

Worship and Activity This Week

Today	11.30am Route Ginger's Cake Stall in the Church Hall 5.00pm Office hour @ St Anne's 6.00pm Carol Service followed by Refreshments
Tue	2.00pm Standing Committee in the Vicarage
Wed	10.00am Eucharist n.b. No Lunch Club 2.00pm Funeral in Church of David Bagnall 7.30pm Making of Christingles in the Church Hall - all welcome 7.30pm Critical Mass Dress Rehearsal in Church

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Christingle @ St Anne's
11.30pm Midnight Mass @ St Anne's

Christmas Day

8.00am Eucharist @ St Anne's
9.30am Eucharist @ St Francis
10.30am All Age Eucharist @ St Anne's

Sat	10.00am Eucharist for St Stephen @ St Anne's
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Next Sunday - 27th December - Christmas 1

8.00am Eucharist
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns [St Francis]
10.30am Parish Eucharist [St Anne's]
6.00pm Evening Prayer @ St Anne's (said)

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

No need to rush off

You're welcome to look round the church—there's a bookstall, a stall of fairly traded products, prayer displays, reading materials and, of course, notices, flowers, monuments, stained glass.... Or spend some quiet time.

INSPIRATION

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



4th Sunday of Advent

20th December 2009

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 Sunday School Nativity

We use the purple service book
President: Julian Heaton, Vicar
Assisting: Alan Ward, Reader

Evening Service

6.00pm Carol Service

Led by: Janet Parker, Curate

At St Francis' today

9.30am Eucharist

We use the black service book (p 207)
President: Norman Hayton, Asst Priest

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

The Back-story

We like the Christmas story; its very human themes of hope, longing, fear, joy, love and delight resonate in our own lives and remind us that God weaves his way into our lives through our daily experiences.

Because we like the Christmas story, we can easily allow it to slip its moorings from the wider biblical story. Our first reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, hauls us back and asks us to see the story we like in the context of God's Divine Plan. Jesus was and is because God wants to reconnect heaven and earth.

There is a seriousness about the reading from Hebrews which might put us off. That seriousness lies in the idea of obedience or it might stem from the idea of a Divine Plan. In Jesus, obedience to the Divine Plan finds its fulfillment.

Which is why Luke has the foetal John the Baptist leaping for joy. Here is recognition that what humanity needs is humble obedience. The joy is both in the forth-coming birth of Christ and also, in the obedience of Mary, an example of human obedience to which we all can aspire. Or, as Hebrews would have it *It is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Today's readings

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [Hebrews 10:5-10]

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [Luke 1:39-45]
Glory to You, O Lord

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with

the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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.

Church Bookstall



LAST SUNDAY TO BUY CHRISTMAS ITEMS. THE BOOKSTALL IS GOING ON HOLIDAY FOR A FORTNIGHT.

AT THE BACK OF CHURCH:
Christmas Posters, Christingle collecting candles and envelopes for you to take.



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.**

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 Christmas table.



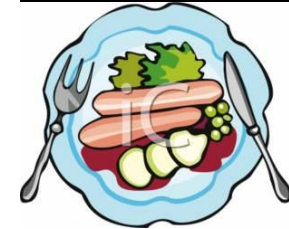
Parish Party 2010

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.

Wednesday Luncheon Club



We have a regular weekly group of 60 people to lunch to enjoy a cooked meal and fellowship.

From February onwards we are desperately in need of two cooks. You would only have to cook once a month, preparing your own menu and doing the purchasing of the ingredients. We will give any help and advice required, including quantities. A team of five helpers is already in place to prepare the meal with you.

Please give this request serious thought as we desperately want to maintain this outreach project and we can not do this without more voluntary help.

Contact Margaret Ward Tel 282 7434