



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

e-Spire

September
& October
2026

Harvest

We celebrate Harvest on **Sunday 4 October**. Our custom is to split Harvest gifts between South Trafford Foodbank and the Boaz Trust. We expect to provide lists of what would be most helpful to their client groups nearer the time.

Fair Trade Sunday

We celebrate Fair Trade Sunday on **Sunday 20 September**, at the start of Fairtrade Fortnight which this year runs from 21 September to 4 October. This year Fairtrade Fortnight is all about: "People. Planet. Pay - Do it Fair".

Around the world, the people who grow, pick, and make the things we buy are facing challenges: unfair pay, unsafe working conditions, and a climate crisis threatening their livelihoods. Fairtrade exists to change this, and to push for the rules that make fairness the norm, not the exception.

The Eco Group and Fairtrade team have come together to highlight the simple



actions we can take to lessen the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of farmers here and around the world. Look out for more detail in the newssheet and why not take up a 'Challenge' from the action sheet which we will distribute from 20 September.

Mothers Union

Hello, it's my turn again. I hope you all had a good summer break and if you managed to get away you had a lovely time, I think for most of us the weather has cooled down a tad so things will have been a little more comfortable than in previous weeks.

On 1 July we held our Deanery Festival service at St Anne's and we welcomed members from Holy Cross branch to the service. We also were lucky to have Di Waller, our Diocesan President, with us for the occasion. It was a lovely service and afterwards we gathered in the hall for a brew and a chat.



You may be aware that our branch has for a number of years given out the Moira Garnett Award to young people who have researched the MU and put together a presentation. This helps them grow in confidence to speak in public whilst learning about our organisation. This year the prize went to Alice, Elizabeth Mills's granddaughter. Well done Alice you did an excellent job!

We are going away for a few days in September up to the lakes and typically I think the weather will have definitely turned by then and we may well need our waterproofs! Ho hum that's life I guess! I've just come back from seeing family and I was gifted by my cousin a banana plant, my challenge for the coming year is to keep it alive and hope it grows! I'll keep you updated!

September for me always makes me think of starting the new year, I suppose that comes from working in education for many years. It also is the start of new seasons for a lot of our sports teams and as usual my personal focus will revert to an oval ball held and hopefully kept hold of by men in blue shirts and a round ball that is kicked by men in red shirts. I'll let you think about

which red shirts! I just hope their coming seasons don't mess with my heart rate/blood pressure too much!

This month our meeting is our annual service held in church, we'll stay in church after and have a brew and a chat. We meet on Monday 14 September and remember we start earlier than usual, the service will begin at 7.45 pm, not 8 pm as it says on our programme!

The committee will be meeting up in the coming weeks to start putting into action our programme for 2027 so if you've got anything you want us to include please let one of us know and we'll do our best to include it.

Look after yourselves
Carol & Jackie



A note from Early Essentials

Just wanted to send a quick thank you to you and your group members for the lovely donations to Early Essentials, everything you have sent is perfect for us, thanks so much!

Kind Regards - Sarah Newton-Smith - Co-Founder/Executive Officer

Early Essentials UK, Charity No 1186657

***Help yourself to Wool and Pattern in box at back of church for you to knit cot blankets ***

Taizé-tastic

When the opportunity came, we grabbed it with both hands. A week-long stay in Taizé, to worship with the 80 or so brothers who live there and the thousands of visitors who travel there weekly, to live in community.

Taizé is a fairly large village in the Burgundy region of France. Simplicity was the word of the week – everything was just enough and not more. We sat on wooden benches, learnt to dine using only a spoon, shared a dorm with five others and became experts at queuing. Worldly things aside, the



worship was simply spirit filling. How encouraging to see 2,000 people, mostly young, pouring into the Taizé church three times a day to worship Jesus.

All worship is sung, and in every single language. We sang in Romanian, Chinese, German, Portuguese, Italian, French and many more languages and heard prayers sung in Arabic, Bengali and Thai to name a few. This multi-national, ecumenical worship was truly inclusive. Worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Christ from every nation under the sun was simply

magical and a powerful reminder that Jesus came to die for every single one of us around the globe. During the worship, silence is held for ten minutes, a unique experience for most, to allow room to hear from the Almighty.

That video clip we often see in church during communion of the Taizé altar with the candles, really does look like that!

We're working up a talk about our trip to Taizé and hope to share much more of what we



encountered in this thin place of the earth. We hope you'll want to join us when we schedule it.

Bip and Beena



It's another marathon!

Sunday 4 October is not just our Harvest Festival and the feast of St Francis but also the Manchester Half Marathon. As usual there will be road closures; if you're affected, you should have had a leaflet through the door. St Anne's church is full accessible by road but parishioners in Broad Road, Temple Road, Dane Road and in between are cut off again.



Jerusalem

When we celebrated St Anne's day, our patronal festival, we sang "Jerusalem". Words by William Blake, music by Sir Hubert Parry. Who doesn't love it? It's a sort of unofficial English (as opposed to British/UK) national anthem.

Well, I've sometimes had my doubts. It conjures up stereotypical views of Women's Institutes, country women of a certain age and class – "Jam and Jerusalem" – and young hooray Henrys waving their little Union Jacks at the last night of the proms. A song for those whose England is indeed a green and pleasant land, for those who don't live amid those dark satanic mills. It can sound complacent, or, with its

admittedly metaphorical military references, triumphalist.

But look again. It's about struggle. About creating something wonderful in place of what is described as dark, satanic. My feelings about it were transformed by a young Jamaican poet – Michael Smith (I won't pretend to know what a dub poet is). He was a left wing critic of much in Jamaica and the UK, with poems of rage like "Mi cyaan believe it", and was murdered, apparently by political opponents, at the age of 28. My album of his poems includes him reciting Jerusalem, fizzing and spitting with passion. Here we really hear of and feel the unceasing fight to build something better.



All sorts of things that we enjoy become familiar; it's good to come at them from a fresh angle, and with hymns, anthems and

we know so well.

Howard Mason

Praise for parishes

"Six decades of ever-strengthening individualism have taught us that societies with weak institutions see the strong trample the vulnerable. In an age of dissolving parties, unions, and associations, a parish that is simply, reliably there: worshipping faithfully each Sunday, keeping the doors open for prayer, and committing the dead to God isn't a relic but a rock in an avalanche." Gerry Lynch, see the full article [here](#)

Creationtide...



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water Season of Creation 2026

“Creationtide” has entered our vocabulary. The Church of England along with Roman Catholics, Orthodox and other denominations now celebrates the “Season of Creation”. It begins on 1 September – the start of the Orthodox church year- and runs until St Francis’ Day, 4 October. Churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it.

This year’s theme is Living Water, reflecting this passage from Ezekiel: “Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything

grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezek 47:9,12)

The theme, offers a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God’s sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores

fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God’s river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

There is a website devoted to this theme:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/>

The celebration guide has a lot about the history of the theme and the people involved, ecumenically and internationally, but within all that are some great ideas and resources.

At St Anne’s our Eco Group focuses on practical action that cares for our Earth. Do talk to its members and find out more of what it’s doing.



Creationtide or the Season of Creation

This is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Many churches choose to use this time of year to hold special services and events to give thanks for God’s gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our one planet home.



"Looking out of the window"

Where has the summer gone? The trees are battling in the heat and the leaves are turning brown and landing on footpaths, reminding me of childhood pleasures of scuffing through them.

The tubs have received carefully small amounts of well directed water in the blissful cool of the evenings and have been wonderfully cheerful. One such planter is an original chimney pot from the roof of this house which the previous owner had left for us - a characterful alternative to a plastic plant pot.

At last the rudbeckias have responded to care and are in their magnificent gold and bronze uniforms.

There certainly has been plenty of life in the fly and butterfly populations. Even a pair of Peacock butterflies had found their way into the house through an open window one day. On another day, the garden next door has a fountain which was

entertaining two pigeons. They were cleansing themselves during a heavy shower of rain. (Yes there was some a few months ago!) It was a happy sight through the window.



Parakeets are strangers in the garden now because I have stopped feeding them. They were costing me a small fortune! The little birds - including a nuthatch - still come to the small seed feeder.

Squirrels abound, and up to five

foxes frequent the early morning garden. Whilst I was sitting reading on a very hot afternoon in the shade of the same garden one day, a fox appeared about three yards away then continued, sauntering away, having given me a look.

I think the best bird story this month is about when I was parked at a red light at the Stretford motorway junction one day. A magpie landed on the pavement at the edge of a pedestrian



crossing. It waited a moment and the light went green and then it set off walking and hopping along the crossing to the other side. It was either

very knowledgeable or a coincidence but the situation made me chuckle whilst looking out of the window.

Bridget

Lay Gathering 2026



Together in Christ, sharing hope
working together to transform our communities

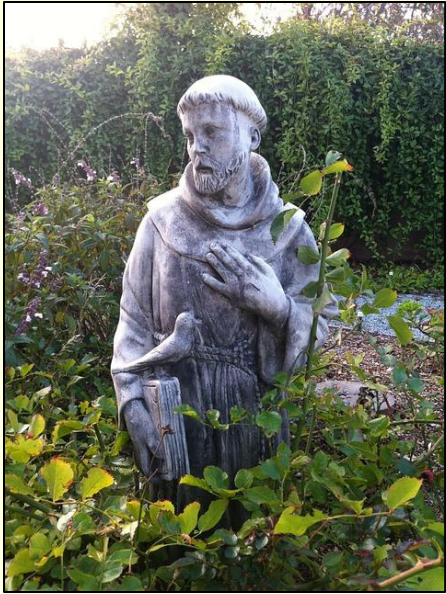
Saturday 19 September
Chester Cathedral and online

A day event at Chester Cathedral and online for lay people across the diocese, resourcing and encouraging people to live out their faith in the world and the church. A mix of worship, keynote talks from Bishop Mark and seminars across the day, as well as time to mix and meet others. It will also be accessible digitally, both live and after the event. Put the date in your diary and look out for booking information and full details.

The belief in the possibility of a short decisive war appears to be one of the most ancient and dangerous of human illusions. Robert Lynd

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. HG Wells

St Francis



4 October is the feast of St Francis of Assisi. We know about his life and influence in his native Italy, about his love for animals and preaching to the birds, and about the Franciscan order. But remarkably, in 1219 he also travelled to the Holy Land and beyond, visiting Bethlehem before crossing enemy lines in Egypt to visit the Sultan, Malik-al-Kamil (nephew of the famous Saladin), preaching the Christian faith to him. Returning from the land

where he had stood in places sanctified by Christ's earthly presence, he recognised that most Christians would never make such a pilgrimage. And so, he gave us the Christmas crib!

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1223, in a cave near the small Italian town of Greccio, Francis created not merely a commemorative tableau or artistic representation, but a living, breathing recreation of the Nativity that allowed ordinary people to encounter the mystery of the Incarnation. The common people of medieval Italy — peasants, labourers, and townsfolk — heard the Gospel proclaimed in Latin they couldn't understand, in churches filled with images and rituals that often seemed distant from their daily lives. Francis sought to bridge this gap. Working with a local nobleman, he prepared a cave in the hillside. He brought a real ox and donkey and arranged hay in a manger. On Christmas Eve, the local community gathered by

torchlight. Mass was celebrated at the manger, with Francis himself serving as deacon and preaching about the humble birth of Christ.

For Francis, the central mystery of Christianity was that God did not remain distant and transcendent but entered fully into the material world, taking on human flesh with all its vulnerability and limitation. By recreating the Nativity with real elements — living animals, actual straw, the smell of the

stable, Francis was making a theological statement: the physical world matters to God. Matter is not something to be transcended or escaped but the very vehicle of divine presence. Now we have Christmas cribs in churches, on mantelpieces and widow ledges and on countless Christmas cards (sorry if this is the first mention of Christmas, too soon!). Let's not forget what it's all about!



Children's Society Coffee Morning

Hi. I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to my coffee morning in July. It was lovely to see so many people there. I thought you'd like to know that the door and raffle raised the wonderful amount of £85.15 and I had donations of £75 given in addition to what's received from people who have boxes or who donate annually. The amount from those who give annually is £349.83 to date. Thank you everyone

Carol Thomas
Children's Society
Rep for St Annes



Producing the magazine

Do you remember the days when one bought programs for the home computer on a CD, uploaded them and that was it? Nowadays they're provided and maintained online, updated by the providers when it suits them whether you like it or not. Microsoft has decided to withdraw MS Publisher and this autumn it will vanish from our computer. Somehow I doubt whether my subscription will go down. They tactlessly advise us to save all our .pub files in a different format. I've got hundreds, maybe thousands, I'm a big user so that's a ridiculous challenge. And I'd like to think I'm a skilled user.

Why am I telling you

this, other than to let off steam? Well, MS Publisher is what I use to produce this magazine. I now have to find a new way of doing it. I've explored options and the most practical seems to be PowerPoint. I've a lot to learn, so bear with me if the magazine appearance is not up to the usual standard, there are positives to learning something new. I'll get there!

Howard

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.

Ronald Reagan

I could not be leading a religious life unless I identified myself with the whole of mankind, and that I could not do unless I took part in politics. - M K Gandhi

The e-Spire is our alternative to a hard-copy parish magazine. It supplements 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

Parish Directory

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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 Workers:	Shauna Hancock & Laura Elison - shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com	
Churchwardens:	Andrew Egar - e-mail: andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com	07808 466 371
PCC Secretary:	Ann Hunt: hunt289@icloud.com	
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	1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com
2nd Sale Moor:	Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 pm in the Church Hall	2ndsalemooorrainbows@gmail.com

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

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	
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