

Worship and Activity This Week

Today	5.00pm	Office hour @ St Anne's
Mon	8.00pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Symposium @ St Anne's Hall
Tue	12.30pm	Sunbeams Planning Meeting @ 3 Windermere
	2.00pm	St Francis Social Afternoon
	3.30pm	Sunbeams After School Church @ Church Hall
	7.30pm	Men's Group @ J P Joules
Wed	10.00am	Eucharist
	12 noon	Lunch in the Church Hall - open to all
	7.00pm	Sale High School Carol Concert @ St Anne's Choir carol singing in residential homes
Thu	8.00pm	Giving in Grace @ 132a Dane Road
Fri	7.15am	Eucharist
	9.00am	Morning Prayer @ St Francis
	9.15am	Mothers and Toddlers @ St Anne's Church Hall
	1.30pm	St Anne's Primary School Christmas Assembly
	6.45pm	Junior Choir Practice
	7.15pm	Full Choir Practice
Sat		Our Choir will be Carol Singing outside Sainsbury's from 11am to 12 noon on the 19th to raise money for ACTIONNAIRES—a multi-sports club for blind and partially sighted children in Stretford. If at all possible, please pop along between those times to support our Choir.
	7.30pm	Messiah: Performance by Sale Choral Society in St Anne's
Next Sunday - 20th December - Advent 4		
	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.30am	Eucharist with Hymns [St Francis]
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Sunday School Nativity [St Anne's]
	6.00pm	Carol Service @ St Anne's

Church Bookstall—Christmas Posters—Christingle candles.....

A new range of Christmas books and items are on the stall—please browse. And at the back of Church - Christmas Posters, Christingle collecting candles and envelopes are available for you to take.

Contact Details

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings - speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar!

Our monthly parish magazine **The Spire** has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the back cover. For this sheet, email joanie@sneakmail.zzn.com by Wednesday

INSPIRATION

St Anne's, Sale with St Francis, Sale Moor
0161 973 4145 www.stannessale.org



3rd Sunday of Advent

13th December 2009

All change

We hope you will enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and we'll tell you from time to time which page we're on.

Children are welcome in church and in Sunday School or crèche across the road in the hall. If your children get restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church.

At St Anne's today 8.00am Eucharist

We use the black service book (p 207)
President: Janet Parker, Curate

10.30am Parish Eucharist with Junior Choir Production Follow that Star by Susie Hare

We use the purple service book
President: Norman Hayton, Asst Priest
Assisting: Paul Edwards, Reader

At St Francis' today 9.30am Eucharist

We use the black service book (p 207)
President: Olwyn Marlow, Asst Priest

Evening Service 6.00pm Carol Service

Led by: Julian Heaton, Vicar

Bible readings for today's services are on the next page.

I wonder how many of us have reflected on how quickly Christmas comes? Despite its set date many of us are taken by surprise and start doing headless chicken impressions regarding cards and presents.

When faced by truly significant events our bible readings hint at two common default positions. Either (with Paul writing to the Philippians) we find our cup half full and we rejoice or, with those who approached John the Baptist, our cup is half empty and we cry "woe is me".

These first reactions, however, are not the end of either story. Paul says, in the face of "trouble", that a mindset of rejoicing allows us to find God in the midst of all that is happening to us. Luke, in telling the John the Baptist story, notes that John challenges people to change their ways.

We cannot remain the same. Part of the Advent discipline is about preparing the mind and heart so that God can do a new thing in us. Whether we are "half full" or "half empty" people, we need to know that Christ comes to transform us and, through our sharing in his ministry, transform the world.

The bible ends with this Aramaic saying "Marantha" - it means "Come Lord". Let us pray that the Coming of Christ this year leaves us different.

Today's readings

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians [Philippians 4:4-7]

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [Luke 3:7-18]
Glory to You, O Lord

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked

him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

The Biblical text from the NRSV is copyright: © Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Christmas Tree Decorating

As a change from our usual habit, we invite members of the congregation to help us decorate our Christmas Tree after our Sunday Eucharist on Sunday 20th December. If you can stay after a drink and biscuit, we will join together around the tree and try to make it beautiful for God.



Parish Party 2010

Entertainment for all the family. Tickets £6 adults £3 for younger guests. Starting at **6pm Saturday 9th January** with a sumptuous buffet at 6.15. And a complimentary glass of wine. Please bring own drinks. Ring Ken 07751 743811 or see any of the Social Team.

Christmas Flowers

Donations towards flowers to beautify St. Anne's Church this Christmastide will be gratefully received by Moira or Janet Phillimore.

This may be a way to remember those who are no longer with us at the



The Church Family

We pray for the family and friends of Arthur Pass whose funeral took place this week. RIP

Promoting Christmas Services in the Parish

Can you spare a few minutes to drop flyers advertising our services down your street? There are "packs" of 8 flyers - we ask you simply to drop them through your neighbour's letter box. Each pack also has two fuller Christmas Cards. Please give these to someone in the local area that you know. And natter to your friends!

Giving in Grace Prayer

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for You and our neighbour.

Make us mindful of the many gifts You bestow upon us and we ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving; remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours.

Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we may live. **Amen.**

Route Ginger

Route Ginger will be holding a cake stall in the hall after the Parish Eucharist next Sunday—20th December. 0781 0038327