

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

e-Spire

December 2025  
January 2026

# Christmas Services 2025



**3rd Sunday of Advent 14 December**

**Nativity Play** - 10 am with Ricky the donkey  
to help tell the Christmas story

**4th Sunday of Advent 21 December**

**Carol Service** - Sunday 21 December at 6 pm: Carols and  
candles.

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December**

**Christingle for young folk** - 3.30 pm

**Christingle service** - 5.30 pm

**Midnight Mass** - 11.30 pm; the first Holy Communion of  
Christmas



**Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December**

**Holy Communion** - 10 am

**Epiphany, Sunday 4 January**

**Holy Communion** using the Book of  
Common Prayer - 8am

**Holy Communion**, with anointing and  
prayers for healing - 10 am

## A prayer for troubled times

GOD of love, whose compassion never fails, we bring before you the trouble and perils of people and nations, the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the weary, the failing powers of the aged. O Lord, draw near to each, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Anselm



## Christmas Fair

Saturday 6 December

12 noon - 4 pm in church

Starts at midday with Magic Philip and school choir

Stalls, refreshments and raffle. Come and join us for our annual Christmas fund raiser.

Can you help with items for the raffle, bottles for the bottle tombola and homemade cakes and mince pies? Please speak to Olwyn if you can help.

### Book Group

Our Book Group continues to meet monthly online. We've read a variety of novels with good discussion. We next meet on Monday 26 January at 7.30 pm after a Christmas break. The books we'll be discussing are Andrew Miller's *The Land in Winter* about two couples in the big freeze of 1962/63 and Ann Patchett's *Tom Lake* about three women returning to the family home in the Covid pandemic and seeking to find out about their mother's past relationship with a famous actor. You're welcome to join us – it's informal, we're far from literary, not everyone reads the book (or they don't finish it) and we do not expect to agree.

If you'd like to give it a try, speak to Margaret Blowey (rhbmeh@aol.com) who's our Zoom host.

# Christingle

We've moved closer to the time when we think about the man in the red suit and everything that goes along with that; mind you, I think the shops around Sale have been trying to tell us that since late August! I've had my blinkers on but I fear it is now time to take them off. However before I start the whole commercial stuff it's time for me to think oranges, cocktail sticks, sweets, ribbons, milk bottle tops (most important bit! HaHa) and candles, yep, it's Christingle time folks!

I know only too well how precious time is but I wonder if you can spare an hour on Christmas Eve to come and celebrate Christmas and the work of the Children's Society. The Christingle service is a very special time for me as some of you will know, it holds so many memories and I have been to almost all of the services we've had at St. Anne's since we started them in the early 1970s. I was very young at the start! The Christingle service is a time when you can leave all the mither you're balancing and come and reflect, find a time of peace amongst the joy of smiling children's faces. Hopefully you'll hear something read, sing something that resonates with you and leaves a mark, maybe a



comment from a child, the lights shining on the tree, meeting up with friends and family. I hope you can come and share in this magical experience.

What is important to me is that you all know that **all the money raised goes to the Children's Society**, not one penny goes toward expenses in any way.

We are again having 2 services, one at 3.30 pm, and one at 5.30 pm which will be the more traditional Christingle service. The service at 3.30 pm will last

around 30 minutes and is aimed at young families plus anyone who can't make the 5.30 pm service and those who prefer not to come out in the dark. If time is against you or you'd prefer to stay at home, our services are streamed online, just look for us on YouTube "St Anne's Sale".

St Anne's was one of the first churches in the country to hold a Christingle service after the very first in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968. I've seen changes in how our services have been run but they continue to give me goosebumps

every year. We at St Anne's have raised thousands of pounds for the Children's Society, something I am extremely proud of and thank each and every one of you for every penny you've given. To use a well known phrase "every penny counts".

I guess you might be saying "you're asking me for money, what do you want it for?" That's quite understandable as I do know times are tough for many of us, so why do the Children's Society need your donations? Your money is put to such good use. Last year they helped more than 57,652 young people directly and just over 3,500 parents and carers, isn't that wonderful? One young man who had been experiencing bullying, both verbal and physical, was referred to one of the Children's Societies exploitation services before the situation escalated. It was a turning point for him. He was given one to one support and it made such a difference, he felt empowered to just be himself around people and wanted to show people who he was. He said "The Children's Society had a very big impact on me. I felt happier, more interested and motivated". Your donations turned this young person's

# Christingle

life around. Your donations help provide art supplies giving some young people an outlet to express their feelings. Children can have time with trained professionals to help them understand and cope with situations. Project workers can check-in with children who are “not in a good place” on a regular basis. Young people living in poverty or unsafe housing can be provided with vital hygiene and health kits. The Children’s Society endeavour to provide support to every child and challenge the government to deliver policies that will protect them. A future of hope and happiness belongs to every child. Together, we can make sure that no child has to face life alone.

Let me remind you what a Christingle is? It consists of an orange, which represents the world. There is red tape around it, this represents love, the love of our family, our friends and of course God.

There are 4 cocktail sticks in it with sweets and dried fruit on them, these represent the fruits of the earth and all the good things God has given us. At the top there is a candle, this represents light, the light that God gives us bringing us hope and light in times of darkness and is also there to spread light in our joys as well.

As you enter church on Christmas Eve there will, if you wish, be an opportunity for you to hand in your donation for the Children’s Society or leave one in a plate, for which I thank you. If you can’t come but would like to donate some money, there will be envelopes and collecting candles at the back of church from the beginning of December for you to pick up, just drop them back at church anytime you’re passing, thank you so much.

Our Christingle services are for everyone, no matter what your age. Everyone will be made welcome. I look forward to welcoming you and seeing

old and new faces, come and say hello, have a sing, make a Christingle and just chill for a bit.

Please do check the church website [www.salestanne.org](http://www.salestanne.org) for details of all our services and any last minute changes.

May I wish you and all your family a fab-u-las Christmas. However you choose to spend the season may it bring you smiles and happiness. I hope the man in the red suit remembers you and you get all you wished for and a bit of chocolate as well!

Love

Carol Thomas  
St Anne’s Children’s  
Society Rep

Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer and pulled up in front of the toy factory. “At last!” he shouted, “No-el plates!”



## Making Christingles

This year we’ll be making Christingles in the CHURCH on Monday 23rd December at 7pm. Please note it’s a different venue this year as the hall is in use.

It’s a fun time, when we get together to have a chat and a laugh as we put together the makings of the Christingles.

These days we give out the Christingles in a DIY format for folk to make up during the service but we’ll need help to prepare the oranges and put tape around them, put the sweets on the cocktail sticks and put everything into bags ready for the services the following day.

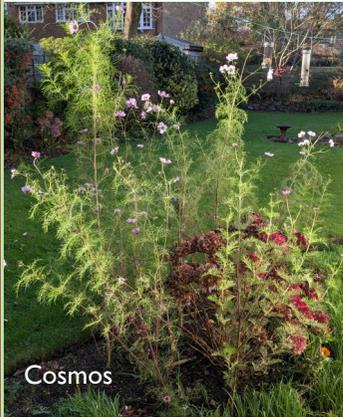
If you’re free why not come along and help us. There’ll be a brew, biscuits and possibly chocolates!

Thanks in advance

Carol Thomas

## "Looking out of the window"

Magpies have become proficient peanut eaters, with wings flapping furiously as they try to balance on the bird feeders. Parakeets, blue tits, great tits and robins are still very busy indeed and the squirrels are putting some weight on ready for winter protection by "hoovering up" the peanut crumbs.



Cosmos

After the gales and rain of last month the extreme chill of mid November has dealt the final blow to the busy lizzies and begonias and the hugely tall glorious cosmos plants, some of which grew to 6 feet and 4 inches! Their wonderfully feathery greenery, and pink, pale purple and white flowers were looking very sad and droopy after the heavy frost, but on trying to dig out those that were in the shady part of the garden I found that they were completely frozen in and they had to be left until some softening rain could make it possible.

Amidst their roots, and during the clearance of multitudinous beautiful red acer leaves in the back garden, I found a great number of daffodil bulbs poking their noses out - a very positive sign of their future glory to come. As I look out of the front window there is a rose tree with six healthy looking buds on it. Whether they can survive to actually flowering is another matter.



It has been a spectacularly colourful autumn season, and some bright yellow chrysanthemums have added to the splendour. They are the long time cuttings of plants from Hugh's mother's garden of 35 years or more !

With best wishes to all the members of the St Anne's family for Christmas and the New Year

Bridget



Acer leaves

## Some seasonal words from Shakespeare

That time of year... when yellow leaves, or none or few, do hang upon those boughs which shake against the cold, bare ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang.

73<sup>rd</sup> sonnet

The pleasure of the fleeting year! What freezings have I felt, what dark days seen! What old December's bareness every where! ... The very birds are mute; or, if they sing, 'tis with so dull a cheer that leaves look pale, dreading the winter's near.

97<sup>th</sup> sonnet

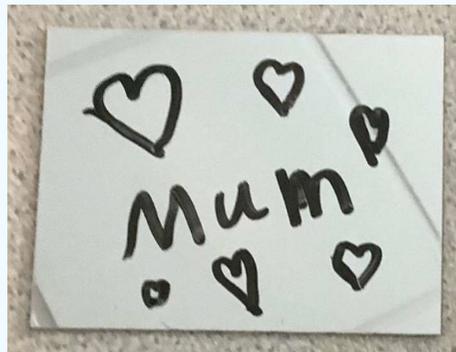
# Collective Worship at St Anne's School - Living the Value of Thankfulness



another thanking God for all the animals. The use of puppets and music helped even the youngest children engage meaningfully. Children reflected on who they are thankful for and were able to participate in a calm and inclusive environment.

## KS1 (Years 1 & 2)

Pupils created poppies to say thank you to soldiers and prepared for a special outdoor prayer. They even scattered poppy seeds, giving them a moment to reflect that their messages of thanks will grow over time. Music played an important role, with Year 1 singing along to a pop song about thankfulness, which made worship lively and engaging. Everyone, including SEND pupils, was able to participate fully, making the sessions personal and inclusive.



Over the past few weeks, children at St Anne's have been exploring the Christian value of thankfulness during their collective worship sessions. Worship has given them time to reflect, think deeply, and consider how they can show gratitude in their own lives. Recently, observations across all year groups have shown how children are putting their learning into action in creative, meaningful ways.

Here are some highlights from across the school:

## Early Years (Nursery & Reception)

Children began worship with joyful songs, including one welcoming everyone in the name of the Lord and

## Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

Children revisited the parable of Jesus and the Ten Lepers, linking biblical teachings to their own experiences. They reflected on moments when gratitude is important, from everyday actions to remembering those who have sacrificed for others.

Activities included lighting candles, creating a thankfulness playlist, and writing prayers. In Year 4, pupils wrote prayers for soldiers and appreciated the quiet, personal atmosphere of classroom worship, reflecting deeply on the message.

## Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

Older children showed maturity in linking scripture and Christian values to practical actions. Year 5 pupils designed their own ways to express thanks, from giving a hug to creating gifts or writing cards, inspired by stories shared by their teacher. Year 6 reflected on gratitude for a wide range of people, from family and friends to teachers and even wider community members.

They also watched a clip of a soldier playing the bugle and held a reflective moment of silence,

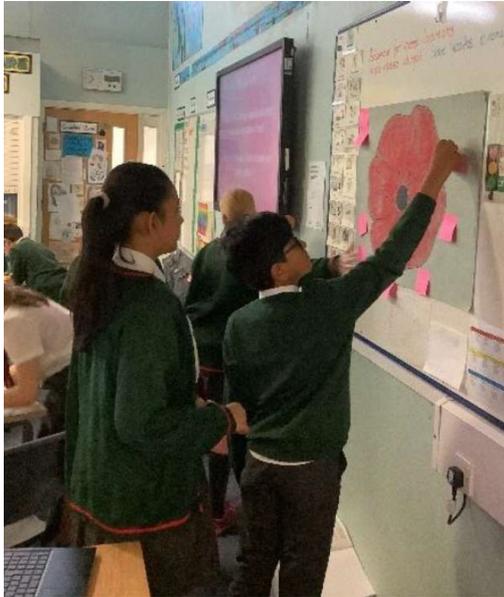
demonstrating deep respect and spiritual engagement.



**Common threads** across all year groups included:

- ◆ Reflection and moments of stillness to think personally about thankfulness.
- ◆ Creative, hands-on activities to express gratitude.
- ◆ Inclusive practice, ensuring all children can engage meaningfully.
- ◆ Use of music, symbolism, and storytelling to set a spiritual and engaging atmosphere.
- ◆ Opportunities for children to link biblical stories to their own experiences.

Worship at St Anne's is invitational, inspirational, inclusive, and child-



By celebrating gratitude as a family, we can bring worship to life beyond the classroom and inspire children to live out Christian values in everyday life.



'It's no use burying your head in the snow'

### Churches Together Christmas Event

CTiS is planning an event in Sale Mall, outside Specsavers, on Saturday 13 December 1 – 3 pm. There will be carol singing, handbell ringing and a Chocolate Challenge. Keep an eye on our website for more details.

focused, giving children the space to explore their own spirituality while learning about Christian values in a practical way.

### How Families Can Get Involved

We would love families to continue this journey of thankfulness at home! Please share via ClassDojo any messages of thanks or actions your family has taken inspired by your child's learning. This could be:

- ◆ Writing a thank-you card to someone special
- ◆ Performing an act of kindness together
- ◆ Sharing a prayer or reflection at home

### Who's missing

How do we imagine the nativity? What do we expect on our Christmas cards? We start with Joseph, Mary and Jesus *alone* in a stable, then we add animals, angels, shepherds, Magi and perhaps one or two of their servants. Some would question the historic nature of some of this but even those fully convinced of every element of the story would have difficulty explaining the absence of anyone else.

When Joseph and Mary arrived, the guest room was taken so the locals kindly came up with makeshift accommodation. Joseph had taken her to Bethlehem, the city of David because "he was of the house and lineage of David", he was going back to his roots. Surely there were people to see, relations to visit and on whom he could call for help. Where are they?

Shepherds turned up in strange circumstances. At very least some locals would have appeared to see what they were up to. Exotic foreigners turned up with their entourage; who would resist the temptation to go and gawp at them, to question them, to offer accommodation and provisions to seemingly wealthy travellers; and the local children would have been fascinated

But above all, can you imagine a baby being born in a small community without local women turning up all the time - curious, supportive, offering help and female company.

Perhaps it's because the story was written by men, though cards nowadays are designed by men and women, by feminists as well as by traditionalists. Perhaps we've been brainwashed into seeing the nativity in a particular way. Sometimes I wish I was arty: I'd try my hand at some Christmas scenes that involved the local Bethlehem community.

## Mothers Union

It's December!! Eeeekkk!  
Where did that 12 months go I ask you. It's my turn this month, hope you're all ok and keeping warm, the weather has certainly taken a turn to cold, wet and windy hasn't it!

Last month at our meeting we had a late change of plan and some of us brought in a favourite thing to show other members. I brought in my well loved and rather shabby looking Teddy. My brother "gave" it to me when I was a baby, a couple of years back now! I'm never too sure how willingly he gave me his Teddy but he was loved, maybe a tad too much really, straw leaks from his body and he's patched of a fashion and wearing knitted items made by my Nan! After we shared our favourite things we enjoyed a brew and a chat and a fair few laughs!

This month we are looking forward to getting back together for our **Advent Symposium**, as usual put together by Elizabeth, thank

you Elizabeth. Mulled Wine, mince pies and shortbread will be on offer as well as the usual tea and coffee, so we will be charging you £4 as opposed to the usual £3 this month, hope you all don't mind. Our meetings are open to everyone, why not come and join us and share in our Symposium listening to readings and having some quiet time to get away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations. **The date of our meeting is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the church hall at 8pm.**

Please remember that at our December meeting, Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, is the last day you can let us have any presents you've bought for TDAS (Trafford Domestic Abuse Services). If it is easier, you can drop your gift off in church and either Jackie or myself will pick it up from there. There is no need to wrap your gift, the folk at TDAS will do the wrapping as they know the families concerned and it's easier to match presents if they can see

what they have been given. Thank you in advance for all the gifts you have given.

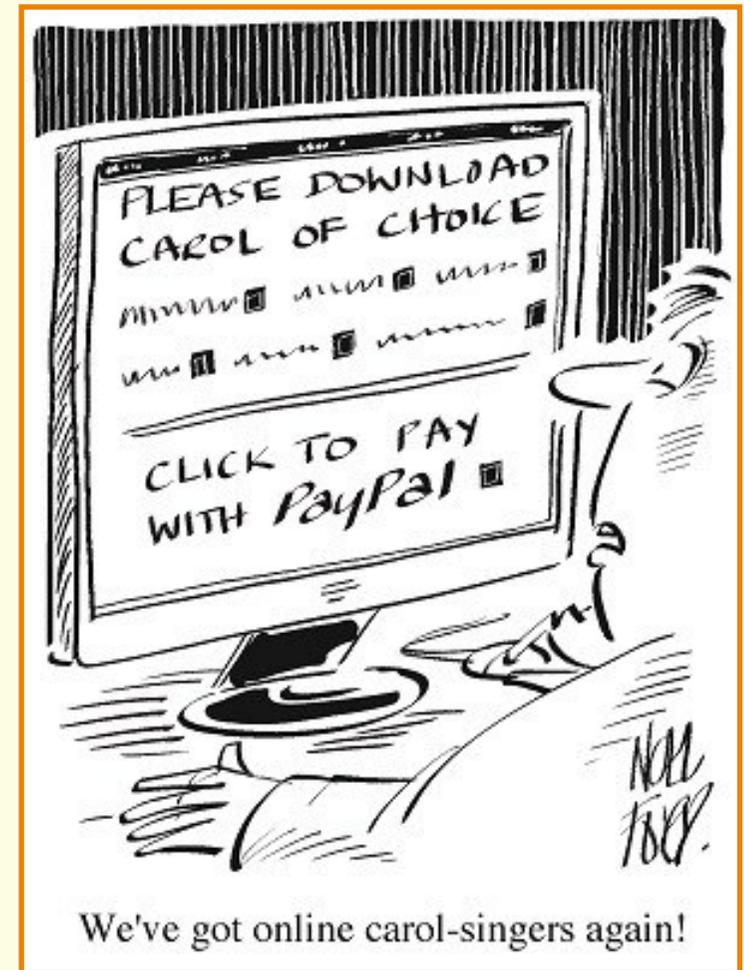
In January, on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, we're having our usual party, starting at 7pm. If you've not already told Jackie you're coming please do so as soon as possible. We will as usual provide hot drinks but if you want anything stronger remember to bring your own! Oh, and yes, don't forget your prayer partner gift! If you need a reminder who your prayer partner is please contact Jackie, she has the list!

Have a wonderful and joyful Christmas, may you have times of fun and laughter and spend time with those that you love and make you smile.

Carol & Jackie

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"



## Flying Lessons

The angels that the shepherds saw  
Whose singing led them to adore  
The new-born Jesus in a stall  
At one time could not fly at all!

To hover, singing, o'er a hill  
While playing harps – well, that takes skill!  
And blowing trumpets as you fly  
Without falling from the sky?

So novice angels all must go  
And learn the facts that they must know.  
Aerodynamics, and such things  
Before they even get their wings!

Then they practice flying well  
For crashing just might break the spell  
The shepherds won't be 'sore afraid'  
As laughter drowns the carols played!

It's sad, but some are never meant  
For soaring through the firmament.  
But they can spend eternal days  
Writing hymns of angel-praise!

But some soon grasp the things they're taught  
Becoming singing aeronauts!  
Formation flying? Piece of cake!  
And what an awesome sight they make!

And, like the angels in the sky  
God teaches us both how and why  
That we should learn, this Christmastime  
To praise His name in song and rhyme!  
*(P.S. You have to be an angel to fly. Don't  
try this at home! 😊)* Nigel Beeton

## Christmas Trees

About five million real Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year. The typical Christmas tree of six to seven feet is between ten and 12 years old. The carbon footprint of real trees is a fraction of that of an artificial one. And of course, unless you've got one you can plant out, you can easily recycle your real tree.

Even before the time of Christ, evergreen trees were seen in winter as a symbol of fertility.

It was the 16<sup>th</sup> century monk, Martin Luther, who is credited with the idea of having lights on Christmas trees. He added candles to his tree, to look like stars in a forest.

Windsor Castle got its first Christmas tree in 1800, brought by Charlotte, wife of George III. It was in the 1840s, when Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, began bringing trees inside, that led to their popularity throughout the UK.

It was in 1835 that the term 'Christmas tree' was first used in English and it was Woolworths who first sold manufactured Christmas tree ornaments – back in 1880.

The tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been a gift from the city of Oslo, Norway since 1947.

The world's tallest Xmas tree, at 221ft high, was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.

In a survey of the nation's favourite smells, real Christmas trees came eighth, just behind the sea, but ahead of perfume.

## December Anniversaries

250 years ago, on 16 Dec 1775 Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime.



70 years ago, on 1 Dec 1955, African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. This violated the city's racial segregation laws, and led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1956) and the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.



65 years ago, on 9 Dec 1960, the first episode of the TV soap *Coronation Street* was broadcast on ITV. The 10,000th episode was broadcast in February 2020 and this year it is averaging about four million viewers per episode.



## O come, o come, Emmanuel

This is a well loved hymn, much sung at this time of year. Advent wouldn't be Advent without it. But is it all a bit cryptic or mystical for a modern audience? Dayspring, Key of David, Root of Jesse and all that.

It comes from very old texts, the Advent Antiphons, or "Great Os", from the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century, given new life in Cologne in 1710 then translated by the prominent high church hymn writer John Mason Neale in 1851 to appear, slightly modified, in Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1861 in the form we know it today. (Other brands are available!)

Antiphons are short verses used to introduce parts of services, in this case seven verses (shown here) to introduce the Magnificat at Vespers/Evensong on 17 to 23 December. They draw on the Old Testament's yearnings:

- 17 December – O Wisdom - Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1
- 18 December – O Adonai - Exodus 3.2; 24.12
- 19 December – O Root of Jesse - Isaiah 11.10; 45.14; 52.15
- 20 December – O Key of David - Isaiah 22.22; 42.7
- 21 December – O Dayspring (Morning Star) - Malachi 4.2
- 22 December – O King of the nations - Isaiah 28.16
- 23 December – O Emmanuel, God with us - Isaiah 7.14

More information is usefully set out on line [here](#).

## The Advent Antiphons - the Great 'O's

### O Sapientia

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

### O Adonai

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

### O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

### O Clavis David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

### O Oriens

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

### O Rex Gentium

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

### O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

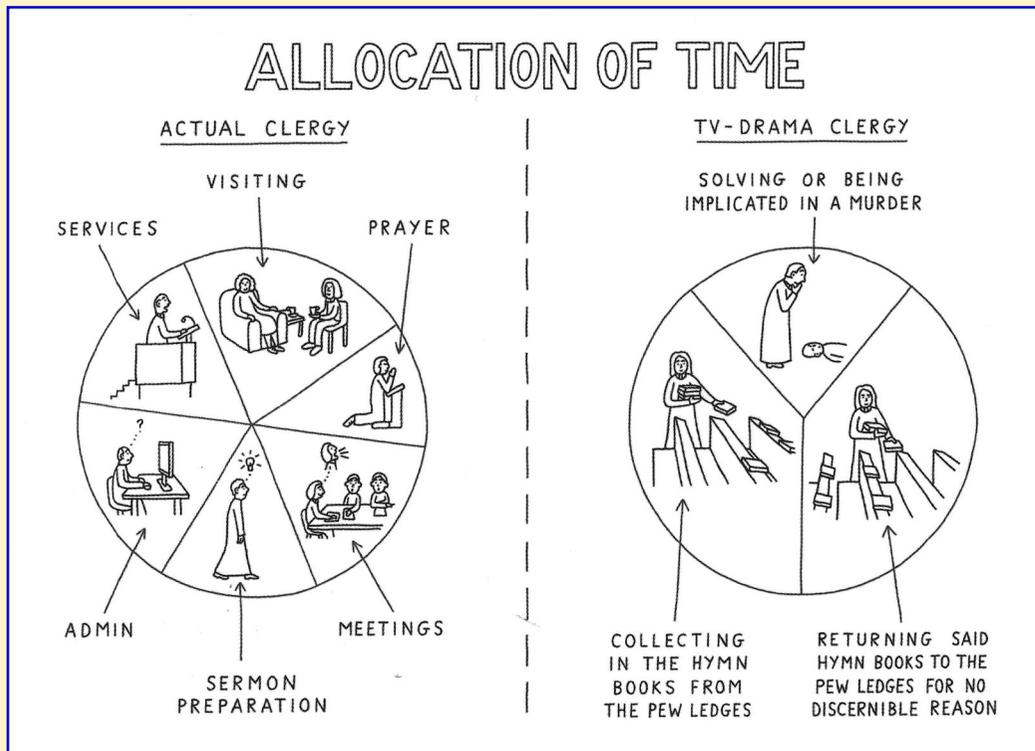
My old college ended each Autumn Term with an Advent carol service and it began with the antiphons hauntingly sung together in plainsong at the entrance to the chapel. These days each verse is sung separately at appropriate points in the service (which is broadcast each year on Radio 3).

And you can listen to the antiphons on line in various versions, such as [this](#) once you've endured the mercifully brief adverts. And of course you can sing the hymn in church!

Howard Mason

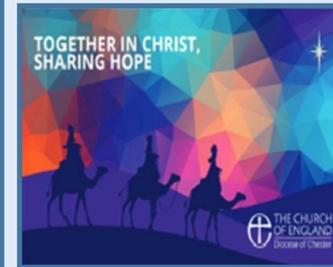
# Miscellany

Have you been watching Grantchester? Or Murder before Evensong?



## Safeguarding Prayer for Chester Diocese

God of truth,  
give us the courage to speak out  
so that people are protected  
from the risk of being harmed in any way.  
Together may we build a Church  
that affirms the value of every single  
person  
and provides a safe welcome for all.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

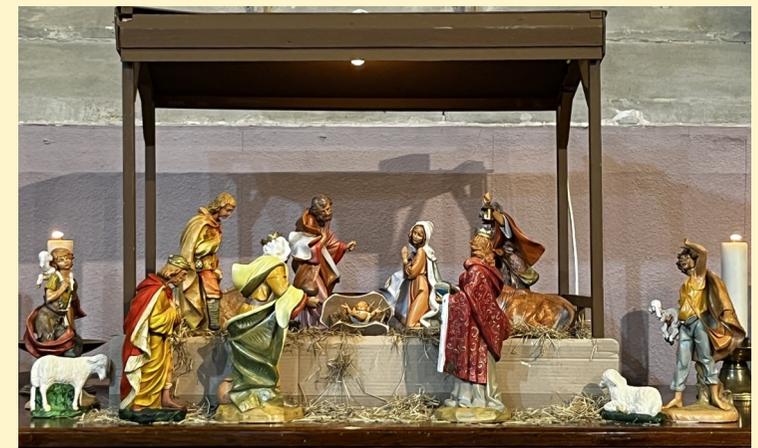


If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information on the Chester Diocese [website](https://www.chesterdio.org.uk/), email them at [safeguarding@chester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chester.anglican.org) or ring them at 01928 718834 (option 4). local contact is: [safeguarding.stannessale@gmail.com](mailto:safeguarding.stannessale@gmail.com)

## Religious music is everywhere

An astonishing fact about our secular age is that “religious music is absolutely everywhere, all the time.” Ivan Hewitt, former presenter of BBC Radio 3’s Music Matters believes that there is some significance in this. He wrote recently: “I would say it shows that in a stressful age, people have developed a need for music that quietsens the mind, offers a haven from the hurry and noise of everyday life, and unlocks a passage to our deeper selves. Despite the decline of organised religions, there is still a vast, inchoate sense in the population at large that there is more to life than getting and spending.... Religious music gives us access to that realm, without the commitments of organised religion.”

Music – the only universal tongue. Anon



## The laws about Christmas

*And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

Luke 2:7

Bethlehem was busy that first Christmas. This year Christmas Day is on a Thursday, and we get two Bank Holidays. There are some peculiar legal rules about Christmas that are more significant when Christmas Day falls on a normal working day.

The courts are closed, so you could not go to court if you wanted to. No writ, warrant to enforce a judgment or order is allowed on a Christmas Day. So, while you may pretend you are not at home to unwelcome relatives, you do not have to hide from a court officer wanting to evict you or

take your goods.

Curiously, there is no law to say you cannot work on the big day. The only law that protects shop workers is the Christmas Day (Trading) Act 2004, which imposes a ban on Christmas Day trading for large shops, over 280 square metres in size, in England and Wales.

If you get bored on Christmas, you can eat as much as you like, but you cannot go outside and shoot pheasants or any other game. The Game Act 1831 makes it illegal.

Christmas has other particular laws around it. It is against the law to sell Christmas

crackers to anyone under 12, because of the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2015, s.31. Also it is against the law to make or use a slide from snow or ice in the metropolitan area, under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839.

This is a light-hearted comment and you should always take proper advice. Spare a thought and a prayer for those who are homeless or fear the knock on the door from a bailiff or debt collector. If you need advice or help, don't hang about, contact one of the debt charities like Christians Against Poverty (0800 328 0006).

*A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given.*

*Julian of Norwich*

## Blessings for Christmas for CAP clients

St Anne's Church is one of six churches in a partnership running Sale CAP Debt Advice Centre. Each Christmas CAP gives a supermarket voucher to clients to help them with the costs of Christmas. Clients tell us that it reduces the worry and stress associated with this time of year as they try to manage their income to become debt free. CAP has 25 clients in Sale and Partington. Last year we gave £40 vouchers to single people and £80 vouchers to families. Once again we are

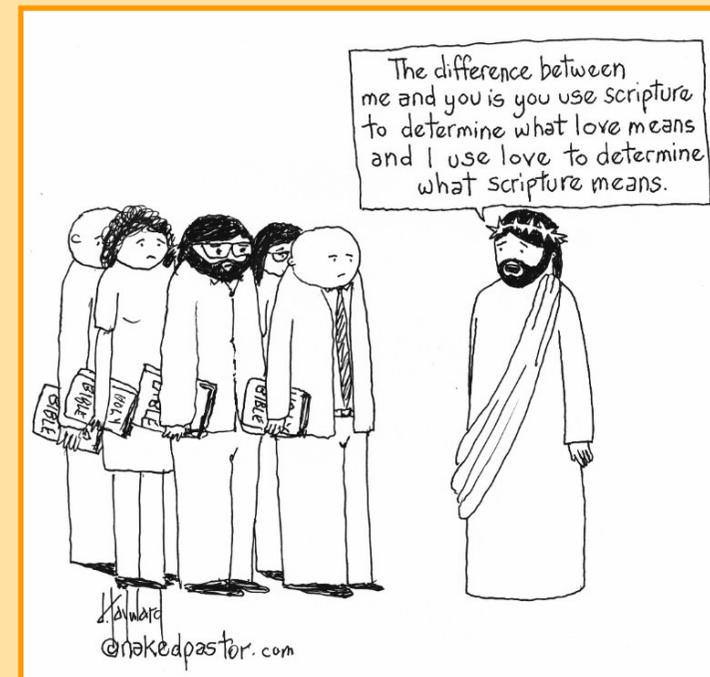
appealing to church members to donate and bless clients. You can donate direct to the CAP bank using these details;

Sort Code : 20-55-59  
Account No : 73162125  
Account Name : SALE CAP  
DEBT CENTRE

And please mark your gift, 'Xmas voucher'.

Thank you for your support.

Janice Mason



## Hymns and Prayers

### Your favourite hymn?

Shine Jesus Shine, written by Graham Kendrick, has been voted the Nation's Favourite School Assembly Hymn in a contest run by BBC Songs of Praise. Tens of thousands of votes were cast, and the winners were featured in a special edition of Songs of Praise broadcast recently. Many of the songs came from the familiar "Come and Praise" hymn book.

1. Shine, Jesus, Shine
2. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
3. Lord of the Dance
4. All thing bright and beautiful
5. I the Lord of sea and sky (Here I am Lord)
6. One more step along the road I go
7. O Jesus, I have promised
8. Colours of day (Light up the fire)
9. He's got the whole world in his hand
10. Make me a channel of your peace
11. Morning has broken
12. He who would valiant be
13. We plough the fields and scatter
14. Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
15. Lord of all hopefulness

My school hymnbook, and probably yours too, was Songs of Praise: only five or six of these fifteen appeared there then. It would be interesting to see the age profile of those who voted!

### Prayers...

#### ...for Christmas...

Loving father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love over all the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Robert Louis Stevenson

#### ...and for Epiphany...

The heavens shine with the clear beauty of the stars, O Lord, and the earth itself is made beautiful by a shining light, because you undertook to appear to the world coming forth from your holy dwelling place.

Remove all sadness from our hearts, for you have come among us to make all things new.

Grant the same light that enlightened the eyes of your servants to enlighten our own eyes, to purify us and prepare us to behold you for ever; so that we, in preaching to the nations the glad joys of your appearing, may in time be made glad with you in infinite joy. Amen

Prayer from the Mozarabic Christian tradition, from the Christians who continued their faith under the Muslim occupation of Spain.





St Paul's Church  
Springfield Road, Sale, M33 7YA  
0161 962 0082

# Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Friday 5th December **2pm - 6pm**

Saturday 6th December **10am - 5pm**

Sunday 7th December **12pm - 5pm**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

- ❄️ Live music
- ❄️ Seasonal refreshments
- ❄️ Children's crafts
- ❄️ Raffle
- ❄️ Visit Father Christmas! Pre-booking required

✉ [events.stpaulssale@outlook.com](mailto:events.stpaulssale@outlook.com)  
🌐 [www.stpaulsale.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsale.co.uk)



**FRIENDS OF ASHTON  
PARK PRESENT**



# CAROLS IN THE PARK

Come join us for seasonal festivities. The amazing Wellfield Choir will be entertaining us with Christmas favourites. With local churches helping to lead our festive celebrations.

If you can, please bring along some non-perishable food items to sale west food bank that would be greatly appreciated. <https://traffordsouth.foodbank.org.uk/>

**SATURDAY THE 13TH OF DECEMBER. 2PM-4PM**

WRAP UP WARM AND BRING YOUR CANDLES (OR USE YOUR PHONE)

HOT DRINKS FROM EXTREME. ICE CREAM FROM DAVE&SONS

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THE EVENT IN ANY WAY FROM SETTING UP, FIRST AID, TAKING DOWN SAFEGUARDING PLEASE OR ANYTHING ELSE PLEASE JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP THROUGH THE QR CODE



## Thoughts for Advent

God's message is rather the gift of a child. God comes among us, not as an articulate adult with some ideas under plan, but in a form that is utterly defenceless and vulnerable. Yet it is precisely in this most unexpected incarnation that the wisdom of God is revealed. Here we come face to face with God who has come among us as a tiny child. And so we will have to put time and energy into that relationship if we are ever to hear him speak his first words. God's wisdom is this: he comes to us in a way that draws us into the mystery of creation and the great surprise of the unexpected miracle.

So may we, as we share it in this advent together, also join with Mary and Elizabeth in saying "yes" to God; "yes" to a promise, but one you cannot yet see. Truly, my soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

Martyn Percy - An Advent Manifesto

## 16 days of activism



The United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is an international

campaign. It takes place from 25 November (the International Day for the elimination of violence against women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Mothers' Union works alongside communities to help end domestic abuse and gender-based violence and to support those affected by it 365 days of the year.

The e-Spire is our online alternative to a hard-copy parish magazine. It is to supplement what appears on our website and in the weekly pastoral letter and newsheets from our clergy. If you don't receive these by email, please send your email address to Alison: [alisoncox19@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:howard.mason1@btopenworld.com)

## Parish Directory

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

Website:	<a href="http://www.salestanne.org">www.salestanne.org</a>	
Vicar:	Rev Canon Alison Cox, The Vicarage Church Road West, Sale M33 3GD	0161 973 4145
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:alisoncox19@hotmail.com">alisoncox19@hotmail.com</a>	
Hon Assistant Priest:	Rev Olwyn Marlow, 28 Arcadia Avenue	0161 962 9292
Families & Children's Worker:	Shauna Hancock - <a href="mailto:shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com">shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com</a>	
Churchwardens:	Andrew Egarr e-mail: <a href="mailto:andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com">andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com</a>	07808 466 371
PCC Secretary:	Ann Hunt: <a href="mailto:hunt289@icloud.com">hunt289@icloud.com</a>	
PCC Treasurer:	Chris Jones - <a href="mailto:chrisjonessat@gmail.com">chrisjonessat@gmail.com</a>	07484 834 513
Hall Bookings:	Please contact the vicar at <a href="mailto:alisoncox19@hotmail.com">alisoncox19@hotmail.com</a>	
Events Committee:	Please contact Ann Hunt: <a href="mailto:hunt289@icloud.com">hunt289@icloud.com</a>	
Sacristan/Head Server:	Sue Heath, 7 The Cloisters	0161 969 3167
Organist & Choir Leader:	Vacant	
Choir:	Tuesdays 6.45pm. Contact: <a href="mailto:matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com">matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com</a>	
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: <a href="mailto:shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com">shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com</a>	

## Guiding

### Rainbows

- 1st Sale Moor : Mondays 5 - 6 pm in the Church Hall  
email [1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com)
- 2nd Sale Moor : Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 pm in the Church Hall  
email [2ndsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com](mailto: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