

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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

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

REFLECTION

**Celebrating All Saints' Day as a Light That Never
Goes Out**

Some people leave us an inheritance that cannot be measured in material possessions. Examples include the prayers they taught us, which we recite today; their acts of kindness that we witnessed; and their faith they inspired in us. Though their voices may now be silent, their faith, and their examples continue to speak to us today. This November, let us not only ask, "*Whom do we remember?*" but also, "*How shall we carry their light burning?*"

Remembering the Faithful

On 1 November, All Saints' Day honours the saints, known and unknown, across the generations. In one of their recent articles the BBC wrote that "*Remembering saints and martyrs and dedicating a specific day to them each year has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD*". It is now time to remember and give thanks for the people through whom we have been brought closer to Christ: our parents, our teachers, our friends, and the generous neighbours who gave but asked for nothing in return.

This is also reflected in St Paul's letter to the Hebrews (13:7) where he reminds us saying, "*Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith*". This is therefore a time for us to worship, remember and share those stories of such people whose faith helped shape ours. Tell people around us what made that person's love memorable, and consider together how their example might inspire fresh acts of generosity in our families and/or our church community.

Becoming a Living Witness

As Christians in our discipleship journey, remembering the saints should turn our hearts towards the needs near us. Rather than admiring faithfulness from a distance, let us be involved and practise it in the ordinary places where we live and work. Theologian Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) writes of Jesus: "*For him, being holy is being absolutely involved, not being absolutely separated*". During this time, may we respond by moving towards those who need compassion, rather than waiting for them to find us.

Making Room for Grief and Hope

For some people, remembrance brings tears before it brings thanksgiving. If that is your experience, you need not hide your sorrow and instead hurry your healing. Revelation (21:4) puts emphasis on God as where the promise is: "*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*". As we hold that hope, let us sit patiently with those who mourn, speak cherished names with tenderness, and keep offering companionship long after others have stopped asking.

Our Prayer for November

Loving Father, we thank you for those who came before and have shown us Christ. Comfort the grieving,

strengthen the weary, and teach us to love faithfully. May our church shine with your presence and enable our lives help others to find their hope in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rev John Alex

ADVENT COURSE

Advent Course 2026 - Journey to the Manger

This year's Advent Course starts on **Tuesday 24th November** at 7.30pm at St. Mary's and continues on **Tuesdays 1, 8 15 December**. The course is called 'Journey to the Manger: Exploring the Birth of Jesus'. There will be lots of opportunities to explore Bible passages together, learn, share, and pray as we make our way towards Christmas.

Based on a book by Paula Gooder, the sessions reflect on the profound truth of Christmas. As Paula Gooder writes, the birth of Jesus is "about the mind-blowing, brain-boggling truth that the God who shaped the universe into existence was prepared to be born as a tiny, vulnerable baby."

All are welcome to come along as we journey together!

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 4 November** the service will follow the Book of Common Prayer.

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](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2 November 7.00pm. Eucharist for **ALL SOULS** with lighting of candles in remembrance of a loved one.

Sunday 8 November 10.00am – Remembrance Sunday with Laying of wreaths.

Sunday 29 November 6.30pm – Advent Carols, Preacher Rev Andrea Jones.

Sunday 6 December 10.00am – All Age Eucharist /Toy Service.

Sunday 13 December 2pm – Eucharist. Please let us know if you would like help with transport for this service.

Sunday 20 December 6.00pm – Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve – 4.00pm – Crib Service

Christmas Eve – 9.00pm – First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day – 10.00am – Eucharist – All Age service.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 7 November 10am – 12md Working party in church grounds

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

Saturday 28 November Christmas Fair –11am – 2pm. Raffle tickets and red bags now available in church. Please do come along and support the Christmas Fair, a major social and fundraising event in our calendar. There will be a wide variety of stalls, singing by the school choir and refreshments. Plus, of course, Santa!!

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 11th November when we welcome Linda Goodchild who will be talking about "Women of the Bible " Our meetings are open to all. All very welcome to join us.

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

FOOD BANK

Donations can be left at church every Wednesday and Sunday morning. This month's requests include jams, tinned meats, meatballs, hotdogs and tinned tuna. The support of the parish is much appreciated.

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. This year we have had some additional maintenance costs and expenditure has exceeded income most months. The parish share, payable to the Diocese is also expected to increase again. 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

There are lots of guidelines for recycling here Recycle for Greater Manchester / Recycle More and Waste Less. Can you consider recycling, reusing or regifting items you are finished with? Every little helps. Items we collect in church for recycling are batteries and tablet blister packs.

.SCARECROWS

This year Children's Church joined the local M41 community Scarecrow Festival with Fair Trade themed scarecrows led by Pablo the banana!! It has been great to see them outside church.

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.

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

LIGHT in the DARKNESS:

Never Forgotten Baby Loss Awareness Group

We offer a non-judgemental safe space to remember our babies. The next meeting is 8 November 6.30 – 8.30pm at church For further information and future dates please contact Rachelle at neverforgotten1708@gmail.com Rachelle Johnson.

ECO CHURCH COMMUNITY FILM INVITE

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him."

St Michaels Eco Church invite the Flixton and Urmston community to a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing. This is a powerful new film with leading UK scientists explaining the climate nature crisis — and what it means for food, health, weather and the cost of living.

The film will be followed by a discussion, and local councillors will be invited.

St Michaels Primary School, Flixton, M41 6JB 20th Nov 6:30pm Free – book here:

<https://buytickets.at/stmichaelschurch1/2423545>

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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 up to Year 6 primary. We rejoin the congregation for the Eucharist.

We have a list of dates when the Children's church leaders will be in church during term time Please email for details or check the church website

childrenschurch@stmarysdavyhulme.org.

CHURCH GROUNDS

You may notice a freshly planted border along our main path with a variety of perennial pollinating plants that we hope will establish well before any very cold weather.

All welcome to come and help with the autumn tidy up. on Saturday 7 November, 10-12 noon. Sweeping up Autumn leaves and preparing the grounds for the Service of Remembrance.

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.

