

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

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

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

REFLECTION

They think it's all over....., but it most definitely is not. The greater Christmas season continues from 25 December until the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on 2 February, and so many important events in the Christian calendar happen in this period. For us outside the Holy Land, perhaps the most important of these, and the one we would once have celebrated more than Christmas Day itself is the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January. To this day, this is the most important festival at this time of the year in countries like Spain. It is on this day when God makes it plain to us that salvation is for the whole of mankind, and that we are **all** His chosen people. The story of the Wise Men is of great significance, of course, to us as gentiles, but the story of their search is something which ought to ring a bell with us in our own generation.

When they set out from the East, the Wise Men did not know what they were going to encounter on the way, or even exactly where they were going. What they did have, though, was a belief that God was at work in the world, and that if they sought Him, they would find Him. In human terms, quite sensibly, they looked for a new king at Herod's court in Jerusalem. However, when he wasn't there, they did not give up but went on eventually to find the King of the Jews in a modest house in Bethlehem.

In many ways, at the beginning of a new year we are in the same place as the Wise Men were before they started their journey. Like them, we don't know exactly where we're going, and we don't know what we shall meet on the way. However, also like them, we know that if we seek our heavenly Father in all that we do, He will be with us through the Holy Spirit, to guide us on

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 7 January 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](#)

MOTHERS' UNION

January 14 at 2.30pm Brian Topping will be returning with the 2nd half of his Tales of a Customs Officer, entitled 'A World of Mules and Minders'. There will be scones and cream to welcome in the New Year. Everyone is welcome to our meetings.

MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICE of UNITY

Sunday 18 January 6.00pm at St John, Flixton. Preacher is Archdeacon Karen. Join us to worship together and express our common faith in songs of praise.

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

Thank you so much to all those who contributed to our Christmas Charity Appeal. Together we raised £350 to be split between the Children's Society and the Food Bank.

ECO CHURCH

This month we are hoping to have a new water butt installed near the Garden of Remembrance to save the use of the main tap. We hope this will be a valuable source of water too in drier weather. During these cold months you will see some leaf piles around for nature to shelter in. Also new spring growth will begin to appear.

'Lord God, our Creator, we thank you for sending Jesus to us, as a light for the world. As we celebrate His birth, help us to reflect Your kindness and goodness to all people and creatures. Inspire us to care for your wonderful world and to share the hope, love and peace you bring to all the earth.' A Rocha UK – Caring for creation

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We would be delighted to welcome you to join with our families and school community for this very special service on 11 January at 2.30 p.m.

The Children's Society supports children and young people through their most serious life challenges and campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. Join us afterwards for in the church hall for a drink, biscuit, chat and a game or two.

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, £64,000 this year, all our regular utility bills, and the other high costs related to maintaining this church. 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 11 January 2026. For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com

SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 13 February 7.30pm Valentines Bingo with our very own Sue McGrane. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 including all games.

Saturday 28 February 2-4.00pm Family music afternoon with the Sweet Rhythm Band. Fun for all the family. Tea, coffee and soft drinks and cake!

CHURCH GROUNDS

In our busy world our Church grounds are a peaceful space (minus the road traffic!) and are used by folk enjoying a walk through, people visiting the Remembrance garden or just having a quiet sit on one of the benches. As our small band of volunteers potter around keeping it tidy they often meet people enjoying the space, some for just a quiet time, others valuing a chat. If you would be interested in finding out more about what we do please get in touch.

YOUNG PEOPLE and MEDIA SAFETY

The Children Society have created a guide to social media safety for parents. This guide shows the tools needed to keep a young person stay safe while using social media and can help adults feel confident accessing the control settings on major platforms. Social media is a big part of most teens' lives. Many parents and carers worry about the content they are seeing or the dangers they might encounter. There will be a hard copy of the guide lines at the back of church but here is a link.

Social+Media+Guide+for+Parents.pdf.

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday morning e.g. tins/ cans to give a warm winter meal, long life milk and juice, deodorants and personal

care, empty half dozen egg boxes to 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.

ONE BIG THANK YOU

You may not have heard of the 'Freezy Riders', that's about to change. They are a dedicated group of men who check the weather each evening. If it looks like snow, hail or frost they set the alarm, 'jump' out of bed early(ish) in the morning and go down to church to spread salt/grit to make sure that the pathways and car parks are clear and safe for everyone to walk or drive on.

Fiona regularly thanks the group for their efforts through their WhatsApp site but perhaps it would be appropriate for us, as a church, to publicly acknowledge this important, but unseen job, which takes place daily through the winter months, and say - ONE BIG THANK YOU to the 'FREEZY RIDERS'.

CHURCH HALL HIRE

Do you sometimes wonder what it costs for our church to be a beacon of hope in Davyhulme?

There are many expenses including ministry, gas/electric/water, insurance, upkeep of the buildings, outreach. These plus repairs to the fabric of the church and other smaller items make up costs totalling £116,300 (2024). So, where does the money come from? Direct giving plus Gift Aid raises £84,000 and fund raising a further £8,500.

Another important source of income for the church comes through the use of our premises by various organisations during the day, in the evenings and weekend party bookings. Last year use of the church hall contributed £19,500 or in round terms approx.18% of our income, a not insignificant amount.

Is it worth it? The answer is yes of course it is. Not only does it raise valuable income for the church, it is also an important part of our outreach - a beacon of hope in Davyhulme.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we give thanks that your Son,
With whom you made the heavens and the earth,
Came among us as a child in the manger of Bethlehem
To bring us light and life and hope.

Be with us, we pray, in our journey through life, that we may share his love with others through lives lived in joy, friendship and generosity, 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.

