

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

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025

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

REFLECTION

Well, that went quickly didn't it? One minute we're anticipating the school shutting, looking forward to warm days, light evening in the garden, holidays and warmth, and then in the blink of an eye we are complaining about damp, the nights drawing in and wondering if we should put the heating on yet. No sooner will the schools be back in and they'll be breaking up for half term.

As we say every year "Where has this year gone?"

Yes, it's September already and Autumn, meteorological if not calendar, is with us. Society seems to spend the whole year chasing the next date, the next party, event or festival; but this time of year it moves up a gear and we seem to wish the year over.

A few weeks ago in Parkers Garden Centre (other horticultural enterprises are available) I laughingly moaned to the sales assistant about their Halloween display; then only ten weeks too early. He quipped back that they were getting in their first Christmas delivery the next day.

We can spend too much time anticipating the future that we fail to appreciate the present. Perhaps we hope if we imagine a bright beautiful future, possibly the "best ever Christmas", magically we'll get one. But this is a vain hope. The future is in God's hands not ours.

Better perhaps to concentrate on the present, the immediate and thank God for all his gifts to us. as the Psalmist puts it.

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

R.S. Thomas, a poet and a priest in the Church In Wales put it beautifully in his poem The Bright Field.

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

So, as the leaves turn golden on the trees try and take some time each day to live in the moment and give God thanks for all you have, however little however small.

For a few minutes try not to think or worry about the future.

As we read in Matt 6:34

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow:
for the morrow shall
take thought for the things of itself.*

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Once again that verse from Psalm 118

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Rev Dr Simon Wright

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 SEPTEMBER

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 September 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.

50th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 21 September is a very special anniversary for Father Chris. The date marks the 50th anniversary of his priesting at St Paul's Cathedral. To help mark this occasion you are invited to join Father Chris, family and friends at our Sunday morning Eucharist. This is an opportunity to thank Father Chris for all he has given during his 50 years of ministry including the years he has ministered in our parish. True to St Mary's

tradition, the service will be followed by a shared meal, and cake!
Donations of food much appreciated – please see the list in church.

SOCIAL 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. 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. We start to meet again from Sunday 7th September. You can contact us at childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org. We gather at 10 a.m. in church on a Sunday.

MOTHERS' UNION

After the July and August break, our next meeting will be on September 10th at 2.30 pm and will be our Corporate communion. There will also be a cake sale in aid of an MU charity "The Summer of Hope". The October 8th meeting will be Liz Miller and Guy talking about The Friends of Davyhulme Park.

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

ECO CHURCH

When is Zero Waste Week 2025 - and How you Can Take Part - Zero Waste Week This annual campaign from 1-7 September, raises awareness of the importance of reducing waste and living sustainably. Small changes contribute to a big impact.

Is there just one change you have been thinking about but not done yet? This month may be now is the time as we thank God for His creation and do our bit to help the climate.

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 the renewal of the flat roof over the gallery that has deteriorated significantly and leaked earlier this year. 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.

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 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, move on to other schools or plan for future challenges ahead.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting is Sunday 12th September 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. After a lovely summer with veg, herbs, fruit trees and nature we are now looking for people to help with tidying around the borders of the grounds and flower beds for weeds and little tree saplings before the autumn leaves fall. As always, we are grateful to our lawn and hedge helpers. Please let us know if you could help. welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org

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.

