

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

**NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026**

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

**REFLECTION**

**Embracing Easter and the Joy of Easter Season**

It is important to remind ourselves here, that Easter is not simply a single joyful Sunday, but the beginning of a whole season of celebration in which the Church reflects on the transforming power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Indeed, this resurrection stands at the centre of our faith. As Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians (15:17) that "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile". However, the good news we proclaim at Easter is that Christ has been raised and death does not have the final word.

The Gospel accounts tell us how the first witnesses to the resurrection were filled with amazement and joy. For instance, in Luke's Gospel (24:36-41), when the disciples encounter the risen Jesus, it shares how they were "surprised and frightened," yet soon their fear turned into hope. Therefore, Easter season invites us to share in that joy. The risen Christ is not only a figure of the past; he is alive and present with his people today. In Matthew (28:20), Jesus promises his followers that "I am with you always, to the end of the age". Considering this promise, the joy of Easter is not temporary or sentimental, but rather a deep and lasting hope rooted in God's faithfulness. This is in line with N. T. Wright, who reminds us, that "The resurrection is not simply about life after death; it is about God's new creation breaking into the present world."

Consequently, in the weeks following Easter day, the Church continues to celebrate this good news. These days of Easter lead us toward Pentecost, reminding us that the resurrection leads to mission. The risen Christ sends his disciples into the world with the message of hope and reconciliation. The resurrection calls us to live as people of hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings. Wherever we see acts of love, reconciliation, and compassion, we are given chance to embrace the new life that Christ brings.

During this Easter season, we are invited to take time reflect on how the risen Christ is at work in our own lives and in our community. Where do we see signs of hope? Where might God be calling us to bring encouragement, kindness, or renewal to others? Therefore, Easter reminds us that God is always able to bring life out of what seems lost and hope out of what appears hopeless. As St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians (5:17), "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation". This is the heart of the Easter message: through the risen Christ, God is making us and all things new.

May this Easter season fill our hearts with joy and strengthen us to live as witnesses to the risen Lord in our homes, our parish, and our community.

In the words of Augustine of Hippo, "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song."

**Rev John**

**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 1 April 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](#)

**HOLY WEEK**

During Holy Week we have a variety of services and events which help us to walk the way of the cross with one another and with Christ. These services and events are an opportunity to pause, reflect, and experience again the fathomless depth of God's love for us in Christ.

Setting aside time during Holy Week makes a difference to our experience of Easter, as we allow all the dimensions of Holy Week, from the Last Supper to the cross, to speak to us in fresh and powerful ways.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**, 8.00pm Compline (St Clement's)

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**, 7.30pm hearing the Gospel of St Matthew together, part 1.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**, 10.00am Eucharist, BCP

**7.30pm**, hearing the Gospel of St Matthew together, part 2.

**Maundy Thursday** 7.30pm Eucharist, followed by watch until 10.00pm

**Good Friday** 11.00am Children's worship and picnic.

**Good Friday** 2.00pm Liturgy for the Last Hour

**Easter Eve**, 7.30pm Easter Vigil, renewal of baptism vows, Eucharist.

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Friday 8 May 7.30pm** Quiz Nite with Quiz Master Peter Taylor. Licensed bar. Teams of up to 6 people. £5 entry. This is always a fun night.

**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, church insurances, all our regular utility bills, and the increasing maintenance costs, both one off and regular inspections.

In February the income from your giving was £4,200 and our parish share payment was £5,500. In addition we have significant regular costs for heating, insurance maintenance etc. 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.

Regular donations can be made by standing order or by having weekly giving envelopes. If you would like more information about how to donate on a regular basis in either way 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.

## **CONFIRMATION 2026**

Our confirmation service this year will be on Sunday 21 June at 6.30pm. If you or a family member are thinking about confirmation and would like to know more, please have a word with Rev Matthew.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

This is your parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and stand for election to the PCC.

For more information please have a word with Rev Matthew, Sue McGrane, Yvonne or Fiona.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

These meetings will be held in church on Sunday 10 May at 12 noon. The first meeting is for the election of 2 church wardens and is followed by a second meeting where the Annual Accounts for 2025 are received together with the parish Annual Report for 2025. In addition, there will be elections for places on the PCC and for reps for our Deanery Synod. Please do put this date in your diary, come along to the meeting and support all those who have contributed so much to our parish this year.

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Our Children's Church leaders welcome you Sundays during term time when we gather at 10 a.m. in church. In the hall our activities are based on Bible themes and include stories, songs, prayers, games and craft. Our sessions are inclusive for all ages from babies up to year 6 primary. We rejoin the congregation for the Eucharist. [childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org](mailto:childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org).

## **SAFEGUARDING**

As a sign of how seriously the church recognises the importance of keeping people safe, Safeguarding is a standing item on our PCC agenda. The item is led by our Safeguarding officer, Liz Spencer. At our March meeting we discussed the Safeguarding requirements for those who rent our church hall in order to ensure that they are in line with policy. Liz also share a new safeguarding leaflet that will shortly be available in church. Thank you Liz, for all your hard work in this area.

## **ECO CHURCH - PRAYER**

As we journey through Holy Week, please pray for a time of reflection, peace and renewal for us all. May this week be an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to God's work and give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Pray that His presence deepens our relationship with God, strengthens our relationship with one another and inspires us to care for and protect God's creation.

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

The next meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm. James Walton is visiting us again and this time with his 'Spring Films'. James' Christmas visit with films including Well Dressing, were enjoyed by many.. All welcome to join us at our meetings.

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

## **NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT**

The next meeting is at 6.30pm, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026. A non-judgemental safe space, 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](mailto:neverforgotten1708@gmail.com)

## **CHURCH GROUNDS**

Spring colour is now peeping through the soil. Nurturing nature but also keeping the flowerbeds manageable, removing tree seedlings etc is ongoing. We are fortunate to have lovely church grounds enjoyed by many. Help to maintain the grounds is always very welcome. Thursday mornings are often gardening mornings so please join us for a chat or maybe help out a little if you are able.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE**

Thank you to some of our young people who help in many ways with tidying, helping after the services and in many other ways. As always you are all welcome to join our services and we hold you in our prayers as you continue your studies and enjoy your friendships.

## **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.

## **EASTER PRAYER**

Lord, we pray that in this Easter season we may have the faith to know our Lord as risen in.

Lord Jesus, through your rising again hope has been renewed, joy has been restored and life has been re-created for this whole world.

Give us grace to rise to you in our hearts, that our prayer and praise may reflect the joy of this Eastertide..

## **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.

