

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

e-Spire

November 2025

Remembering

On Sunday 2 November we mark All Souls Day at our 10am Holy Communion by remembering those who have died recently. And we light candles in memory of our loved ones.

The following Sunday, 9 November, is Remembrance Sunday, that day when we solemnly remember particularly those who died in war. Our 10 am Holy Communion will end at the War Memorial with the 2-minute silence and laying of wreaths.

When there is no peace

They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)

What did peace feel like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On many parts of the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

As Christians we should:

- Pray for the peace makers: the women and men in the forces
- Pray for peace keepers: the experts helping to build new societies
- Pray for lasting peace: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

Advent

Jesus' kingdom project is a work in progress. Advent is the season for waiting, preparing and working for its fulness. And as will become apparent each of the weeks of Advent and Christmas seasons are linked together by waiting. The Annunciation, Visitation, Magnificat, Benedictus, Christmas, Beatitudes and Candlemas all pivot on waiting in patience but with anticipation. A birth, a new dawn and the hope of things to come.

Hope from beyond, sent to the present, is what Advent asks us to reckon with. Hope consists of God's jump-leads sent from the future through time and space, wired right into our present pains, panics and predicaments. The hope is this: that the love of God now returns to govern us all. This is the season anticipating God's reign of love to come. Now, in Advent, we are to engage in the preparations for this and undertake the work of God. How can the light of Christ illuminate this present darkness? How can the manifest love of God in Jesus overcome our world?

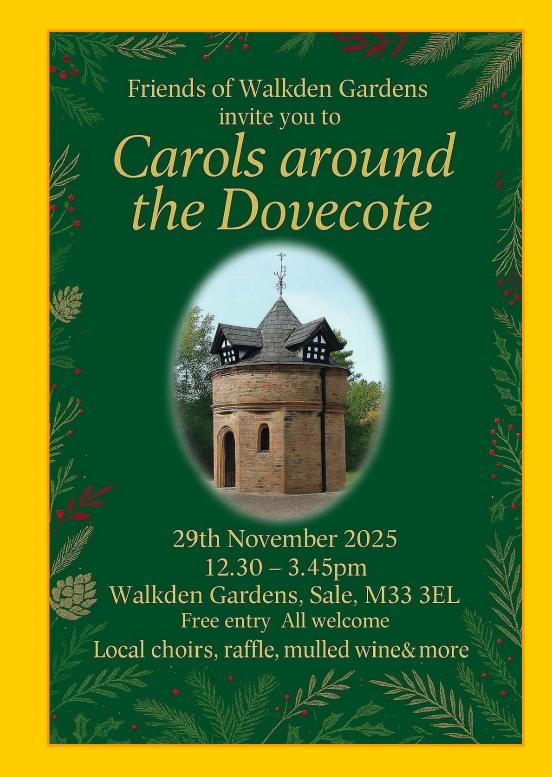
I hope you will enter this Advent with an

openness to what God is asking of you. Everyone in some way or other is called by God. What Jesus asks of us is always too much and yet it is never enough as Brother Roger of Taizé used to say: 'He does not ask for too much of you but he does ask for everything'.

Christmas is coming, but the birth of the Messiah was the beginning of a new age. It is nothing other than the beginning of the kingdom of God, installed in an infant who through his childhood and adulthood would show us something of the face and heart of God for our aching world in all its brokenness and injustice. Jesus is God's manifesto: the Word made flesh.

Advent is a time to prepare for our reformation. Like the shepherds, the wise men and the angels we are asked to leave our lives behind and gather round the crib at Bethlehem and see where those radiant faces will send us with joy and with purpose. But we are not to linger long.

from *An Advent Manifesto* by
Martyn Percy



Harvest gifts

As usual, harvest donations were split between Trafford South Foodbank and Boaz Trust. Both are very grateful for the goods donated by our church and by the school; thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. The photo is of Janice and Howard Mason with Ros at the Boaz office in Hulme.





The Leaves

The leaves had a wonderful frolic.
They danced to the wind's loud song,
They whirled, and they floated, and
scampered,

They circled and flew along.

The North Wind is calling, is calling, And we must whirl round and round, And then when our dancing is ended We'll make a warm quilt for the ground.

A good, even a record, year for acorns but also, it seems, a good year for fungus: some extensive colonies on local tree trunks.



"Looking out of the window"

I could not believe that it was a month since the last request for eSpire contributions. Where has October gone? On the other hand the parakeets have been telling me by their eating habits on a daily basis that they are waking up later and going off to their night time roosts

earlier, so they know the season is changing quite rapidly. The gain of another hour's sleep in the morning this weekend will only confuse the issue for them even more!

The activity in the garden has been taken over by grey squirrels dashing around chasing each other and searching successfully for peanut crumbs under the feeders. The little birds are very busy, also dashing in and out at tremendous speed to pack in the energy



supplies before the long nights of winter.

The colourful pelargoniums, begonias and busy lizzies have been magnificent at ground level in the front garden, but the highlights (quite literally in that they are so tall at 5 feet or more) have been the cosmos. Some of these plants blew down in storm Amy and one had a main stem girth larger than I could wrap my thumb and forefinger round. It must have been 7 or 8 inches in

circumference The flowers are of varying colours and look lovely in the house.

The pampas grass waved its beautiful feathery heads round in the same gale but survived in a relatively sheltered corner of the garden. The pyracanthas are glowing in their

Autumn finery and are providing the pigeons with good supplies of food.

The final change in the view from the window this month is that the tubs have been emptied of their summer colour and bulbs have been planted in new compost in the hope that the winter flowering pansies will survive until the snowdrops and daffodils poke their noses out to cheer us into the New Year.

Bridget

Mothers' Union

As November creeps in and the darker nights are closing in I hope that you are all staying safe and warm, and some of us this year will get our heating allowance back. I have received my confirmation letter already.

I have just got my dining room and washing machine back to myself as the family's kitchen is now completed. It certainly looks very posh and they are really pleased with it. Anthony called the other day and collected about four boxes from my dining room and decided that as they hadn't used any of the stuff for the past few months they certainly need a sort out to see what they should keep or dispose of one way or another. My garage is still full but I think that will be sorted once the family have sorted their own garage out. All the builders' things have been stored there.

We have almost completed our MU programme for 2026 and as soon as the final speaker has been confirmed we will let you have a copy of it. We are again collecting gifts for Trafford Domestic Abuse



and I know that Carol has sent the list of gifts out to all members. Any gifts that you purchase can be brought to either the November or December meeting plus any Sunday and handed to either Carol or myself. If any of the congregation would like to support TDAS then Carol has a list of the gifts needed and you can leave them at the back of church on a Sunday. We will be delivering them shortly after the Symposium meeting the second week in December.

I personally have also taken a supply

of knitted Snowmen to Stockdales where a Ferrero Rocher will be placed in the body for them to sell at their Christmas Fair. They were extremely grateful for all my efforts.

I have received an email from our Prayer Partners in Davenham and I will print it out and pass it round at the November meeting.

We had Alison come to talk to us at our last meeting in October all about her quilting. She showed us about four of her half completed quilts and asked us to decide which one should be completed for the Christmas Fair in December.

This will probably be raffled off.
There is an awful lot of work goes into making them and they are definitely a work of art and dedication.

In November we will probably have a DIY evening and possibly a video from Shauna and Laurna showing their work with the Friday Toddler Group.

Keep safe love and prayers

Jackie and Carol

A Farewell



We congratulate Rev Catherine Cleghorn, rector of St Martin's, Ashton on Mersey, on her appointment as succentor of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. We will miss her contribution to Churches Together in Sale. Do pray for her in her new role and for the people of St Martin's as they deal with the vacancy and seek a new incumbent.







Bip Choudhury - Reader



We are delighted to report that Bip has been licensed by the Bishop as a Reader at a service in Chester Cathedral, with a good turn out of St Anne's folk there to support her. Congratulations, Bip!

In the Church of England a Reader is a type of licensed Lay Minister who

supports the clergy in a number of ways, which may include preaching, pastoral work, conducting services and so on. If you think this could be you, do talk to Bip about her new role and her journey to it. We look forward to seeing more of Bip in action!





OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS WITHIN CHESTER DIOCESE

Here's a summary of what you can expect



LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT



We deliver safeguarding learning in the 'Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework' and evaluate its impact on behaviour in our church.



We enable those who deliver safeguarding training in our church to deliver effectively by allowing them to seek support and feedback.



We have oversight over which staff and volunteers in our church are up to date with their safeguarding learning and development requirements, in line with their roles and responsibilities.



(e provide the type and quantity of support to afeguarding volunteers and clergy that meets reir emotional and psychological needs arising om the traumatic impact of their work.

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Evoke the true spirit of the season with charity cards that do more than just look beautiful - they help make a real difference. The profits from every pack support Transform Trade's work.



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CHRISTWAS FAIR

Saturday 6 December 12 noon to 4 pm in church

Book the date. We'll have more details in the weekly newsletter and on the website nearer the time.

Come, see, buy

We now have stocks of this year's fair trade Christmas cards and wrapping paper, but they're selling fast. Come and have a look at our stall after church on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

We've also got a range of crafts on a sale or return basis from Justicia including a number of low-priced items that could be useful stocking fillers.

Make your Christmas cards count

Traidcraft Christmas cards fund Transform Trade's work with producers around the world - supporting them to increase their incomes, and grow their businesses, so that everyone can earn fairly for their hard work and help their communities to thrive.

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150 x 150mm



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Pack of 10 150 x 150mm £4.99



150 x 150mm



Pack of 10 150 x 150mm



Nativity Quad Pack s each of 4 designs)



All wraps include 4 Sheets (2 of each design) plus 8 sticker tags. Flat wrap size: 500 x 605mn







150 x 150mm

150 x 150mm

Pack of 10

150 x 150mm





Follow the Star 150 x 150mm



loy to the World Wreat Pack of 10 150 x 150mm







NEW for 2025 100% PLASTIC FREE





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All Christmas card orders must be placed through our online store. Unfortunately, we are unable to take telephone orders.

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Joining Together in Prayer

On 10 October, our school was delighted to take part in the Lord's **Prayer Collective Moment**, joining with schools across the country to say the Lord's Prayer together. It was a truly special occasion — a reminder that this familiar prayer continues to unite and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds.

One of the most moving parts of our school's participation was receiving recordings from families praying the Lord's Prayer in their home languages. Hearing those voices and languages from around the world reminded us that God's how Christians around family is beautifully diverse and that prayer same words in many connects us beyond words and borders. We



are so encouraged that This shared moment so many took part, helping us reflect on the deeper meaning of the prayer we say so often.

During the build up to the day, classes found space to pray together, using the wonderful resources provided by Faith in the North.

Pupils enjoyed watching an introductory video explaining the prayer's meaning and exploring the world pray these different languages.

reminded us that the Lord's Prayer isn't just a set of words we recite - it's an invitation to live in God's way each day: seeking His kingdom, offering forgiveness, and trusting in His provision.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who took part and especially to the families who contributed recordings from home. Your involvement made this collective act of prayer even more meaningful.



October at St Anne's School - a focus on diversity

October has been a truly special month at St Anne's CE Primary School - a time to celebrate the richness of our community, to learn from one another, and to recognise the beauty of our shared and individual stories. Through Black History Month learning, Diwali celebrations, and our upcoming Diversity Day, our pupils have been exploring what it means to belong, to respect one another, and to celebrate difference.

Black History Month: Honouring the Past, Celebrating the Present

Throughout October, children across the school have been learning about the significance of Black History Month — a time each year when we stop and celebrate the amazing things black people have done in the past and are doing today. For a long time, many of their stories, inventions, music, art, and acts of bravery were not included in history books.

At St Anne's, we've taken this opportunity to make sure those important stories are shared. Each class has been learning about inspirational individuals — from historical heroes who fought for fairness, to modern-day leaders, artists, and everyday people who show courage and creativity.

As we've reminded our children:

"Black History Month helps us to honour the past, celebrate the present, and build a future where everyone is treated fairly."

Classes prepared short presentations to share during our special Diversity Day Assembly, where pupils talked about their chosen inspirational person.

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

This month we also celebrated Diwali, one of the most joyful and colourful festivals of the year. Thank you to everyone who took part in our Wellbeing Angel Project, baking and sharing homemade sweets with such generosity and enthusiasm. The school hall was filled with smiles, laughter, and the wonderful aroma of Diwali treats as families gathered together to celebrate.

Children enjoyed learning about the meaning and traditions behind Diwali — a festival that celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. In class, pupils sampled sweets, created artwork, and reflected on how light can guide us to kindness and hope in our everyday lives.

We send our warmest wishes to all who celebrated — Happy Diwali! May your homes and hearts be filled with light and joy.

Diversity Day: Celebrating Who We Are

To bring our month of learning together, we held our Diversity Day, a joyful celebration of the many cultures and backgrounds that make up our St. Anne's family. Children were invited to wear clothing that represents their family's culture or heritage, and to take part in activities that help us learn more about one another's stories. Each family has also been encouraged to design a personal flag — either representing their country of origin or one that symbolises who they are as a family. These will be proudly displayed around school as a symbol of unity and belonging.

We're also held a fashion show to showcase our vibrant school community. Together, we shared music, art, and stories that reflect the diversity of our world and the message that everyone belongs at St. Anne's.

Looking Ahead

Throughout October, the message has been clear: diversity is our strength. From music celebrating Black composers to Diwali sweets shared in friendship, our school has been alive with learning, laughter, and love.

A huge thank you to all staff, pupils, and families for making this month so meaningful. Together, we're building a community where every voice is valued, every story is heard, and every child knows they belong.

Horrible histories

My interest in family history makes me an eager watcher of TV programmes looking for unknown relatives like "Long Lost Families". They're interesting, sometimes harrowing, and it's probably good for me to face the messiness of life, the tragedies in some families and the deep seated emotions generated. But are there lessons we can learn from all this?

One is that times change but not everywhere and not all at once. In the 1970s some young women, some families, thought it impossible that an unmarried girl should keep her baby and live as a single parent family. And their actions, sometimes unbelievably cruel, flowed from this. Yet at the same time there were very many single parent families getting on happily with living their life and bringing up their baby. Perhaps it was geography, perhaps it was social class, maybe these very different young women never met each other.

Sometimes we hear with horror of societies where honour killings take place and where there seems to be wider acceptance of it. Yet here there were families, communities, where respectability and one's good name

were of paramount importance. Families could not hold their heads up in public if their unmarried daughter was known to have become pregnant. (I somehow doubt if feelings were the same if unmarried sons got a girlfriend pregnant.) The intense shame felt led parents to force their daughters to give up their baby for adoption, the whole social stigma to be magicked away with sometimes devastating consequences for the daughter and the baby.

Some families come out of this very badly but so do social organisations and churches. Women tell of harsh and judgmental regimes in mother and baby homes and sometimes in the churches and charities that provided them. How much punishment, degradation and deterrence was thought justifiable to promote (or enforce) moral standards? Did it work (generally, no it didn't)? And we are rightly horrified by accounts of what happened, not just in Irish Catholic institutions (do read Claire Keegan's "Small things like these", a lovely book, short, readable and humane) but in many mother and baby homes here.

It wasn't all like this. I worked in Birmingham in a Council of Churches neighbourhood project in the 1970s; we were involved with a large number of single parents and I'd like to think they found us friendly, nonjudgmental and supportive, likewise with other church projects like a local church-run mother and baby home. What makes the difference? In the wider context of recent concerns about abuse in church settings, there is debate about what styles of church, what theological approaches, may make abuse easier to commit and easier to brush aside; it's an important hope to help? Do we have processes discussion.

So many health facilities, charities, welfare organisations, were founded by churches, Christians have a phenomenal track record in social concern and responsibility, but sometimes it goes wrong. I've been talking about mother and baby homes here but my thoughts turned to the charities, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, who set out to rescue children in the big cities from poverty, degradation - and potentially crime and prostitution spiriting them away to the white colonies to be brought up in

"respectable Christian families". Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't, and we have had recent coverage of children exploited when taken to Australia, some not all that long ago. I imagine these charities were set up with the best of intentions and supported by many Christians who thought they were forwarding God's work. But we can't defend our actions on the basis of good intentions and good principles unless we also pay attention to methods and outcomes. Are we forcing our expectations on those we in place to monitor what is happening and do these processes give a voice to the supposed beneficiaries? Put simply, do the people being helped think it's worked.

Lots to think about. "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there," (LP Hartley). Is this all history? Do we think it's past history, it couldn't happen here, doesn't happen now? Maybe it doesn't, or at least not in the same ways. But what are we blind to now? We should always ponder what are

Continued on next page...

Horrible histories - continued

...continued from previous page we doing in our institutions, how are we expressing our benevolence, whether future generations will be horrified by what we presently think is the right thing to do. Responsibility, paying attention, openness and humility are always needed!

Just a thought about DNA. There was a time when one could argue that adopted children should not be able to trace and contact biological relatives, and unknown relatives could not be found. But with significant numbers of us getting DNA tests and sharing results (for example on Ancestry) the genie is out of the bottle. We can no longer be confident that our roots are confidential. Perhaps there will be a letter in the post asking us about someone we've never heard of....

Howard Mason

Sheila Critchlow

Many older members of St Anne's will remember former parishioner Sheila Critchlow. In her later years she moved from Sale to County Durham to live with family and then in a nearby retirement home. Her daughter has let us know that Sheila has just died, peacefully, just before her 96th birthday. Her funeral will be held at Darlington Crematorium on Friday 14 November.

A CALL OUT TO HALL USERS WHO HAVE A CUPBOARD

What's behind your wardrobe door in the Church Hall?

Can you share the space with the Chat and Craft Group?

Contact Elizabeth Mills email: safeguarding.stannessale@gmail.com

Many Thanks

Testing times

In the examination, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."



The boiler only worked if the Verger switched it on

It has been cold in church recently. Our Future Foundations plans include replacing the heating system but are held up by planning permission issues with Trafford. Meanwhile, the ancient heating boiler has broken down and parts aren't readily available. We're working on it!

Sad News

We note with sadness the sudden death of **Rev Canon Michael Burgess**, very shortly after his retirement as Vicar Of Oughtrington near Lymm. He was well known not just in the Lymm area but around the diocese and the Bishop to open the to a number of members of St Anne's.

Only a few days previously, Bishop Mark Tanner had installed him as a canon emeritus at Chester Cathedral and has now paid tribute movingly on the diocesan website: Michael was one of the canon emeritus was a few incumbents still serving in the Diocese whom the Bishop

remembers from his own days as a Curate. "He was a faithful priest, deeply committed to his people, and served his parish with quiet dedication for many vears. It was a joy for new Hall at St Peter's. Oughtrington, which Michael and the parish community had recently completed. The respect and allection in which he was held were clear in the faces of all who gathered.

"His installation as fitting tribute to his holiness and



lifelong service in the Diocese of Chester. Michael remains in our love and prayers, along with all who mourn his passing."

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 newssheets 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

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Organist & Choir Leader: Vacant

Choir: Tuesdays 6.45pm, Contact: matt.roughlev.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 Weds 6.30 - 8 pm in the Church Hall 2nd Sale Moor: 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