 5-8)

Session 2 – Thursday 25 September

Acts 9-16: Breaking through the Gentile barrier (chapters 9-12); converts and controversy (chapters 13-16)

Session 3 – Thursday 2 October

Acts 17-20: Completing the circle (chapters 17-20), including a more in-depth study of 17.16-34 – The unknown God?

Session 4 – Thursday 9 October

Acts 21-28: Trouble in Jerusalem (chapters 21-24); And so to Rome (chapters 25-28)

SERVICES IN AUGUST

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.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 6 August the service will follow the BCP.

Thursdays – 9.15am Morning prayer in church, all welcome

Fridays – 9.15am Morning prayer in church, all welcome

<https://www.stmarysdavyhulme.org/>,

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15890/>



[St Mary the Virgin C of E Church, Davyhulme](#)

MORNING PRAYER

All are very welcome to join Rev Matthew and Rev John for morning prayer in church each Thursday and Friday morning at 9.15am.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As usual, August is a quiet month in church for social events as so many people have other commitments.

Dates for your diary for future events:

Friday 5 September: Bingo Evening 7-10.00pm with our very own Sue McGrane. Licensed bar / hot drinks, raffle. This is always a fun evening. Tickets £5.00 which includes all games.

Saturday 4 October 10.00am – 12 noon. Fair Trade coffee morning.

Saturday 18 October 2.30-4.30pm. Songs of Praise with an opportunity to pick your favourite hymn played by Andy and Elaine. Tickets £5.00 including tea and cakes.

Saturday 29 November Christmas Fair.

Please do come along and support the church and all those who help to put on these events.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll is the list of names and addresses of a church's membership. The roll is renewed every six years and was fully renewed this year. Those over the age of 16 living in this parish and those with a worshipping connection with this church, are eligible to be included on the Electoral Roll. The list (names only) is displayed in church. Please see Sue McGrane for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne, Chelle and Fiona are at church each Sunday DURING TERM TIME to welcome you. Please note that as from this July, Children's Church will run term time only, following the primary school holiday dates. We meet again in September You can contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday. When Children's church aren't meeting in August there will be puzzle sheets, colouring books and other resources in the children's area in church as we worship together.

MOTHERS' UNION

There is no meetings in August. We continue to meet up at Church for the Wednesday service and during and after the Sunday services.

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. A special thank you to Elsie who arranges and cares for the flowers in church week by week.

ECO CHURCH

As we shop day to day and /or enjoy holidays and days out it is interesting to look at buying Fairtrade. Perhaps have a look at Fairtrade products, see the range of products and the work of Fair Trade around the world. As we enjoy our summer, we can all try and manage our own outdoor spaces to help nature in some way. Perhaps take refillable cups on days out, consider how we picnic and recycle what we use to help the environment.

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. You will be aware that we have had some major expenditure on the church sound system and will have further expenditure on repair / renewal of the flat roof over the gallery that has deteriorated significantly. The total cost of both of these items is likely to be in the region of £28,000. Any donations towards these expenses would be much appreciated.

Thank you to those who helped at the BBQ and the Musical evening in July. They were great events where we had lots of fun and fellowship and raised money. 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.

YOUNG PEOPLE at CHURCH

Some of our young people now come along and share in the whole Eucharist service. You are always welcome. There is a chance after the service for a chat and catch-up with your friends in the church hall. Our prayers and best wishes to all our young people as they enjoy their summer activities and/or continue their studies some moving on to other schools and plan for the challenges ahead.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting is 3rd August at 6.30pm.

For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

CHURCH GROUNDS

The grounds are open all the time for everyone to enjoy. We have 2 benches by the Garden of Remembrance for a rest and contemplation. During August there will be a small nature/Bible related trail with mini posters and some children's nature activities in the box by the main door. The apple trees are bearing fruit, not ready to eat yet though. Have a look out for yellow courgettes, beans and potatoes ready in the veg garden. Please take some and leave some for others.

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday mornings. As well as usual donations of packet and tinned food, in date please, clean carrier bags are very useful. Empty half dozen egg boxes enable the food bank to give out eggs. Thank you to Peter and Sue who continue to take your donations to the Food Bank each week.

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.

