**PARISH CHURCH OF**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DAVYHULME**

**NEWSLETTER MAY 2024**

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

**REFLECTION**

First of all, a huge thank you for your warm welcome and the kindness you have shown since we arrived. At the time of writing, the two services at St. Clement’s and St. Mary’s are still fresh in my mind. I couldn't have hoped for a better way to start our shared life together as Christ’s Church in Davyhulme and Urmston.

On 19th May we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is a wonderful end to the season of Easter, as it reminds us that Jesus’ promise to be with us ‘always, until the end of the age’ (Matt 28.20) is fulfilled in the presence of his Spirit with us. I was particularly struck by the words of Bishop David at the licensing where he spoke of the fact that the ministry of the Church only ever happens in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Archdeacon Karen also spoke of being raised to new life with Christ, as we offer ourselves to God day by day.

One of the readings for Pentecost Sunday is from Romans 8. In it St. Paul speaks about the life of Christ coming to birth in us, and that this can be uncomfortable at times. He says, ‘we know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.’ To grow in the Spirit, to be raised to new life in Christ can be painful, and yet, just as labour pains end with the joyful birth of a child, so our spiritual labour pains are part of a process of allowing God to bring the life of Christ to birth in us more and more fully.

The Christian life is always a life of movement and hope, of God working with us in the present, calling and encouraging us to put our trust in him as we ask his Spirit to guide us into the future.

May we have the grace this Pentecost, and every day, to ask the Spirit to dwell among us, to minister in us and through us, as we give ourselves to the ministry God has called us to in our daily lives – at home, at work, and even (or particularly) when we’re driving!

**ASCENSION DAY**

We join with our friends from other churches in the Mission Community to celebrate Ascension Day with a Eucharist at 7.30pm at St Mary. Details of other services / times of prayer around the Mission Community for the time between Ascension and Pentecost – Thine Kingdom Come - will be circulated soon.

**SERVICE DATES FOR MAY**

**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)

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**SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

**Sunday 19 May 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 1 May, we will be using the Book of Common Prayer service at the 10.00am morning Eucharist.

**A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING**

We were delighted to welcome Matthew and his family to the churches of St Mary and St Clement on a wonderful day of worship, celebration and sharing at both churches.

The morning service at St Clements church was conducted by Bishop David, Bishop of Manchester. Both parishes joined together with representatives from the local community plus young families and Brownies. Fellowship and welcome between the two churches continued with a buffet prepared by St Clements.

The evening service of Holy Eucharist and the induction of Matthew as the vicar of St Mary’s was led by Archdeacon Karen. Once again both parishes came together with Matthew’s friends from his previous parish and visiting clergy. After the service the church hall was full of chat and friendship with refreshments.

We now embark on this new joint journey of faith under Matthew’s ministry.

Many of you completed a jigsaw piece to reflect the many aspects of our St Mary’s community coming together. These are now on display at the front of church and will eventually be made into a booklet to be given to Matthew.

**DATES FOR YOUR SOCIAL DIARY**

A quiet month after all the busyness of the past weeks .Plans are evolving for social events in June – watch this space. Looking forward we will be having a Gala dinner in September.

**CONFIRMATION**

We have a service of confirmation on Sunday 16 June at 6.30pm. 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.

**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 are part of our regular giving scheme you should have received your letter of thanks. If not, please speak with Yvonne.

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 8 May at 2.30 pm Yvonne will be giving an illustrated talk about her experiences of the Royal Maundy Money.

All are welcome to hear about this special day.

Please see the food bank notice about last month.

**NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY PEER LOSS SUPPORT**

Chelle and her support group meet on Sunday 12 May 6.15 -8.15. in the church hall . A supportive safe space for any one affected by baby loss. For further information and future dates please [contactrachellenj@hotmail.com](mailto:contactrachellenj@hotmail.com)

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

It is great to welcome some of you at our Sunday mornings. 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.

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

These will be held on Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm in church. The Annual meetings form an important part of the life of the church. This is where accounts are received, churchwardens and PCC members are elected, and other volunteer posts filled. If you would like more information of how you can get involved with church life, please have a word with Yvonne or Fiona. Also please have a word with Sue McGrane if you are not on the church electoral roll. Only those on the electoral roll are eligible to vote at the APCMs

**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’. It has been special to welcome new families on a Sunday and we are grateful for the extra adult volunteer who can lead the older children’s group too with bible study and discussion.

[childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org](mailto:childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org)

Watch out for news of a garden planting time and/ or an eco day over the next two months.

**MISSION COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

The next dates for Mission Community prayer gatherings are 22 May, 7.30-8.30pm at Christ Church and 10 June 2-3pm at St Clement. Please do come along and join in prayer with friends in our Mission Community. It is very informal.

**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.

Our church grounds are full of wildlife. As we all think about biodiversity in our own gardens and outdoor spaces you may like to walk around the church grounds and spot the fungi, wildflowers, and insects. Photographers and artists, how about capturing what you see for us to share? Let’s all do our bit for biodiversity and God’s creation.

If you have any relevant photos or drawings you have done please see Fiona.

Gardening continues as always, as and when we can. This month will be vegetable planting in our little veg area and tidying the front borders after the spring growth. We have left the foliage for insects etc and as it dies down the summer flowers for bees and butterflies will start to appear or be planted. Please have a word with Fiona if you can help.

**FOOD BANK**

In April MU had a talk on the foodbank and many people came and made donations.

*Thank you for your recent donation to our foodbank following a talk given by Lesley Culf  to your members at St Mary's Church, Davyhulme.*

*You donated £70 to us and 36.7 kg of food which equates to 30 meals for local people in need.*

*Kindest regards from all our team*

*Louise Kershaw Foodbank Manager*

More people than ever are turning 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 such as meat, fish, fruit veg, meals; long life milk and juice, pasta sauces, jam and spreads Thank you

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, as we approach Ascension day, we

remember the words you spoke to your disciples in the Great Commission. May our work to protect your

creation be a witness to you and contribute towards the mission you have given us as a church to make

disciples. Thank you, Lord, that you said “surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”, which is a beautiful reminder that you have promised to help us in this important work.

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**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.