



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

e-Spire

February
2024



Lent services

- Ash Wednesday** (14 February) - 10 am and 7 pm - Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
- Sunday 3 March** at 10 am - Visiting preacher - Revd Becky Mathew from St Paul's will be talking about Sri Lanka. This will be followed by Lent Lunch - all welcome.
- Palm Sunday 24 March** at 10 am - Ricky the donkey will be joining us again.

Bible Study and Reflection

Paul Edwards will lead studies on the Gospel readings set for the Sundays of Lent. These will be on **Wednesdays at 11 am** in the Choir Vestry.

- 28 February "Jesus' Baptism and Temptations" (Mark 1:9-15)
6 March "Jesus foretells his Death & Resurrection" (Mk 8:31-38)
13 March "Jesus cleanses the Temple." (John 2:13-22)
20 March "For God so loved the world." (John 3:14-21)
27 March "Jesus prays; My soul is troubled." (John 12:20-33)

Retreat day at Mirfield

We are holding a parish retreat day at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield on Thursday 29 February. We will leave St Anne's at 9.30 am and return by 5 pm sharing lifts in cars. Cost per person is £24 including a two course lunch. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church or speak to Alison or Ann Hunt.

Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven' (in other words absolved from their sins) which gives us the name of the day, Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And

tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Parish Pump

Fair Trade Stall

We have just restocked the stall replacing the Christmas-focused items that sold well. Do come and see our new stock of cards (including a range of inexpensive Easter cards), groceries and chocolate not to mention socks, jams etc. We'll be selling, as usual, in the Hall after the 10am service on the first and third Sundays of the month.

And Sunday 25 February is Fairtrade Sunday; join us then!

The Donkey - Lenten thoughts

When fishes flew and forests walked and figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood then surely I was born;
With monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody on all four-footed things.
The tattered outlaw of the earth, of ancient crook-ed will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb, I keep my secret still.
Fools! For I also had my hour; one far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears, and palms before my feet..

GK Chesterton

I rather like this poem; this poor donkey really does suffer from low self-esteem, doesn't he? We can all be like that at times especially during Lent when we can focus on sin and giving up such essentials as chocolate.

What strikes me most about this poem and indeed our faith, is that Jesus so often chose what was weak, or seemingly unclean or just simply ordinary, to get his message across. The Romans and indeed the High Priest, would have expected the Messiah to ride into Jerusalem on a mighty war-horse or a beautiful Arab horse, yet he rides in on a donkey, a humble beast of burden; he chose the least to make the biggest impact. Nothing and no one was beneath the attention of Our Lord, nothing and no one is unworthy of the love of God. The immense, immeasurable love that saw our Father give his son to die for us.



So, next time you look in the mirror and see a paunch or crows' feet or a grey hair, remember that in our Lord's eyes, in his Father's eyes, we are all beautiful and we are all his children as we strive through faith to serve him in the world he gave his son to save.

Parish Pump

We look forward to Ricky the donkey joining us again on Palm Sunday, 24 March.

Winter Now

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry days.

Samuel Longfellow 1819-92



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take
on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

"Looking out of the window"

It has been eight weeks since I last "put pen to paper" metaphorically speaking. A great deal seems to have happened.

Autumn's glory has long disappeared, and after the last three weeks, the words "ere the winter storms begin" (from the hymn Come ye thankful people come) have become a reality. There have been floods, gales, and snow (which gave an excuse to go out with the snow shovel to create a path to and from the house.)

The bird food is being devoured almost as fast as I can put it out. Two particular occasions stick in my mind. On a very cold day there were six parakeets - some upside down, hanging from the washing line shouting at each other for pride of place on the peanut holders. Underneath all this activity were four pigeons, three magpies and two very portly squirrels - all just about tolerating each other as they picked up all the bits which had been spilt on the grass. A robin and the smaller finches and tits were dashing in and out of the bushes as always when they felt brave enough. But no partridges in the pear tree.

The second memorable event highlighted a pigeon on the coldest morning, flying in to inspect the peanut supply and landing on the garage roof about twelve inches up from the gutter. The result was that it slid down as though on a ski slope and had to fly back to higher things - - - my amusement was complete when it happened again and the bird flew off in a huff !

Our first snowdrop bent its head and opened on 3rd January - over a week earlier than last year. The daffodils are growing tall but the buds are still tightly closed. Those people who passed the church vestry door at Christmas may have noticed two wonderfully fully flowering daffodils in the corner garden!

Primulas, pansies, and red and golden dogwoods have continued to provide cheerful winter colour in our own garden.

Finally a most extraordinary sight was to be seen one morning when an enormous cheerful yellow lorry arrived a few doors up the road, with a hugely long jib which extended right over the roof of a house to deliver some steel girders for a house extension. The driver was stretching his legs past our gate and when asked, told me that it was a 48 metre length jib, and could lift a ton quite easily. That is a very big piece of equipment for a small cul-de-sac.

May 2024 be a good year for the community of St Anne's as we all look out of our windows and watch the Spring days lengthen.

Bridget



World Day Of Prayer

The Service for this year's World Day Of Prayer (see poster on the right) was prepared by Christian women of Palestine many months before the carnage of 7 October and the ensuing war atrocities, which makes its theme so poignant: "I beg you, bear with one another in love".

Please support the event in whatever way you can. Lily Lloyd and I are the WDP co-ordinators for Sale and, ideally, we aim to include a lay woman from each member church in leading the service. Your help in spreading the word would be much appreciated. Thank you Kingsway for your prompt and willing offer of hospitality.

Each time we participate in these WDP services, we become part of a great wave of prayer in native languages encircling the globe. Beginning as the sun rises over Samoa, people in over 146 countries and islands around the world unite in prayer. This year we pray with and for the people of Palestine. Who could doubt there is a great need for us to join together to pray for just and harmonious solutions that would

bring this heart breaking war to an end and achieve security and peace for the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

Together in loving Christ

Joan Tanner

Book Group

We greatly enjoyed Claire Keegan's short novel *Small Things Like These* which we discussed in January. We'd recommend it to you all, it's thoughtful and beautifully written. It's also short in case length puts you off.

Our next book is Maggie O'Farrell's *The Marriage Portrait*

and we gather, on Zoom, to discuss it on Monday 26 February at 7.30pm. You are, as ever, very welcome to join us. Just [email Margaret Blowey](mailto:margaret.blowey@kingsway.org) for the Zoom link.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

2pm Friday 1st March 2024

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to



Christian women of **Palestine** prepared this service months before the carnage of 7th October and the ensuing war atrocities.

Its theme: **"I beg you, bear with one another in love."** could not be more poignant!

Everyone is welcome to join us in prayer.

Kingsway Church

Carrington Lane Methodist Church,
Ashton on Mersey, M33 6NZ
at the **Firs Rd/Harboro Rd** triangle.

For further details contact: 07875 564 502



Mothers Union

Already a month into the new year and hasn't it been a cold one so far, lets hope it warms up with a little less rain as well! Last month we celebrated the start of 2024 with our party where we learnt who our prayer partners had been throughout 2023 and received our Christmas gift. We're now wondering who we'll be praying for this year, new prayer partners will be given out by Jackie at our February meeting.

At our meeting in February we'll be having our AGM which I've promised won't last long as after our meeting Alison will be speaking to us about her bicycles trips that added up to her travelling from Lands End to John o' Groats. Also at our AGM we'll be enrolling Claire Tattersall, you may remember we were planning to enrol her at our December

meeting but sadly Claire was poorly and couldn't come so we postpone it to this month.

Just a little reminder to members that you have till 1 March to pay your subs by, if you can't manage to pay online please contact Jackie and she'll explain other ways you can pay.

I would like to thank those members who donated gifts for Christmas for TDAS, we had so many and I know they were greatly appreciated by the people who run the organisation.

So how are things with you all then, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year spending it with those who make you smile and feel loved. I was lucky to have all my family home this year, just like the old days. For those of you with children who have left home will

understand the quietness of the house when they leave, it was good to have people milling about the house for a few days. Mind I must say the cooking, shopping and washing loads have gone down somewhat!

I keep looking at the garden wanting to clear up all the leaves but I'm leaving well alone as you never know what February will bring, especially these days. Did any of you do the national bird watch at the end of January? We've recently changed our bird food and our local birds are voting with their wings and are not visiting as often as they did so our numbers are lower than they were. Maybe we should change back!

Look after yourselves and keep warm,
Love

Carol & Jackie 😊

Scam Awareness

We continue to receive an annoying trickle of phone calls from a mix of implausible overseas call centres and more plausible people saying they're from official-sounding organisations. We haven't fallen for them yet but there's always a chance. So we often look at Age UK's scam awareness bulletins. I've just learned from their latest that there is a phone number – 159 – as the easy way to contact a bank if you suspect fraud relating to your bank accounts or cards. Good to know.

The January update focused on

- ◆ Always checking your bank statements for unauthorised transactions: we've had them a couple of times and the bank has sorted it out, replaced cards and refunded the money
- ◆ Calls saying your account has been compromised and a courier will call to collect your old bank card. Banks will never do this.
- ◆ Social media purchase scams as these account for two

thirds of all on-line shopping scams. Be cautious and never pay by bank transfer.

- ◆ A letter claiming to be from HMRC saying that money was owed. On checking, the National Insurance Number and details were wrong so be vigilant. (When we've owed tax, HMRC has always collected it through PAYE by reducing our tax free allowance, not by asking us for payment, and we've always understood why we owed them money, we wouldn't just accept it.)

Do look at the [Age UK website](#): we're all at risk of being exploited before we realise it.

Pips Centenary

Would you believe it's 100 years since BBC Radio first broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal. It was on on 5th Feb 1924

Update on St Anne's link with our 3 mission agencies

As a church we support three mission agencies: USPG, Bible Society and Trafford Youth for Christ. Through USPG we partner with Education for Change, a programme providing education for the children from tea plantation families in Sri Lanka.

Last year the PCC were unable to provide financial support to these three organisations and so the Overseas group raised funds at various church events. We're pleased to be able to report that we raised £500 for Education for Change and USPG; £150 for Bible Society and £180 for Trafford Youth for Christ. Thank you for your support.

Our fundraising this year includes:

- ◆ a cake sale on 4 February to raise money for Trafford Youth for Christ,
- ◆ Lent lunches on 3 and 17 March for USPG and Education for Change, and
- ◆ a Bike for Bibles challenge to coincide with Bible Society Sunday in autumn.

In addition we are very pleased to welcome Rev Becky Mathew from St Paul's Sale on 3 March to tell us

about her time spent in Sri Lanka. We are sure that Becky will widen our understanding of the culture, customs and church life of Sri Lanka and we especially look forward to sharing lunch with her on 3 March.

Lent Lunches on 3 & 17 March

Please join us for a frugal lunch of soup and roll, at 12 noon on these Sundays as we reflect upon the needs of people around the world and especially those in our own community.

USPG Lent Bible Study

We are again holding a series of Bible studies through Lent, using USPG's latest study course. It's called "Freedom in Christ". There are five sessions and we're ordering the study guides for anyone who wants to take part.

We will meet each Monday, starting on 26 February, at 10 am at Margaret Ward's house.

We would love to see you there. If you're interested, just speak to Margaret Ward or Janice Mason.

Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff...

St Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year. This is the way children see it....

How do you decide who to marry?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

How would the world be different if people did not get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8



Fair Trade Fairer Future



COME AND CELEBRATE FAIR TRADE

- ★ Fairtrade Refreshments
- ★ Smoothie Bike
- ★ School Choirs
- ★ Fair Trade Speakers
- ★ Fair Trade Artist
- ★ Fair Trade Stalls
- ★ Fair Trade Chocolatier
- ★ Craft Activities

Saturday 16th March 2024

Drop in 10:30am - 2:30pm

Rochdale Parish Church OL16 1QT

Supported by



Organised by Greater Manchester
Fairtrade Network

gmfairtrade@yahoo.com

<https://bit.ly/fairerfuture>



Spiritual?

A recent survey in the USA found that the great majority of its people believed that they were spiritual. 83% believed people have a soul, 80% believed in a spiritual realm. 70% thought that being spiritual meant being connected to God. 70% believed in heaven and more than 50% thought they could be reunited with their loved ones after death. What are we to make of this, given that far fewer have any religious adherence or observance?

A common but naive belief is that all these people are ripe for picking, ready to be drawn into organised religion but I fear this is a faint hope, particularly when younger generations seem not to be into belonging to organisations, are willing to get into all sort of good things as a one off but not to join up longer term, take on offices or sit on committees (which can pose a problem to those of us used to doing things the old way but it may have its merits, not least spontaneity).

A negative view would be that it is a feature of the “me generation”, wanting to think positively, highly, about themselves without having to do anything, learn anything, join

anything, apply themselves to any exploration of a vague feeling that they think does them credit. It’s “spirituality.... increasingly divorced from all religious connotations”, spirituality without cost and without community.

There is of course sometimes also what we might think of as sentimental, as folk religion, surfacing particularly in the face of tragedy. Candles are lit, there’s more belief in angels than would probably be found in many churches and there’s a confidence that we’ll be reunited with our loved ones after death.

But does it point us to a truth underlying our faith: there’s more going on here than we can grasp; behind our hard, factual, material and materialist world is mystery and we live in a world suffused by the glory of God, if only we can see it. Is being spiritual glimpsing something of this?

Do you think this sense of spirituality is mirrored in the UK? And what would you say to someone who told you they were a spiritual person?

Howard Mason

Prayers of Love and Faith made available for use

A selection of readings and prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples can be used in Church of England services, following recent approval by the House of Bishops.

The final texts of Prayers of Love and Faith, commended for use in regular public worship or private prayer, can be used in regular scheduled services, such as a Sunday Eucharist or Evensong.

The House of Bishops has said it will consider pastoral provision to protect the conscience of those who wish to use the Prayers and of those who do not.

With Valentine's Day in mind:

To my Dear and Loving Husband

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare me with ye women if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of
gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold....

From a poem by Anne Bradstreet, 1612-72

Old age, believe me...

... is a good and pleasant time. It is true that you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator, and, if you really have played your part, you are more content to sit down and watch. - Jane Harrison

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

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

We very much welcome contributions, short or long, on faith, church or community matters or general interest.

Parish Directory

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

Website:	www.salestanne.org	
Vicar:	Rev Canon Alison Cox, The Vicarage Church Road West, Sale M33 3GD E-mail: alisoncox19@hotmail.com	0161 973 4145
Hon Assistant Priest:	Rev Olwyn Marlow, 28 Arcadia Avenue	0161 962 9292
Families & Children's Worker:	Shauna Hancock - shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com	
Reader:	Paul Edwards, 25 Abington Road	0161 969 2345
Churchwardens:	Andrew Egarr e-mail: andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com	07808 466 371
PCC Secretary:	Julia Greene: jjegreene@hotmail.com	
PCC Treasurer:	Chris Jones - chrisjonessat@gmail.com	07484 834 513
Hall Bookings:	Please contact the vicar at alisoncox19@hotmail.com	
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: 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 Janet Plumb	0161 905 3895

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