



# Happy Christmas

St Anne's,  
Sale with  
St Francis,  
Sale Moor

## e-Spire

December 2022  
& January 2023



[www.salestanne.org](http://www.salestanne.org)

## Christmas services and events 2022

### Advent Sunday - 27 November

We light the Advent candle as we count down to Christmas:  
10 am Holy Communion service and 11.30 pm Families Service



### Christmas Craft Fair and Concert - Saturday 3 December

Free entry into St Anne's Church for craft, hot drinks and a short concert by local singers Glasshouse Choir. The church is open from 1 pm - 4 pm. See website for more details.

### Church Christmas Dinner - Sunday 11 December

Following worship, we gather in the hall for a traditional Christmas dinner (please book for this event). There will also be a sing-along of popular Christmas songs and carols.

### Christmas Concert - Wednesday 14 December

Local choir Artful Voices hold a Christmas concert at St Anne's Church at 7 pm; tickets on sale at the door.

### Nativity Service - Sunday 18 December

Young children tell the story of the first nativity with the help of a real donkey; 10 am in church

### Carol service - Sunday 18 December

Choir, carols and candles: a traditional service with plenty of music followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Starts at 6.30 pm.

### Christmas Eve - Saturday 24 December

Blessing of Crib and Christingle service (aimed at young children)  
Come and help find the characters that tell the Christmas story at 3.30 pm

Christingle service for all ages: the traditional christingle with oranges and candles at 5.30 pm



Midnight Mass: the first Communion of Christmas starts at 11.30 pm.

### Christmas Day - Sunday 25 December

Come and worship before you sit down to Christmas lunch; 10 am Holy Communion with carols

# Advent



**A**dvent is the time of promise; it is not yet the time of fulfilment. We are still in the midst of everything and in the logical inexorability and relentlessness of destiny... Space is still filled with the noise of destruction and annihilation, the shouts of self-assurance and arrogance, the weeping of despair and helplessness.

But round about the horizon the eternal realities stand silent in their age old longing. There shines on them already the first mild light of the radiant fulfilment to come. From afar sound the first notes as of pipes and voices, not yet discernible as a song or melody. It is all far off still, and only just announced and foretold. But it is happening today.

Alfred Delp, Jesuit priest  
executed by the Nazis in 1945

**A**dvent is itself a wilderness. In the Orthodox churches they fast just as rigorously in the run-up to Christmas as in the run-up to Easter. We've lost that, anticipating the feast of Christmas six weeks before it actually arrives. But fast precedes feast - otherwise it's just pointless self indulgence - and if we don't admit the darkness we won't appreciate the light when it comes.

For it will come, heralded by the star, a tiny pinprick of light in the night sky, pointing to a cold and dirty stable in the back of beyond, and the arrival in a simple straw-filled manger of God incarnate, nothing like what we expected, unimaginably greater than anything we could hope for, so the desert blooms, the blind can see, the prisoners are set free, and the lonely and the battered and the bruised join together with the angels in songs of joy.

Richard Coles



*We know how God would act if He were in our place - He has been in our place. - A W Tozer*

## I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
Written in 1863



## Coming events

### CAROLS ROUND THE DOVEGOTE



This well established local event is back again this year, on

**Saturday 3 December**

from 12.30 at Walkden Gardens

The Salvation Army Band will be playing carols at 2.30 pm and Holy Family School Choir will be singing at 3.10 pm to end the day. There will of course be hot dogs, mulled wine (cooked on pinelogs!) German beers, Christmas stalls and plenty of Christmas Cheer. Do come along.

## "Looking out of the window"

The message came through that Christmas is coming soon and the eSpire is being created. Can it really be another month already? What a year this has been in so many ways.

In October I mentioned that the parakeets had gone. Well they have returned, and their entertainment



value is enormous. With two feeding from the peanuts, number three arrived one morning to join in, but there was "no room." One breakfast time Hugh and I were distracted from eating our porridge in order to watch the antics of the late arrival. It hung upside from the washing line for over 5 minutes - "shouting" at the two on the nuts every ten seconds or so in an effort to shoo them off. It had no effect at all!

The event set me thinking of how we can describe birds in the garden.

Performing parakeets; bonny blue tits; round robins; beautiful blackbirds; grand great tits; magnificent magpies; portly pigeons; gorgeous goldfinches; cackling crows; swooping swallows; and searching sparrows. If I extended the "flying" topic then there are the busy bats which fly in an evening, but are not birds. None of this is really relevant to a Christmas edition of the Spire, but it does sum up twelve months of looking through the kitchen window. When clearing leaves in mid-November I unearthed 20 or more daffodil bulbs, each about an inch tall. That must represent hope for the future and 2023.

With best wishes to you all for the Christmas Season.

Bridget Beggs



At St. Anne's we love, learn and grow together as part of God's family. We foster a growth mindset so our pupils have bold aspirations to live life in all its fullness. We let our light shine brightly - continually asking God to show us how best to shine so we can be beacons of His life.

### Admission Consultation

At St. Anne's C of E Primary School, Sale, we have reviewed our Admissions Policy and criteria. We welcome feedback from all interested parties. A copy of the draft policy and details on how to give feedback is available on our website -

<https://www.st-annes.trafford.sch.uk/parent-information/admissions>

☺ Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

## News from CAP Debt Advice Centre

As you know, St Anne's is in a partnership of seven churches set up in 2019 to run a debt advice centre in Sale. Debbie Walters is the Debt Centre Manager. You'll be pleased to hear that all is going well. Clients are steadily booking into the centre for debt help. Debbie is planning a joint Christmas event for clients on 8 December along with the debt advice centres in Altrincham and Partington. If you are able to bake a cake for this client event, it would be greatly appreciated.

Once again we are giving 30 + clients and their families hampers this Christmas on 21 December. Can you help put hampers together? Please contact Debbie. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of hampers, that would be great! Here are the bank details for a bank transfer:

Account name: Isaiah 58 Trust  
Sale Debt Centre  
Account number: 00032440  
Sort code: 40-52-40

or you can make a cheque payable to: 'Isaiah 58 Trust Sale Debt Centre'.

In March this year we appointed Emma Barclay Watt to run a Job Club. Five clients completed the course. She says, "It has been amazing watching people grow in confidence over the eight weeks of the course and we are now working one to one with them as they progress. Two are volunteering locally. Most importantly friendships have been made. Please pray for them all as we approach Christmas with all the gospel opportunity that the season affords."

As St Anne's rep on the partnership I'm very happy to help answer any questions, deliver cakes, cheques etc, just contact me, Janice Mason: 0161 969 8570 Email: howard.mason1@btopenworld.com

Debbie Walters' phone number : 07895 612711 Email: debbiewalters@capuk.org

We know that people are struggling this winter with debt and the impact of the rapidly rising cost of living. Please do refer them to CAP for help. Thank you so much for your support.

Janice Mason

**ARTFUL VOICES**

WEDNESDAY  
14TH DECEMBER  
7.30 PM

**THE ARTFUL VOICES**

**Christmas Concert**

TICKETS  
£10/£8  
AVAILABLE ON  
THE DOOR

WITH ARTFUL PLAYGROUND'S  
MUSICAL THEATRE GROUPS

COME AND JOIN THE ARTFUL VOICES  
FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND FESTIVITIES  
FILLED WITH VOCAL YUMMINESS,  
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND MINCE PIES

ST ANNE'S CHURCH  
CHURCH ROAD  
(OFF NORTHENDEN ROAD)  
SALE M33 3GD

0161 438 2021  
WWW.ARTFULPLAYGROUND.CO.UK

## Christingle 2022

Even though I'm sure we're all in denial, that certain season is well and truly on the way; in some shops it's been visible since August - far too early!

I write assuming that most people know what I'm talking about when I mention Christingle, but there may be some out there who are wondering what the heck I'm going on about! Well, a Christingle service is a service held in aid of The Children's Society and we hope to raise some money for all the work they do helping children, young people and their families. What you must know is that **all the money raised goes to the Children's Society**, not one penny goes toward expenses in any way.

Last year was a little bit more like normal with our Christingle services. This year we are again holding two services. One is at 3.30 pm which will be a Blessing of the Crib with Christingles; it will last around 30 minutes. The other is at 5.30 pm which will be the traditional Christingle service.

Here's a little bit of history for you. The first Christingle service

held in our country was in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968. In 1970 20 churches held their own service. We at St Anne's have been holding this service for over 50 years now—and yes I do remember most of them! Over the years we have helped raise thousands of pounds to help the work of The Children's Society. I am always blown away by the amount of money which is given every year. Even in the difficult times we are now living in, people always find it in their hearts to give something, and believe me it all adds up, so no amount is too small.

The money raised goes to help the lives of children and young people who are in awful situations, going through such dark times we can barely imagine. Children and young people who are lost, alone, suffering abuse, witness to things they should not see at such a young age. Children and young people who are old before their years by caring for their families - with naturally the added strain on their school work and self-confidence. Your donations will help transform the hopes and wishes of children and young people who need it the most. It helps build



bridges when families are finding communication and interaction difficult; helps young people get professional advice from trained project workers enabling them to make informed decisions about their future; provides someone for them to talk to enable them to process the many difficulties they may be going through, giving them the chance to begin to heal. Here are a couple of quotes from young people who have been helped, "I always saw The Children's Society as a bit of security blanket. You feel like you've got another family." and "The Children's Society believed I could do it. Now I'm going to be a barrister."

There are no simple answers to some situations, together we can help to make a difference. No child should feel alone. By donating you make all this possible, you have given many, many children the chance they so need to turn their lives around and put a smile on their faces. Thank you so much.

So, a Christingle? Well it's an orange, which represents the world, it has sweets and raisins on sticks stuck into it, which represent the seasons, and the fruits of the world. It has a red ribbon wrapped around it to represent the blood shed by Christ on the cross and the love of God which is wrapped around us and the whole world. And a candle to represent Jesus, the light of the world, who brings us hope and light in times of darkness and is there to share in our joys as well.

As you enter church on Christmas Eve there will, if you wish, be an opportunity for you to hand in a donation for the Children's Society or leave one in a plate, for which I thank you.

So give it some thought; why not come and join us this year - it would be good to see you at either of our services. I have always found it a perfect way to start my Christmas celebrations, it reminds us that whatever our situation we are never alone, there will always be someone out there who will listen to us, help us and support us when we need it. God works in many ways through the words and

actions of many people as well as his own!

Whether you are 2 or 102 come and join us! There are quite a few different bugs around these days but the Christingle bug is one that will bring a smile to your face and bring you back year after year, it has with me, I hope it does with you as well.

However, remember if you can't come or feel uneasy about mixing in large numbers, all our services at St Anne's are streamed on You Tube, just search St Anne's Sale and you'll find us.

Please do check the church website [www.salestanne.org](http://www.salestanne.org) for details of our services in case of any last minute changes.

I will close now and wish you all a joyful and happy Christmas. I hope and pray you find moments to smile and laugh with people you love and who love you, and may you also get lots of chocolate!

Love

Carol Thomas  
Children's Society Rep  
St Anne's Church, Sale

## Nativity Play - a new member of the cast

Ricky the donkey (pictured here on a previous visit to St Anne's) will be coming to church on Sunday 18 December at 10 am to play his part in the Nativity Play. Ricky lives in Altrincham and helped us with our Palm Sunday service this year. He so enjoyed coming into church that I booked him to come back this Christmas. Do please pass on the message to all children you know - all children are invited to come dressed as a Christmas character (angels, shepherds, kings, sheep, wise men, Joseph and Mary, and stars).



## St Anne's to appear on 'Songs of Praise'

Mike Palmer, one of the 3 Dads Walking, has been interviewed about his fundraising work for suicide prevention among young people for the TV programme 'Songs of Praise'. The interview was carried out by Revd Kate Bottley and filmed in St Anne's Church last week. It will be screened on Sunday 15 January.

Mike is married to Helen, an infant teacher at our church school; their daughter Beth Palmer died at the start of the pandemic in 2020 from suicide aged 17 years.

Papyrus is the UK charity working to prevent suicide among young people. You can phone their Hopeline UK on 0800 068 4141.

## Incarnation

Holiness in the New Testament is a matter of Jesus going right into the middle of the mess and the suffering nature. For him, being holy is being absolutely involved, not being absolutely separated.

Rowan Williams, quoted in Bouncing Forwards

St Anne's Church, Church Road West, Sale

## Glasshouse (Bootleg) Choir and Christmas Fair



Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1 – 4

Free Entry

## A concert of festive songs!

*Christmas stalls - candles, handmade decorations, organic skincare products, crochet hats and scarves, Body shep stocking fillers.*

*Warm Mulled apple, hot chocolate, cakes...*

# Mothers Union

So it's that time of year already, time moves so quickly don't you agree? As we get through the days and weeks of December waiting for Christmas Day I hope you all find time to take a moment and reflect on what Christmas means to you. Yes I know it means stressing about presents, making sure you'll get the shopping done and not have to queue for too long in the supermarkets and of course getting your cards written, your tree, decorations and lights down and working. It's all these things and more but it's also got something to do with a little baby called Jesus!

If you're at a loose end at 8 pm on Monday 12 December why not come along to our Advent Symposium. It's a lovely evening where we take time to sit and think and

listen to readings and poems, on top of that we have mulled wine and mince pies and shortbread as well to enjoy! Hope to see you there if you can make it.

Back last month we had a very interesting evening. Emmalee from Embassy Village came to speak to us and told us of the work they are doing with homeless people in Manchester and what they've got in store for the months and years ahead, exciting times for them.

I do hope it all comes off for them, so many people will benefit from their good work. They're planning on building a "village" for homeless men in the Deansgate area and plans are going ahead to buy a house for homeless women. Their aim is to help people regain their self-confidence in rebuilding

their lives supporting them until they are happy to move on independently. Please remember them in your prayers.

I guess by the time you're all reading this, lights will be up in our streets and trees will be up in our houses, mine included, but right now all I can hear is rain and wind outside my window! Hope it all stops so I can get the lights up so they don't blow away!

Have a merry and blessed Christmas

Carol & Jackie



St Martin's Church  
Ashton upon Mersey  
Church Lane, M33 5QQ

# Christmas Tree Festival

Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd  
& Saturday 3rd of DECEMBER  
10am - 4pm & 6 - 8pm

Free Entry  
Seasonal Refreshments  
Trees from local organisations

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

Follow The Star  
THE GREAT INVITATION

St Martin's church website is at <https://stmartinsaom.co.uk/>

## Was Jesus really born on 25 December?

Almost certainly not! But the story of how that date came to be chosen as His 'birthday' is one that stretches back long before His birth.

It seems to have started on the Greek island of Rhodes in 283 BC. That year the solstice fell on 25 December, and it was also the year that the Ancient World's largest Sun God statue – the 34 metre, 200 tonne Colossus of Rhodes, was consecrated.

By 46 BC, Julius Caesar had made 25 December the official winter solstice.

In AD 274, the Roman Emperor Aureilian chose the winter solstice to be the birthday of the Sun God. He also decreed that Sol Invictus (the unconquered sun) was 'Lord of the Roman Empire'.

50 years later, Constantine had become the first pro-Christian Roman Emperor. He wanted the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on 25 December. Perhaps it was that to him, Jesus was more or less the same person as the mighty Sun God. Or perhaps he felt that the ancient Sun God's association with

goodness, light, warmth and life would help ease the people's transition from paganism to Christianity.

Whatever the reason, the Church went along with it, and chose 25 December to be the date of Christmas. And in an ancient mosaic in the crypt of St Peter's Cathedral, Jesus is portrayed as adorned with sun rays and riding in a chariot – just like Sol Invictus.

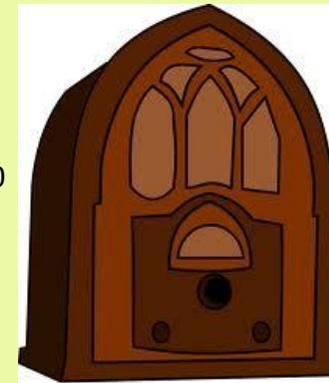
As for the huge, bronze 200 tonne Sol Invictus? He fell over during an earthquake and was sold off for scrap metal in 654AD by an enterprising Arab scrap merchant. Meanwhile, Jesus lives on...

### Book Group

Our book group continues to meet on Zoom, usually monthly on Monday evenings. You're all welcome to join in, regularly or just on occasions when the title interests you. We next meet on Monday 30 January when we will be talking about "Heresy", the first book of SJ Parris's series set in the first Elizabethan era. Contact Margaret Blowey on [rhmeh@aol.com](mailto:rhmeh@aol.com) for details.

## 90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III in a tradition spanning three generations. It was 90 years ago, on 25 December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the



nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas

broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her

Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary Royal Family, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. So we expect the new king's first Christmas message this year.

## Future Foundations

Although the Future Foundations team has been apparently quiet after the excitement of consultations on the floor and chairs over late summer, we have been busy and lots of progress has been made over the past couple of months.

In October the team's proposed design for the structure of the building was approved by the PCC. Consultation with the amenity societies (e.g. The Victorian Society) is ongoing and initial, informal feedback from the DAC is very positive. We have now appointed a building inspector who is reviewing the designs and working with our architect and the team to finalise the plans. We will be able to share the final plans with you soon.

This is also exciting because with the 2D plans nearing completion, our architect is now working on detailed sectional elevations. In other words, we will soon have pictures of how our church will

look when we are standing in it. In parallel, we have been considering colour schemes with the architect and therefore hope to soon be able to share plans in full colour glory!

The team continues to meet several times a month, considering and making recommendations for fixtures and fittings for the kitchen areas, meeting rooms, and WCs. I am in regular contact with the architect and the team is also working hard getting organised for the next phase of building. Please continue to pray for the project and everyone volunteering their time to progress this project. The Future Foundations team includes our vicars Alison and Olwyn, our hard-working church wardens Pauline and Andrew, and Barbara Abell, Lynda Bywater, Jenny Egarr, and David Thomas. Lucy Bolton is our project accountant.

Sarah Kostiuk-Smith  
(Future Foundation Team)

## Anti-Bullying Week 2022 at St Anne's School

*'Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in darkness' – 1 John 2:9*

We started Anti-Bullying week with an assembly for the whole school, using a slide show we created ourselves. We introduced the official theme – 'Reach Out' and explained how we could all reach out to others and to ourselves.

We launched the Positive Postbox campaign via the assembly and explained how everyone could join in, by writing letters of kindness and spreading positivity. The younger children were encouraged to draw pictures. We were lucky enough to win a life-sized post box (photo above), by sharing why the activity was important to us. Our letters will be collected in January and shared with another school



in the UK. We will then receive letters from another school to give out to everyone. Our team shared activities for teachers to do with their classes during the week. Some joined in with a live, interactive lesson on Wednesday. This was all about online bullying and taught us to be respectful online; how to be an upstander and to talk to someone if we needed to.

Bullying impacts millions of lives and can leave people

feeling hopeless. It does not have to be this way. If we CHALLENGE (one of our school values) we can change it! We can start by reaching out – in school, at home, in the community.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors  
*Zara, George, Lipika, Mira, Milly, Eddie Freya, Aadhit, Harry, Kitty, Finley, Ragsan and Ashley 😊*

Our Anti- Bullying Lead is Mrs. Lloyd – thank you to her for everything she does!

*'As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same' - Nelson Mandela*

## Christmas Miscellany

### An acrostic carol

Carols sound throughout the land  
**H**eralding a special birth  
**R**ejoicing as from Heaven's realm  
**I**mmanuel comes to bless the earth.

**S**o in the town of Bethlehem  
**T**he Saviour Jesus gently lies,  
**M**ary rocks the tiny child  
**A**s angels serenade the skies.

**S**hepherds told the awesome story  
**D**ivinity will now reside  
**A**s He who ruled in Heaven above  
**Y**et Lord of all comes as a child.

Megan Carter, Parish Pump

### Christingle making!

We are again making Christingles in the church hall on Friday 23 December at 7 pm. Always a good night, lots of fun and laughs, usually some sweets left over as well! Come along and join us, join the conveyor belt of construction or help sort the church by putting up some of the many safety posters that go up. They'll surely be a job you can do! Thank you in advance

Carol Thomas



*Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...*

### Churches Together In Sale - events

**Monday 5 December** - Crib Blessing outside Sale Town Hall, with Salvation Army Band and St Joseph's School Choir. The aim is to move inside the Town Hall for coffee and mince pies; it will be publicised on a notice inside the Crib itself, as many people stop to look at it.

**Sunday 22 January, 7pm:** Service to mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Salvation Army.

### The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

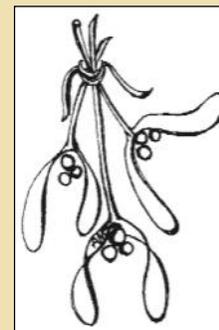


### World's oldest fake tree

A family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree. It was bought in 1886, and it is still put up every year.

### Mistletoe's smelly history

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.



For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

## How Father Christmas got where he is today

If you run into Father Christmas this Christmas season, if he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

I am terrified of Santa . I'm Claustrophobic!



A mother took her daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his lifework of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a

bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



## St Anne's Mums and Tots Group

This is a warm and friendly group that meets in the church hall during term time on Friday mornings.

The parents / carers and children who come have a busy time chatting, playing, enjoying snacks and drinks, doing craft and singing simple songs with actions. Many of the mums who come have said that they very much like the group and enjoy the atmosphere.

Janet Plumb leads the group and congregation members of St Anne's Church help out with making snacks and drinks, chatting to mums and children as well as helping put some toys out.

Those that help - Lynda Bywater, Val Taylor and Janice Mason - have all expressed their enjoyment at being amongst mums and children and chatting to them. However, the number of helpers is small and we would very much like one or two more people to offer some time on a Friday morning to this St Anne's Group. We do have a rota so commitment does not need to be weekly unless you want it to be. Being amongst the younger section of society is, honestly, heart

warming and offers a great social opportunity to chat to new people and indeed make friendships. As an older person myself, I do think there is huge health benefit in linking up and connecting with younger people and young children.

Please give some support to this church group if you can. It would be much appreciated. If you would like to know more about the group please speak to Janet Plumb, 0161 905 3895, (who has much experience in running toddler groups), Lynda Bywater, Janice Mason, or Val Taylor. Thank you

Pauline Stacey

The **e-Spire** is our replacement for a hard-copy parish magazine. It is to supplement what appears on our website and in the weekly pastoral letter and newsheets from our clergy. If you don't receive these by email, please send your email address to Alison: [alisoncox19@hotmail.com](mailto:alisoncox19@hotmail.com)

For comments on e-Spire and to contribute to a future issue, mail the **editors**, Howard & Janice Mason at [howard.mason1@btopenworld.com](mailto:howard.mason1@btopenworld.com)

## Parish Directory

### **St Anne's, Church Road, off Northenden Road, M33 3GD**

Website:	<a href="http://www.salestanne.org">www.salestanne.org</a>	
Vicar:	Rev Canon Alison Cox, The Vicarage Church Road West, Sale M33 3GD	0161 973 4145
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:alisoncox19@hotmail.com">alisoncox19@hotmail.com</a>	
Hon Assistant Priest:	Rev Olwyn Marlow, 28 Arcadia Avenue	0161 962 9292
Readers:	Paul Edwards, 25 Abington Road	0161 969 2345
	Alan Ward, 8 Russell Avenue	0161 282 8789
Churchwardens:	Pauline Stacey, 8 Maple Road West	07505 354 686
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:pauline@staceyfamily.net">pauline@staceyfamily.net</a>	
	Andrew Egarr	07808 466 371
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com">andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com</a>	
PCC Secretary:	Julia Greene: <a href="mailto:jjgreene@hotmail.com">jjgreene@hotmail.com</a>	
PCC Treasurer:	Helen Whittingham, 5 Irlam Road	07885 502 095
	<a href="mailto:helen.whittingham@outlook.com">helen.whittingham@outlook.com</a>	
Hall Bookings:	Please contact the vicar at <a href="mailto:alisoncox19@hotmail.com">alisoncox19@hotmail.com</a>	
Hall Management Committee:	Chairman - Tony Sant	0161 973 3894
Sacristan/Head Server:	Sue Heath, 7 The Cloisters	0161 969 3167
Organist & Choir Leader:	Vacant	
Choir:	Tuesdays 6.45pm. Contact: <a href="mailto:matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com">matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com</a>	
St Anne's School:	Headteacher - Polly Knight	0161 973 7181
Overseas Group:	Chair - Janice Mason	0161 969 8570
1st Sale Moor Rainbows:	Mons 5 - 6 pm in the Church Hall	
	email <a href="mailto:1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com">1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com</a>	
2nd Sale Moor Rainbows:	Weds 5.15 - 6.15 pm in the Church Hall	
	email <a href="mailto:2ndsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com">2ndsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com</a>	
Brownies:		
1st Sale Moor:	Weds 6.30 - 8 pm, Clarendon Rd Scout Hut	0161 973 3894
2nd Sale Moor:	Weds 6.30 - 8 pm in the Church Hall	0161 976 5972
3rd Sale Moor:	Tues 6 pm at Moorlands School	
7th Sale Moor:	Tues 6 pm in the Church Hall	0161 973 2108
2nd Sale Moor Guides:	Mondays 7.30 - 9pm in the Church Hall	0161 286 1623
7th Sale Moor Guides:	Tuesdays 7 pm at Sale Moor Methodist Church	
Sale Moor Rangers Unit:	Thursday evenings at Trinity Methodist Church	
Church Fellowship:	Monthly coffee mornings, Church Hall	0161 962 8946
Mothers' Union:	2nd Monday, 8pm, St Anne's Church Hall	0161 283 0563
Mums & Tots:	Fridays 9.15 - 11am, contact Janet Plumb	0161 905 3895