

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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

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

REFLECTION

The season of Lent starts on Wednesday 18th February. The introduction to the Ash Wednesday service includes the following invitation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

These words capture the essence of Lent and point to some of the spiritual practices we might follow in order to 'grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord'. Lent is a time of growth, and as we give ourselves afresh to God during Lent we make space for new life to emerge.

Self-examination and repentance is concerned with becoming more aware of our habitual attitudes, our mindset, and how it affects our relationship with God, other people and ourselves. If we make space to be honest with ourselves about our attitudes and how they shape our lives we could find it incredibly liberating to see that there are other ways of relating to God, other people and ourselves. Lent means 'spring' in old English, it is a time when flowers spring up. As we clear the earth, notice some of the weeds and give space to God we may be surprised by the new shoots that suddenly have an opportunity to grow in the earth of our souls.

Prayer, fasting and self-denial are practical ways of re-orienting our lives. Making space for prayer in Lent helps us to realise that our fundamental relationship in life is with God. As we pray to God, our life takes on a new perspective. Similarly, fasting from chocolate, or fasting from TV or social media for half an hour, or an hour, helps us realise that we are not as reliant on them as we might have thought and that a 'space' appears in our day when we can do something else.

Reading and meditating on God's word – every day of our lives we listen to words: other people's words, our own words, our thoughts, things we read, adverts, TV & radio, social media, memories, the list goes on... Words are fundamental to our lives. In Lent, we become aware that the words we listen to shape our lives. Recently, someone pointed out that adverts use words or images that tell us that our life is not complete without this or that product, and at the same time they shame us that we haven't bought it yet! We are susceptible to many kinds of words. When we meditate on the words of scripture we find words of life. Lent can be a time when we make space to hear

those words again and let them shape our attitudes, our thoughts, our prayers and our actions.

May we have a blessed Lent.

Rev Matthew

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 4 February 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](#)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If anyone needs another New Year's resolution, possibly for the Chinese New Year, and was looking for help to reflect on Scripture then there is an app available from the Church of England. It's called "Every Day Faith". You can find it at the usual 'app stores'. It's free and there is no commitment.

Everyday there is a small piece of Scripture (usually seasonal) followed by a reflection, a suggested response and then a final prayer.

You can read it yourself. Press a button and listen to someone read it for you. With that option you also get added music!. It takes less than 10 minutes in total, less if you read it yourself.

As I've said there is no commitment and if you miss a day or so there's no catch up. Any technophobe can handle it; I did.

Dr Simon

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us on Ash Wednesday, 18 February, at either 10.00am or 7.30pm. Both services will be Eucharists with the imposition of ashes.

LENT GROUPS

A warm invitation to our Lent events.

Tuesdays in Lent, 7.30pm – 'Draw Near' Lent Course at St. Mary's, starting on 24th February. Booklets will be provided for all taking part.

Thursdays in Lent, 7.30pm – Evening Prayer at St. Clement's, starting on 19th February.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 13 February 7.30pm Valentines Bingo with our very own Sue McGrane. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 including all games. Come and join us for an evening of fun and laughter.

Saturday 28 February 2-4.00pm Join Sweet Rhythm Big Band in church and step into a world of music and imagination for a fun-filled afternoon of songs from your much-loved animated movies – costumes encouraged!!

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cake!! All for £5 for adults, £1 for children. Tickets available in church or via welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

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.

St MARY'S MEN'S CURRY CLUB

Do you enjoy a good curry and convivial company? If so, why not come along to our Men's Curry Club. The club was founded by David Mackereth on the principle of Fellowship and Inclusivity for all and each month 10/15 guys meet together for an evening of feasting and secular conversation, and is ably organised by Phil Hegg, (p.hegg@ntlworld.com) who looks for good deals to keep the cost reasonable.

We meet at 7.00pm on 2nd/3rd Thursday each month and visit one of the many excellent curry restaurants dotted around Urmston.

If the restaurant is unlicensed you are invited to bring your own beer/lager/wine and at the end of the evening we share the bill between us, what's not to like? Our February meeting will be on Thursday 19 February, venue to be advised, so why not put the date in your diary and join us, we can assure you of a warm, three chilli's, St Mary's welcome.

CHURCH FINANCE

Each month I write about money and the church, and I make no apology for this. It is only with the help of so many that we are able to pay our Parish Share, £64,000 this year, our church insurances, our regular utility bills, the increasing maintenance costs and both one off and regular inspections. All this helps to keep St Mary church as a beacon in the local community, a place where people can pray together, a place of peace and calm, a place to learn about the word of God.

Making a regular donation towards church costs involved in the mission and ministry of this church helps with the church's financial planning and enables this church to continue to play a significant part in the local community. If you would like more information about how to donate on a regular basis 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.

ECO CHURCH

Our thanks to Alex (one of our children's church dads) for installing the water butt near to the Remembrance Garden. The compost heaps need turning soon, help needed please. We use the compost on our vegetable bed near the play garden and the fruit and veg tubs at the back of the garage. Fiona would love to hear from you.

The nursery group continue to fill the bird seed, and we now have fat balls donated for our feathered friends. Wood piles and winter are around the grounds for mini beasts too.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting, Wednesday 11th February at 2.30pm, is our AGM. We hope many of our members will attend and show our support for Shirley and the committee who keep our branch active with interesting speakers and activities. All welcome to join us.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

The next meeting is at 6.30pm on Sunday 22nd February. A non-judgemental safe space where to share as much or as little as you want. A space to remember our babies.

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

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who came to our service on 11th January and to all who made a donation either through school or church. A total of £200 was raised for the Children's Society.

CHURCH GROUNDS

In our busy world our Church grounds provide a peaceful place (minus the road traffic!) and are used by young and not so young 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 the grounds 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 CLIMATE CHANGE

Here is a link to an interactive calendar and QR code for all our young people caring about our climate and nature.

The 2026-environmental-days-and-key-events.pdf key days, weeks and months which are associated with the environment, climate change awareness, and reaching net zero carbon.

We are asked to consider 2nd February – World Wetlands Day and World Day of Social Justice / United Nations on 20th February.

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.

PRAYER

The Work of Christmas Begins by Howard Thurman

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins.

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.

