

The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!
Song of
Songs 2:12

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

e-Spire

March
2022

Services for Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday - 2 March: 10 am and 7 pm services available with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Sunday 6 March - Lent 1: 8 am Holy Communion with the Book of Common Prayer. 10 am Holy Communion and 11.30 Families Service as usual. Followed by Lent Lunch.

Wednesday 9 March: 10 am Holy Communion followed by Lent Study at 11 am.

Sunday 13 March - Lent 2: 10 am Holy Communion and 11.30 Families Service as usual.

Wednesday 16 March: 10 am Holy Communion then Lent Study at 11 am.

Sunday 20 March - Lent 3: 10 am Holy Communion and 11.30 Families Service as usual. Followed by Lent Lunch.

Lockdown anniversary: Wednesday 23 March - 10 am communion service followed by Lent Study at 11 am.

Mothering Sunday - 27 March: Flowers will be distributed at both the 10 am service of Holy Communion and at the 11.30 am Family Service.

Wednesday 30 March: 10 am Holy Communion then Lent Study at 11 am.

Passion Sunday - 3 April: 8 am Holy Communion with the Book of Common Prayer. 10 am Holy Communion and 11.30 Families Service as usual.

Wednesday 6 April: 10 am Holy Communion then Lent Study at 11 am.

Palm Sunday - 10 April: All together worship at 10 am with a donkey! This service starts outside the church hall.

Maundy Thursday - 14 April: Meal, foot washing and holy communion in the church hall. Starts at 6.30 pm.

Good Friday - 15 April: Family service at 10 am in church. Meditation at the Cross 1 pm

Easter Sunday - 17 April: All together worship at 10 am with candles as we celebrate the risen Christ. Easter eggs will be available.... but you may have to hunt for them.

Untangling the knots

What is Jesus asking us to do as we begin to think about Lent? I believe he is inviting us to untie the knots that keep us from him and from following His way.

I love to sail. It offers freedom, the boat comes alive when the wind fills her sails; you can feel her cutting through the waves, that inert piece of plastic now has purpose and almost a tangible soul, as the wind fills the canvass and she plays in the surf. Coming into harbour needs preparation. Uncoiling the ropes, undoing the knots,

and sometimes that takes more than one person! Sometimes I need a little extra help.

I was playing with this idea of untying knots, of allowing ourselves to place these pieces of knotted rope at the feet of Jesus. Do you recall two of His disciples on a trip into town to find and bring back a colt for Him? Jesus knew the colt was tied to a doorway. Tied up, the colt could not carry Christ, it could not do the work Jesus needed it to do; it needed to be untied. *Untie it and bring it*

here. It is a wonderful statement to bring to our prayers. What is it you need to untie and bring to the Lord, what are you clinging to that we need to take to Jesus?

Jesus knows us; he knows where our knots are. He sees the sin that tangles our hearts; he understands the hurts that bruise our beliefs. Sometimes it takes time to untie a knot, other times it is simple – but the result is freedom, being untied will bring us closer to God and set us free to do Jesus' work.

Leaving our knots at the feet of Jesus will release us from the heavy burden of the Law. "*Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?*" Jesus was not afraid to have a pop at Torah!! Go to the Law for help and come away with an even greater burden – an even greater knot to untie!! Jesus wants us to fulfil the Law and go beyond that of the Pharisees in every way; that can only be done when we leave our tangled

knots at His feet.

Jesus invites us to *untie it and bring it here*....During our prayers pay attention to what traps you and what burdens are you carrying in your heart. What can we give up into Jesus' hands and let go? Freedom and love wait for us instead of the weight of burden. We would rather cling to past hurts than forgive and move on. We are weighed down by how we used to do things instead of taking the risk to try something new.

Jesus frees our tangled hearts and messes, unties our snarled sins, and sets us free.

May you get to know God better. May His presence remind you how much he loves you. What are you clinging to which is holding you back from taking the next step? May your journey awaken new life in your soul?

Dave Murray



Lent lunches

Sunday 6 and 20 March

following coffee after the 10am service.

Join us for a frugal lunch of soup and roll provided by the Overseas Group and Brownies. Everybody welcome.

Donations this year will be shared equally between Christian Aid and Water Aid.

For more information, see last month's eSpire, [here](#) at page 4

Lent study course

'Living Stones, Living Hope' starts soon.....

Join us on Wednesday 9 March from 11.00 to 12noon in church and for the next four Wednesdays.

Study guides are available from the back of church. More information is in last month's eSpire on-line [here](#) at page 4.

Everybody welcome. Why not join us.

We recently said our farewells to Mary Brewer who died at the great age of 103. I hope she'd have enjoyed the following:

The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman. "And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said.
"No peer pressure."

Dates for your diary

Mama Mia night

Saturday 2 April

Come to the Church Hall in your 70s finest and enjoy an evening watching and singing along to this iconic movie.



Building Brick Extravaganza

Saturday 9 July

Come and enjoy some amazing building works by local skilled Lego constructors in the Hall and church.

Both events are to raise funds for our Future Foundations Project

The Beer Festival is back!

Do you remember a lovely autumn weekend before Covid when many of us enjoyed some time at a Round Table beer festival in the Church Hall? Now, at last, they're back.

Come along on Friday evening or on Saturday to enjoy a range of craft beers and/or prosecco/gin/soft drinks if that suits you. Also food from Northern Smoke and The Curry Den. And we are among the causes for which it will raise funds.

See their [website](#) for extensive details, and do come along.



...is back! In St Anne's Church Hall.
Gin and Prosecco too.
And soft drinks and food.

**Friday 11 March 19.00 - 23.00
Saturday 12 March 14.00 - 23.00**

More on www.bigbeerfest.co.uk

"Looking out of the window"

How things can change in just four weeks. There have been three gales this month, with Eunice being particularly violent for buildings, trees, and tragically indeed for lives, across the nation. Getting off fairly lightly locally, we then suffered a wild night of Storm Franklin to remind us that we shouldn't be complacent.

The garden however has survived the onslaught with wonderfully cheerful snowdrops, crocuses (croci?) of all colours, a miniature purple iris, and the one anemone - will the others ever appear? - all gracing the flower beds.

The real moment of wonder however was when we gazed in awe one breakfast time at the biggest, brightest and most magnificent rainbow ever to be seen. It seemed to have its feet on Priory Road, just a couple of gardens away. It reminded us of all the rainbow pictures which have decorated house windows over the last two years of Covid - a symbol of hope for the future.

The birds are very "vocal" in the local trees as they claim their territories, and the magpies are

washing themselves vigorously in the birdbath whether it is pouring down or not. Two owls have been hooting at each other at a regular time in the early evenings.

The last view from the window has been the arrival of our first daffodil on 15 February, one day earlier than last year. We have added the date to the graph which Hugh set up 40 years ago. Back in 1985 the first daffodil was registered on March 29th! The earliest date ever recorded was on January 24th 2019. Therefore for those who enjoy statistical details, the average "first date" over the last 40 years is February 22nd, so this year the glorious yellow flower arrived a week early.

Bridget Beggs

APCM

Our Annual meeting takes place on Sunday 24 April in church following worship. Details of nominations for various posts and annual reports will be available nearer the time.

Ashing

Such a strange name for a church service! Why would anyone be attracted to attend such a thing?

Ash Wednesday begins Lent with a service in which a sign of the cross is placed on each person's forehead using ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses.

The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship; the Old Testament referring to sackcloth and ashes over twenty times.

There is clearly a visual link with the blackness of evil and sin but also the 'dirtiness' that spreads everywhere from it, like a small amount of mud on the shoes walked into the house that soon goes everywhere.

In Christian records, ashes are used for penitents by the sixth century, but it is not until the beginning of the eleventh century that the faithful took part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Still later this came to be called Ash Wednesday.

Over the centuries the emphasis of meaning for the imposed ashes has

changed, from a preparation for baptism, a renewal of baptismal vows, to an understanding of a community's preparation for the event of the Paschal mystery of rebirth at Easter. It reminds of what is past and what is to come, and it encourages us to think again of how we can change that journey should we wish to do so.

The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. It is 'felt' in the heart and soul – as well as on the skin. And it can be one of the most profound experiences of humility on our journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection.

As the priest says the traditional words over you, "Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Amen." what will you be focusing upon?

Revd Dr Jo White (a former member of St Anne's)

We will offer ashing at our 10 am and 7 pm services on Ash Wednesday, 2 March.

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Mothers Union

It is that time of the month again and as I write this we are in the middle of Storm Eunice. Fortunately we do not seem to be having it as bad as

other places. My family are in Northumberland for half term and as we were FaceTiming last night (17th February) the cottage they were staying in

suddenly went dark; they had suffered a power cut.

The owner of the property called round with torches and candles and there was a wood-burning stove so they could keep warm. The boys thought it was great apart from suddenly realising that there was no Wi-Fi so devices didn't work. As I wrote, I was hoping the storm did clear up here and in Wales as I was off for the weekend to a Wedding in Llanberis on Sunday 19th.

On a happy note it does seem that we are coming to the end of some of the restrictions and are getting more freedom but I do still wear a mask when I am in the shops. The only thing is that due to the higher rate of Omicron in St Anne's school I have not been able to go in and listen to the children read, so hopefully I will be back in after Half Term.

This month we held our Annual General meeting for the first time in two years, and all went well. The reports

and accounts covered the last two years. Our Committee Members remain the same apart from the one member who is having a break for twelve months. Sadly Mavis has decided that she will not be coming to any of our meetings but is remaining a loyal Member; on a celebratory note, this year she has been a member of the Mothers Union for 50 years.

Carol and myself along with Joan Tanner went to visit her and Jim this week and we had a lovely time. Their bungalow is beautiful and if it belonged to my family I would make them convert their garage into a Granny Flat as it is so big.

At the meeting we also noted that we were no longer knitting blankets for MU but the knitters amongst you could still carry on as Janice would welcome them for BOAZ. We can also make Premature Baby Bonnets for Wythenshawe Hospital; Elizabeth is letting us have the pattern.

Our March meeting (14th) is our Overseas Day. And on Saturday afternoon, 26 March, we will be making our Mother's Day posies, probably in church rather than in the Hall. All help welcomed.

March is also the period of Lent and I think I will be doing the same as last year when I bought an item a day for Foodbank instead of giving something up.

We are also hoping to have a day out to Bala in May to visit Mary Jones's Chapel. We do intend to open the trip to all and we will let you know the cost shortly. We will visit the Chapel on arrival and then have time for some lunch and a walk round Bala.

Keep safe and hopefully we can all look forward to some warmer weather and sunshine instead of rain.

Love from
Jackie and Carol

The poster features a central illustration of a traditional wooden church with arched windows and doors, set against a background of green hills and a blue sky. In front of the church, a small white flower is placed on a brick-paved path. The text on the poster is as follows:

Friday 4th March — 2pm

World Day of Prayer
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

A Service for Everyone

St. Martin's Church,
Ashton on Mersey
Church Lane, Sale, M33 5QQ

Remembering Mothers

The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth.

From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family.

These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. This might have been their home church or their nearest cathedral. The Services at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The term 'Mothering Sunday' dates from the 16th century. This year it falls on 27 March.

'Mother's Day' is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the

family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Parish Pump

The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the
Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.

Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

You should not confuse your career with your life.

God made man to be somebody, not just to have things. Anon

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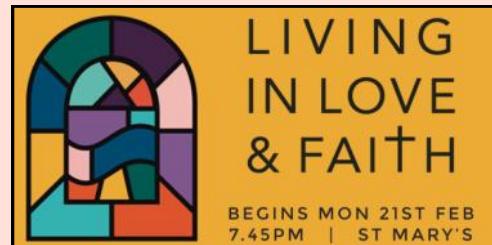
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Living in Love and Faith

Faced with divisions and sometimes bewilderment because of society's changing perspectives on issues of gender and sexuality, the Church of England has asked all parishes to engage in this listening and learning progress as it seeks to chart its way forward. And so some of us have been making our way to St Mary's in Ashton-on-Mersey on Monday nights to share in this process with others from our deanery and we'll report in due course how we got on. There is still the opportunity to join in the sessions on 28 February and 7, 14 and 21 March at 7.45. And though there is a booklet (and a host of other resources) on the Church of England website, we are led through by video with breaks for discussion at our various tables.

It will be interesting to see where this takes us; many of us will have made up our mind on the issues and may have cemented ourselves into rigid positions but who's to say how what we learn and hear may change us. We have started by preparing the way so that we can listen and share graciously and constructively.

I think we are clear that it is not the Church's job simply to conform to



the prevailing opinions and practices of the wider world, but at the same time, if that wider world appears to think that we are not the good guys but that our behaviour as an organisation is harmful, hateful, hurtful, we need to give that serious attention. Open discussion in parishes can only help because so many inside and outside the church make assumptions about what we think, individually and collectively.

In case you don't know it, though I hope you all do, let me remind you of the story of Lizzie Lowe, a 14-year old from St James and Emmanuel parish in Didsbury who committed suicide in 2014 because she feared to tell her family and her church that she was gay. One aspect of the tragedy was that the church would not have had a problem with this, it had believed itself to be open and welcoming but sexuality was not a subject for discussion out of fear of 'stirring up a hornet's nest' so Lizzie was not to

know that she would have continued to be accepted, loved and supported. The parish's journey since then to change radically and to demonstrate a true inclusiveness is an important story for our times. It would be a

surprise if there was nothing we can learn from it and this "LLF" process may well help us in that direction.

Howard Mason

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

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Why God made mums

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
2. Mostly to clean the house, I think.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
3. God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
3. Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background, like has he put anything too disgusting on Facebook?
3. She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that no one will ever know.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Dad is, because mum says so. She just helps by reminding him what to do each day.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. Dad was, until Mum found what he had written on Facebook about Granny.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

1. She takes my brother to football and my sister to violin lessons.
2. To hear her tell it, it's like she pays bills all day long.
3. I think that must happen during the night, because then she just lies there and sleeps.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

3. She would understand why the dog needs to sleep with me at night.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it

was my sister who did it and not me.

3. She'd be more relaxed about me not doing my homework.



Churches Tackling Poverty in Sale



You are warmly invited to come and celebrate 3 years of our CAP centre in Sale on Thursday 10th March 2022.

There will be a buffet from 6:30 to 7:00 pm followed by an hour of celebration including news of exciting developments in the future.

Come and join us at The Life Centre, 235 Washway Road, Sale, M33 4BP.

RSVP to hilarygrierson@yahoo.co.uk by 6th March.

What did churches learn during lockdown?

This month marks two years since the UK's first Covid lockdown. Churches closed their doors for worship as infection levels, hospital admissions and, tragically, deaths rose. Even today, some worshippers are reluctant to return to 'in person' worship, and churches are still taking care to limit Covid risks.

What did we learn in the 24 months since the pandemic became part of our everyday lives? I have picked out four learning points:

Churches built stronger links with their local communities. Church services may have been suspended, or moved online, but many churches set up networks of support for people within their congregations and across their areas. Churches supported or set up ways of helping the most vulnerable in their communities, and many churchgoers volunteered to help local caring charities and, later, at vaccination centres.

Churches reached new people by going online. Overnight, many churches threw open their doors to people on their doorstep, and further afield. Suddenly, distance did not matter – and people were 'attending' online services at churches around the world. Worshippers with disabilities welcomed the online services – and gently asked why it had taken the wider Church so long to acknowledge their needs.

Churchgoers learnt to be grateful for all the things they had taken for granted. Suddenly, singing hymns or worship songs together, receiving

communion with bread and wine, and responding to a sermon together, all became a memory from an earlier time. We realised how much we needed each other and appreciated each other's fellowship and presence. Home-based fellowship groups, now online, thrived at many churches.

Churches chose their priorities. During lockdown, many churches asked themselves, what really matters? What are our priorities now? Disputes around issues of church governance or practices were put on the back-burner and congregations

focussed on providing services of worship and supporting those in need.

These are just my 'top four' suggestions – and of course they will not apply to all churches. Perhaps I have painted too rosy a picture? Why not ask yourself, what your church learnt during lockdown – and how far those lessons could help you plan for the future?

Revd Peter Crumpler
An Anglican priest from St Albans

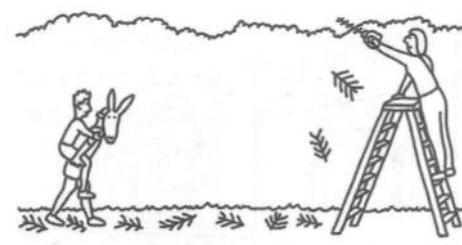
More from Dave Walker

No, not the Bishop of Manchester. The church has two great Dave Walkers; Dave Walker, the cartoonist has just published his latest collection: "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" (available from the Church House bookshop and Amazon). Covid has opened a fresh vein for his humorous analyses of parish life: a small extract from cartoons of before and after Covid is below. The collection is missing my favourite, the route through the vaccination centre in a cathedral that ends up in the gift shop, but this is a funny and thoughtful collection and I commend it to you.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



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PALM SUNDAY REENACTMENT



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Trafford South Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to operate from St Francis in conjunction with the Sale Moor Community Partnership who operate the voucher system and collate the computerised data.

Figures from April to December 2021 show an increase in numbers from 14 per month to 36 in November, which was the busiest month. The period from September has seen a steady increase in numbers compared with the previous period from April with a weekly average of nine. There are three foodbank volunteers every Monday who are able to meet the demands, as they are still not offering refreshments.

Clients are only allowed in one person at a time and have to wear a mask. There is a system in place where they leave by a side door meaning there is a safe entry and exit.

A representative from the Bread and Butter Thing works alongside the foodbank volunteers offering perishable goods from the fridge as well as fresh vegetables and fruit depending on the donations received that day. Plans for a

representative from Citizens Advice to attend as a trial to offer support had to be postponed because of the Pandemic.

The wider Trafford South Foodbank is appointing a new warehouse manager to release Nicky, the Project Manager, time to work on strategic objectives. With St. Francis' due to close in the summer, steps are being taken for relocation, possibly at Holy Family Church in Sale Moor.

From the Foodbank annual report to Churches Together in Sale

You can find out more about the Foodbank on-line [here](#).

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

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 0161 973 4145
	E-mail:	alisoncox19@hotmail.com
Hon Assistant Priest:	Rev Olwyn Marlow, 28 Arcadia Avenue	0161 962 9292
Curate:	Rev David Murray: d3.murray@hotmail.com	07985 032180
Readers:	Paul Edwards, 25 Abington Road	0161 969 2345
	Alan Ward, 8 Russell Avenue	0161 282 8789
Churchwardens:	Pauline Stacey, 8 Maple Road West	0161 962 3628
	e-mail:	Pauline@staceyfamily.net
	Andrew Egarr	07808 466 371
	e-mail:	Andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com
PCC Secretary:	Julia Greene:	jjegreene@hotmail.com
PCC Treasurer:	Tim Marlow,	28 Arcadia Avenue 0161 962 9292
Hall Bookings:	Lynda Ronan, 173 Dane Road	0161 900 8259
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:	Fridays 6.45pm Juniors, 7.15 Adults, in Church	
St Anne's School:	Headteacher – Polly Goodson	0161 973 7181
Overseas Group:	Chair - Janice Mason	0161 969 8570
1st Sale Moor Rainbows:	Mons 5 - 6 pm in the Church Hall	email 1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com
2nd Sale Moor Rainbows:	Weds 5.15 - 6.15 pm in the Church Hall	email 2ndsalemoorainbows@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 6pm at Moorlands School	
7th Sale Moor:	Tues 6 pm, Marsland Road Scout Hut	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 St Francis'	
Church Fellowship:	1st Monday of month 2 pm, 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

St Francis's - Budworth Road, off Norris Road, M33 2RP

Hall Booking	Vicky Gilbert	0161 374 3991
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