

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

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

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

REFLECTION

I am writing this halfway through August in what has been an extraordinary summer. I don't think I can remember when we last had rain, despite there having been, on occasion, some very dark clouds in the sky. In the past few days most of the country has been declared officially to be 'in drought'.

It's not the first time it's happened, of course, and many of you will remember the summer of 1976. But, the Prime Minister of the time, Jim Callaghan, had a plan – he appointed the late Dennis Howell, MP, as Minister for Drought. You may recall that he went from that job to Minister for Floods in about two weeks! (Perhaps Andy Burnham can do the same?!) This belief that we can sort everything out ourselves has only grown since the 70's. I really don't want to get into the global warming debate here, but, over the last few years, we seem to have become increasingly confident that we can solve all our problems. However, if we have any wisdom at all, we ought to be able to see from these forces of nature that the effect of humans is probably not as great as we like to think. We regularly hear it said that this is the best/worst weather since a particular date in the last 50 years, and we treat it as though it meant something. The truth is, though, that fifty years is a blink of an eyelid in the earth's history. Even Abraham, who lived about 4000 years ago, was relatively recent in cosmic terms, and both before and after him the climate has changed several times from mini-ice ages to greenhouse ages.

Whatever we may like to think, we humans do not control the weather or the climate; ultimately these are in God's hands. But there are things that we must learn from what is going on around us. Firstly, we believe that that God has given us stewardship of this wonderful earth, and we must engage the brains with which we were blessed to explore how to use the resources of our world wisely, not wastefully. Secondly, our age is one of constant communication – we can no longer say that we don't know what is going on in other parts of the world, or even in other parts of our own country. The resources of the world are finite, and we must find ways of sharing them equitably rather than using them all up in an orgy of selfish consumerism.

As we look back on this extraordinary summer, please remember those charged with producing our food, and pray that we may have the intelligence and the will to direct our energies into producing and distributing God's gifts to all His people rather than wasting time on trying to change the things that we cannot.

Fr Chris

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 activities.

Tea and coffee are served in the hall after this service.

Wednesdays – 10.00am Eucharist. Please note that on Wednesday 2 September 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](#)

MORNING PRAYER

Daily Prayer is the official app to help you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer and the one followed when Morning Prayer is said in church, led by our clergy team, and all are very welcome to come and join each Thursday and Friday morning at 9.30am.

Daily prayer is available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. For every day of the year, it presents the three services in full and includes Bible readings (NRSV translation), psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.

The Everyday Faith app is also available from the usual sources. It's a Church of England app that starts with a short piece of Scripture followed by a reflection and a prayer. It doesn't take long to read or listen to it instead. It's free and there's no commitment to visit every day. Highly recommended.

For more information please speak to Simon Wright.

ANDY and ELAINE (SOSPIROSO)

.... are proud to present their first ever CD collaboration. Showcasing a varied mix for all tastes, they will currently be available to buy in the church after the Sunday service, or directly from 'us two' on demand! All proceeds from the sale of these CDs will be donated to St Mary's church funds. Minimum donation £7. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tickets are now available for a Prosecco Afternoon Tea on Saturday 10 October, 2.30pm – 4.30pm. A lovely selection of tasty bites and drinks, a raffle and some light entertainment.. Tickets £10 each. Please ask in church for more information or email welcome@stmarysdavyhulme.org

Sue's famous Bingo evening is on Friday 13 November from 7.00pm. Licensed bar.

Christmas Fair – Saturday 28 November 11am – 2pm. Raffle tickets available soon!!

SAFEGUARDING

St Mary Church is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for children, young people and adults. We believe everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, respect and care.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or would like advice, please contact our Parish Safeguarding officer, Liz Spencer or the Vicar on 0161 748 2210

CHURCH FINANCE

It is only with your help 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. Recent costs include pruning of the trees that overhang Davyhulme Road, completion of electrical works in the kitchen and an upgrade to the photocopier.

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 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.

If you are a UK tax payer, Gift Aiding your giving allows us to claim money back from HMRC. In the past financial year Gift Aid averaged at £1,000 a month.

Please do pray about how you may be able to continue to help this church financially and in many other ways.

RECYCLING FOR ECO CHURCH

We continue to recycle batteries and empty blister packs. Containers are at the back of church and the shelf in the hall gallery. A lot of recycling takes place after our social events. Thank you to all who help and recycle in their own bins.

An important aspect in our world is electrical recycling and there is a UK wide mission to help us all recycle all sorts of electrical equipment ourselves. Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be reused or recycled Please look at this site.

<https://recycleyourelectricals.co.uk>

ELECTORAL ROLL

This is your parish church's register of electors. Joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters and stand for election to the PCC.

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

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 9 September at 2.30pm with a Corporate Communion in church followed by a social gathering in the church hall. All very welcome to join us.

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.

Help with flower arranging would be much appreciated. Please speak to Elsie or Yvonne for more information.

ECO CHURCH and FAIRTRADE

As we continue to work towards the next level in our Eco church journey another aspect is Global and Community Action. Fair trade fortnight this year is Monday 21st September - Sunday 4th October 2026 and children's church will be helping Rev Matthew at our Harvest Festival on Sunday 4 October. We all continue to help with the local food bank donations and support global issues.

"The Fairtrade Foundation describes its certification as a set of standards that are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers,

Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade>"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We restart after the summer break on 6th September. Our Children's Church leaders welcome you on Sundays during term time as 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.

NEVER FORGOTTEN BABY LOSS PEER SUPPORT

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

CHURCH GROUNDS

There are two benches near the Remembrance garden plus a water butt for the plants. The dry summer has left everywhere a little bare, but we have continued to keep the paths tidy and pruned the roses.

Any help always welcome. Please ask in church if you could help as we approach the next season with whatever nature has in store for us.

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday morning e.g. tins/ cans to give a warm meal, long life milk and juice, deodorants and personal care, empty half dozen egg boxes. Thank you to Peter and Sue who continue to take your donations to the Food Bank each week.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the students, teachers and school staff as they begin another school year. Bless them with wisdom, focus and your guidance as they encounter new lessons, friendships and challenges.

Watch over the children, keep them safe and excited to learn.

Guide the teachers with patience and wisdom as they encourage and shape young minds. Amen

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.

