

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

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

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

REFLECTION

Advent Calendar

I love Christmas, and I love Advent too! Advent helps us to explore the depth of what we celebrate at Christmas. Tinsel and carols alone could ring a bit hollow. Christmas brings great 'comfort and joy' but the birth of Jesus has a strangeness about it too. A poem that explores this theme and will be read at our Advent Carol service on 30 November at St. Clement, is called Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams:

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has played the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

Like a good friend, it's worth spending some time with this poem. It has some beautiful images which speak to us about the ways Jesus comes to us. In the first three stanzas Jesus comes silently: 'like last leaf's fall', 'like frost' and 'like dark', but then, in the last stanza, he comes 'like crying in the night'. Jesus's birth is not neat and tidy (or cosy), just as our world is not neat and tidy (or cosy). The birth of Jesus includes blood, sweat and tears - as does his death - but in his coming among us, we see how much God longs to be with us.

As we wait like expectant parents through Advent, we are reminded that Jesus can speak to all the seasons of our lives. He is with us through thick and thin. He doesn't protect himself from the pain of the world. Jesus comes among us as a crying child, as one of us, to set us free, to renew the whole creation through earthy, bodily love.

MORNING PRAYER

All are very welcome to join Rev Matthew and Rev John for morning prayer in church each Thursday and Friday morning at 9.30am.

REGULAR SERVICES

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 3 December the service will follow the BCP.

Thursdays – 9.30am Morning prayer in church.

Fridays – 9.30am Morning prayer in church.

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



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

ADVENT 2025

Advent Course - Tuesday 25th November - 7.30pm and 2th ,9th ,16th December at St. Mary's.

This year's Advent course is called 'Embracing Humanity'. The course will give opportunities for Bible study, discussion, prayer and reflection. The course will run for four weeks. All are welcome.

Sunday 30th November 10am Toy service. An opportunity to support local families by donating a gift of a new toy. The toys will be distributed to local families by the Toy House in Flixton.

Sunday 30th November - 6.30pm at St. Clement's Advent Carols and Readings by Candlelight - *Come and get ready for the seasons of Advent and Christmas with a service of Advent carols and readings by candlelight.*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 21 December at 6.30pm

A service of carols and readings in the traditional style.

Christmas Eve

10.00am - Said Eucharist

4.00pm - Crib service including Carols round the crib

9.00pm – First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day

10.00am – Eucharist

28 December – 10.00am Eucharist

CAROL SINGING in CHASSEN PARK

Sunday 7th December, 2.30 – 3.00pm St Clement's and St Mary's choirs are joining to sing Favourite Carols at a Christmas Family Fun Day in Chassen Park. There will be train rides and other activities including Flixton Band. Christmas lights and a Woodland Walk from 3pm. Mince Pies at the Snack Stop from 3pm. Come and join in with the singing.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 29 November Christmas Fair 11.00am-2.00pm

This is our main fund-raising event of the year. There will be a wide variety of stalls in the church hall and church, our grand Tombola, children's stalls and much more. We also have a selection of refreshments to

tempt you. The school choir will entertain us in church at 12 noon.

Please do come along to support Elsie and the team and all those who have worked so hard to arrange this Fair.

MOTHERS' UNION

December 10th at 2.30pm James Walton will be returning with his films including Merry Christmas and Well Dressing in Derbyshire. No December meeting would be complete without Mince pies.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Angela, Joanne, Chelle and Fiona are at church each Sunday during term time to welcome you. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday. You can contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

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 your name to the list in church. Gift Aid envelopes are available if you are able to gift aid your donation.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As in previous years, instead of exchanging Christmas cards among the congregation, there be an opportunity to donate to charity. This year our donations will be split between the Food Bank and the Children's Society. Cash donations are being collected in church by Ian Artus and Peter Williams. You may also donate on line using the QR code below or the bank details used for your regular giving. Please reference online donations CHRISTMAS CARDS. Thank you

ECO CHURCH

As advent and Christmas approach you may like to consider how green your Christmas can be ... less plastic, more save and reuse, buy local. More ideas here Our twelve tips for a greener Christmas - A Rocha UK World Soil Day 5 December, we remember that the Lord formed mankind from the dust of the earth. Give thanks, as we begin Advent, that that same creator God came down to earth and chose to live alongside us in this dark and broken world, to save us and restore all of creation.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2

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 our Parish Share, £59,000 this year, all our regular utility bills, and the other high costs related to maintaining this church.

Significant repairs to the flat roof over the corridor, were needed recently as it rained in! The cost was £17,000. Any donations towards this would be much appreciated. If you do not already donate to the church on a regular basis, please consider this. 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 in the wider community.

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 the opportunity 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 continue their studies, or plan for future challenges ahead.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting, at 6.30pm, is Sunday 14 December. For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

CHURCH GROUNDS

There are peaceful moments and lots of nature to be enjoyed around our grounds. This autumn you may notice more perennial planting in some of the borders. Our fruit trees have been very productive, small but so tasty. Thank you to all leaf sweepers who have kept our grass areas and paths clear.

Our Thanks to Elsie who looks after the Garden of Remembrance flowers and the vases in the flower bed. A special place for so many visitors.

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday mornings. Currently they are asking for ready cooked tinned meats, tinned rice pudding, tinned tuna and spaghetti hoops. 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.

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord God, as we prepare our hearts to receive your Son,

Give us his humility, that we may know him in the lives of others;

Give us his honesty, that we may speak out against all things that bring cruelty and violence;

And give us his joy, that we may come to know this whole world as your gift,

That in all that we do and say His presence would be made known

And his name glorified, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.



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.