



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

e-Spire

March &
April 2026

Services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Mothering Sunday - 15 March Holy Communion at 10 am
Members of the MU will be assembling posies in church on Saturday 14 March at 10 am.

Sunday 22 March Holy Communion at 10 am with guest preacher Funa Joseph - Funa is our new CAP Centre Manager for our joint project in Sale.
This will be followed by our **Lent Lunch** to raise funds towards our contribution for CAP (Sale) project.

Palm Sunday - 29 March Holy Communion at 10 am
The donkey is booked to lead us from the hall to the church as we remember the events of the first Palm Sunday in Jerusalem.



HOLY WEEK

Monday 30 March - Musical meditation with Glasshouse Choir at 7 pm

Tuesday 31 March - Stations of the Cross in church at 7 pm

Wednesday 1 April - Holy Communion at 10 am
Tenebrae service of light and stillness in church at 7 pm

Maundy Thursday 2 April - Last Supper and Holy Communion with the washing of feet in the hall starting at 6.30 pm

Good Friday 3 April - Meditation at the Cross at 12 noon in church



Easter Sunday 5 April

Holy Communion as we celebrate the Risen Christ with us for ever.

Everyone is welcome at these services

Carbon Fast for Lent



Gardener at work near a church—Kyffin Williams

In the Bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, Climate Stewards (part of A Rocha) encourages you to take up their Lent challenge – living more simply and finding new ways to cut your carbon footprint. Yes, Lent has already started but you can still

take part in this activity - the Eco Group has signed up so you could ask them about it.

Each week the Carbon Fast features a different theme designed to help us take climate action. Olwyn circulated the first week's details with the emailed weekly newsletter for 22 February. Go to [the website](#) for more information.

"Looking out of the window"

I know that February is a short month, but even so it is hard to believe that a sixth of the year is almost behind us. Despite the wind, the grey skies, and the rain, there has been a wonderful "waking up" of Spring colours in our garden.

The first two daffodils which opened up properly were seen on 7 February - eleven days earlier than last year, backing up the climate change discussions. The snowdrops are magnificent and have spread into all corners of the garden. Purple, yellow and white crocus flowers abound and some have self seeded into the back lawn. Hellebores are doing well, and rose bushes and hydrangeas are budding up well.

The yellow pansies are splendid and are a real touch of cheerfulness amidst what has been the wettest start to January and February for many years. The national news at one stage

mentioned the fact that Aberdonians had celebrated a single ray of sunshine after 18 days when there had been constant gloom from heavy cloud and resultant downpours. That must have been exceedingly depressing for the residents.

I saw an event (not strictly through the window) on a lovely sunny morning when I was just about to get into the car for a quick shopping trip. There was quite a large



bird busily eating, sitting on a newly caught pigeon. I glared at the bird, and it gave me a long stare as though to say "I'm hungry and busy so leave me in peace!" I didn't comply and it flew off. On my return from the shops I put the much reduced body of the pigeon to rest in the green bin, and then started sweeping the many feathers which had blown all down the drive. It was not an ideal job on a windy morning! In searching our bird book I came to the conclusion that the perpetrator of this unhappy event was a kestrel, the breed of which is adapting well to urban life.

It is never dull looking at the world around us from the comfort of the house with large windows.

Early though this is being written, I send Easter greetings to all our friends at St Anne's when the time comes.

Bridget

Craft and Chat

Easter reminds us that hope never fades — may your days be bright and your blessings plenty.

The Chat and Craft Group

We meet Thursday afternoon in the Church Hall 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Easter Chicks Prayer

Dear God,
Thank You for the gift of new life,
like tiny chicks hatching in the spring.
May their soft chirps remind us of Your gentle love,
and their bright eyes remind us to look for hope each day.
Help us to care for all Your creatures,
to share kindness like sunshine,
and to spread joy like the first song of morning.
Amen. (Anon)

The Craft and Chat group have recently created a chicks display in the church hall, see the photo below. Little displays such as this in

the hall window sills and in church are changed frequently, do look out for them.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come
Service starts 2pm

Nigeria 2026



Everyone is welcome

Enquiries: joantanner43@icloud.com



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 233242

Retired? You've got to be kidding....

The idea that grandparents retire into an unburdened world of gardening and tea-drinking, golf and knitting (and stately homes and garden centres) is no more than a pleasant fantasy these days.

Instead, nearly 63% of grandparents provide some sort of childcare to their

under-16-year-old grandchildren. That amounts to around seven million older people, aged mostly between 55 - 74.

As many as one in three is doing the school run. Nearly one in five is spending more than 10 hours a week giving other childcare.



Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights

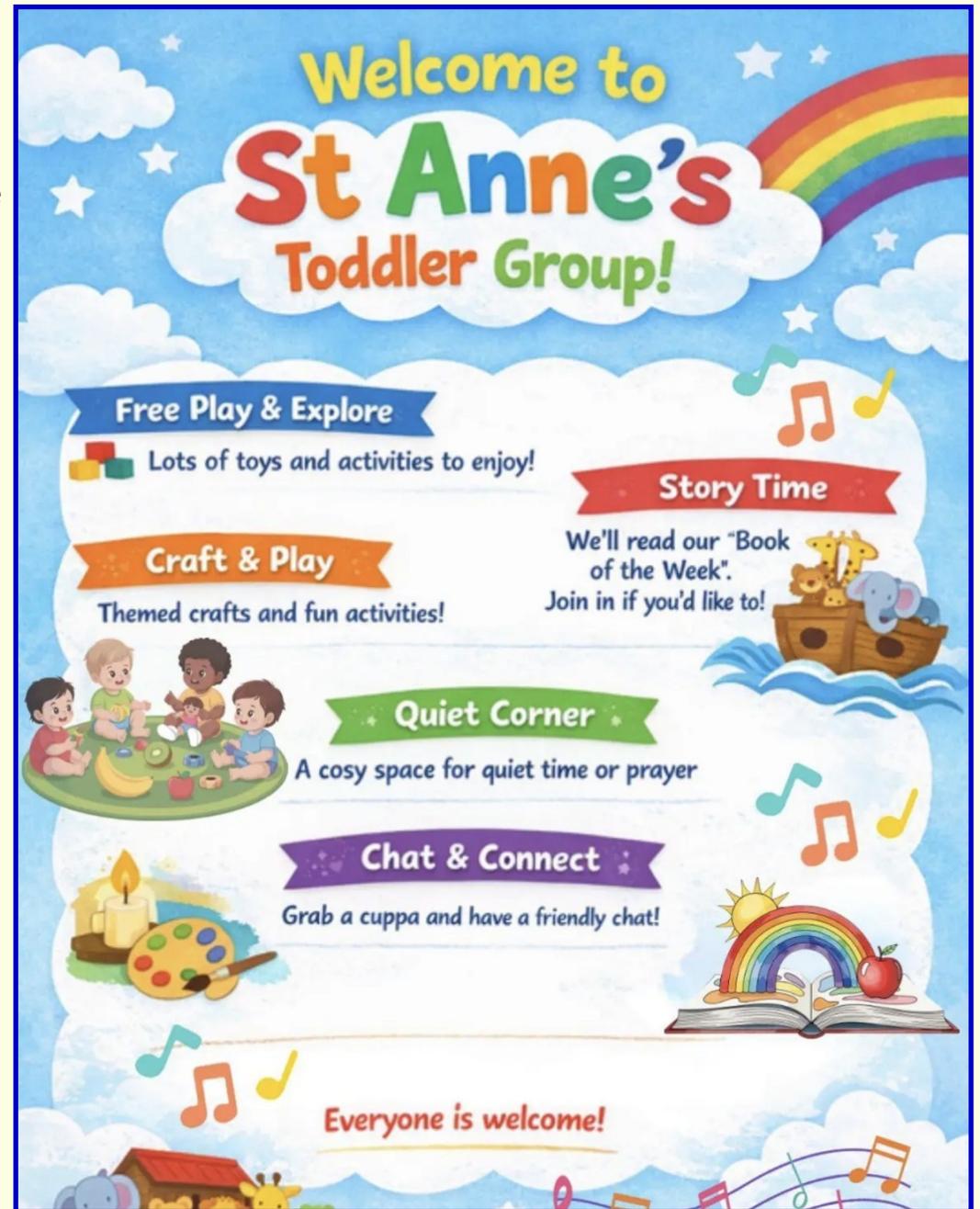
The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28 March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20th anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>



Our new Archbishop of Canterbury

Sarah Mullally is to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March, Puzzled? You thought she already had been?

Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury at St Paul's Cathedral on 28 January in a legal ceremony, set within a church service.

But this is to be followed by an Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral where Archbishop Sarah will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Between her Confirmation of Election and Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the

UK. She also co-presided at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February, where she delivered the Presidential Address.

By tradition, Archbishop Sarah will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her installation.



One of my churchwardens is a stickler for health and safety.

THE
Chorale Manchester and

Musical Director: Jill Henderson-Wild

TRAFFORD MUSIC SERVICE
Enriching lives, inspiring a love of music for all.

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In concert at

St Anne's Church,
Church Road West, Sale, M33 3GD

3:00PM SATURDAY
14 MARCH 2026

£10 IN ADVANCE | £12 ON THE DAY

U16s FREE

Scan for tickets:



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www.manchesterchorale.com/buy-tickets

Mothers Union

Hello everyone, it's my turn this time, it seems like ages since I've written to you with my MU hat on so to speak! We've had our usual start to the year, our party in January, which I hope you all enjoyed, and our AGM last month. Everything was signed off and the committee are ready to make this year a good one for you all, and anyone else who wants to come to one of our meetings. Remember, they are open to everyone, watch this space as the saying goes to see what grabs your attention!

At our AGM we gave out a couple of certificates which I feel warrant a mention here. We congratulated Elizabeth Mills and Margaret Ward who were given certificates for their 40 and 50 years of MU membership respectively.

I've just got back from a lovely week in Scotland. We were so lucky with the weather, yes it was cold and windy and there was snow in the hills but the sun shone and the views were spectacular. Note to self I must explore more of our country. There's so much I've not seen and if last year was anything to go by we really don't have to go abroad to "find the sun" these days do we! One of the things we went to see were The Kelpies. I, like many I suspect, was quite taken aback at how they came across to me, so much more than horse heads made out of metal, which I know is what they are but they are truly wonderful, I really do recommend you go and see them in person if you can.

In a few days it will be March and I know I need to get out into the garden and do a bit of weeding but

at the same time try to remember where I planted bulbs last year so I don't pull them up by mistake! I'm loving seeing my crocuses flower all over our lawn and the daffodils starting to come into bloom, isn't spring wonderful, everything waking up and coming back to life.

On to our meetings for the next couple of months. In March, on Monday 9th, we're going to be welcoming back Val Baker who is coming to speak to us about her recent trip to Uganda, always interesting to see what's happening elsewhere in the world.

In April we're welcoming another of our speakers back: Linda Goodchild will be coming to speak to us

on Monday 13th about her trip to Walsingham. This is a place I've heard of but to be honest I know little about. I look forward to learning all about this place.

I hope you can join us for one or both of these meetings, both will be interesting to listen to and we'll always welcome you with a brew and a biscuit, maybe even two!

Jackie and I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter and I hope you get just the right amount of chocolate!

Love and prayers to you all,

Carol & Jackie



Sale Beer & Gin Festival



The beer festival will be back at St Anne's again this year after last year's record attendance. It's now the "Sale Beer & Gin Festival". Book the dates now: **Friday 8 May** and **Saturday 9 May**. More details nearer the time, and see www.salebeerfestival.com



St David's Day - why leeks?!

1st March, St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear proudly a leek or daffodil.

Shakespeare refers to the custom in Henry V, Act 5 Sc.1, where Gower berates Pistol for mocking at "an ancient tradition begun upon an honourable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour."

According to some sources, the wearing of leeks may be based on a legend that Welsh archers fought bravely at the Battle of Crecy in a field of leeks and, as a reminder of their bravery and loyalty, the Welsh began to wear a leek in their caps every St David's Day. The legend, true or not, could be a source of the 'honourable respect' which the Welsh had for their valorous archers.

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and feasted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Government Reacts to Fairtrade Petition

Last autumn a number of us signed the Fairtrade Foundation Brew It Fair petition. Thanks to thousands of Fairtrade supporters and campaigners across the country, the petition has made an impact. Trade Minister Sir Chris Bryant has recognised the "wide ranging contributions Fairtrade has made" to the government's review of responsible business. It's a great step forward.

The minister responded to a debate in parliament, saying: "The world is fundamentally more connected, or even interconnected, than ever. In many ways, that interconnectedness is a good thing, but it also has potential

downsides, because the arc of trade does not necessarily always bend towards justice. Quite often, because of price competition, the arc of trade can lead to quite the reverse—the abandonment of justice.... We need to build on a sense of fairness in international trade. We need to make sure that the arc of trade bends towards justice and fairness. I have therefore always argued that we should strive for free and fair trade, not just free trade.

"I want to try to take down tariff barriers where I possibly can, so that we can engage in free trade, but that only works when we have fair opportunities underlying it."

A year ago, the Procurement Act 2023 came into force with a new central debarment list, which Ministers can put people on if they have been involved in modern slavery. In that way, we can make sure the supply chain is cleaner.

And the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires large organisations over a certain threshold to publish transparency in supply chain statements "Some of that is good, but there is a danger that it is just ticking a box, not driving forward change; and I am far more interested in driving forward change than I am in simply ticking boxes."



It will soon be marathon time again. As usual, much of the parish will be cut off. It looks like St Anne's will be accessible by road from Sale Moor and M60 junction 6. Homes affected by road closures should receive a leaflet with the details nearer the time.



Annual Meeting

Our AGM, the "APCM" will be on Sunday 26 April after coffee following the 10 am service. Please can everyone responsible for annual reports let Ann Hunt have theirs before the end of March.

Eco group activity

In March we are planning to replace the border around the memorial garden with lavender. We will be asking for donations to cover the cost, please look out for this in the weekly newsletter.

We continue to promote recycling. In March we are collecting candle wax - you can leave it at the back of church. But we're not taking used blister packs any more as you can take them to Boots in Sale.

Asking the cabin steward

"How high is this plane?"

"About 32,000 feet."

"Who'd have believed it? And could you tell me how wide it is?"

Anniversaries

150 years ago, on 10th March 1876 the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

100 years ago, on 30th March 1926 Ingvar Kamprad, the Swedish founder of IKEA was born. He founded the well-known furniture retail company in 1943, when he was just 17 years old.

The e-Spire is our alternative to 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

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

Parish Directory

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	E-mail: alisoncox19@hotmail.com	
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PCC Treasurer:	Chris Jones - chrisjonessat@gmail.com	
Hall Bookings:	Please contact the vicar at alisoncox19@hotmail.com	
Events Committee:	Please contact Ann Hunt: hunt289@icloud.com	
Sacristan/Head Server:	Sue Heath, 7 The Cloisters	0161 969 3167
Organist & Choir Leader:	Vacant	
Choir:	Tuesdays 6.45pm. Contact: matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com	
St Anne's School:	Headteacher - Polly Knight	0161 973 7181
Overseas Group:	Chair - Janice Mason	0161 969 8570
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 Shauna Hancock: shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com	

Guiding

Rainbows

1st Sale Moor : Mondays 5 - 6 pm in the Church Hall
email 1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com

2nd Sale Moor : Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 pm in the Church Hall
email 2ndsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com

Brownies

1st Sale Moor: Weds 6.30 - 8 pm, Clarendon Rd Scout Hut 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

Guides

2nd Sale Moor: Mondays 7.30 - 9pm in the Church Hall 0161 286 1623

7th Sale Moor: Tuesdays 7 pm at Sale Moor Methodist Church

Rangers

Sale Moor Unit: Thursday evenings at Trinity Methodist Church