

# Worship and Activity This Week

Wed	10.00am	Eucharist
	12 noon	Lunch in the Church Hall - open to all
Thurs	7.00pm	Service for New Year's Eve <i>followed by</i> New Year's Eve Party at the Vicarage
Fri	10.00am	Eucharist for the Naming of Jesus
<b>Next Sunday - 3rd January - Epiphany</b>		
	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.30am	Eucharist with Hymns [St Francis]
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist and Healing [St Anne's]
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong @ St Anne's

## Thank You

For all your Christmas cards, your greetings and your gifts.  
For the decorations in the Church, for the flowers, for being with us at our Eucharists and our Carol Services.  
For your prayers, encouragement, inspiration, help during the year.  
For all those who helped with all the social activities throughout the year.  
For the choir, the musicians, the readers, servers, the intercessors, the sides people and all who have wrestled with the sound system!  
For anyone we have forgotten!

May God Bless our home and our lives, our Families, and our Parish now, and especially in the New Year.

God bless you in the New Year, and send from above, the joy of his presence, the warmth of his love. The hope of his mercy, his comforting ways, His promise of peace, to enrich all your days.

**A Happy, Blessed and Peaceful New Year to you all.**

## 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

## 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](http://www.stannessale.org)



St John the Evangelist

27th 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. 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: Julian Heaton, Vicar

### 10.30am Parish Eucharist

We use the yellow service book  
President: Olwyn Marlow, Asst Priest  
Assisting: Paul Edwards, Reader

### 6.00pm Said Evening Prayer

## At St Francis' today

### 9.30am Eucharist

We use the black service book (p 207)  
President: Julian Heaton, Vicar

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



## Light in darkness

When we think of Christmas, the images that fill our minds (in Church at least) are of angels and shepherds, wise men and a stable. These stories, in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, carry a truth in them which is explored theologically in the writings of John.

The Church has chosen this day, two days after the Feast of the Incarnation, to celebrate the Apostle John. She has done so for good reasons. Firstly, we find a close friendship between Jesus and the "Beloved Disciple" in the Gospel of John and this disciple is usually identified with John.

Perhaps more importantly, John, in his writings, explores the close connection between Jesus and God and does so in the imagery of light and darkness. Jesus came as the light, to bring the Light of God into our dark world.

There is a deep seriousness about John's writings. He looks at our world and sees here a battle, a perpetual conflict both inside and outside us. It is a black and white universe, a place of tension.

And what is the Good News that John wants us to hear, to live and to share? It is this: that because God is here with us, because the "Word was made flesh", there is hope for us and for our world. If we walk with Jesus, he will lead us into all truth and guide us through life to God.

## Today's readings

### A reading from the first letter of John (1 John 1)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life--this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us--we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 21.19-25)  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

After this Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he

was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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

*The Biblical text from the NRSV is copyright: ©  
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Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.*

## 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.



**OPEN  
24 Hours**

**24 Hour Prayer Event—  
9pm Friday 15th January  
9pm Saturday 16th January**



An important part of our **Giving in Grace Stewardship Campaign** is the above event. This is something for ALL of us and will only take one hour of our time. Please give it careful and prayerful thought and then insert your name in the timetable for the hour that will suit you. The timetable will be displayed on the notice board at the East end of the Church from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

God is overwhelmingly generous to us, both as individuals and as a Parish; let US be grateful and give thanks – let us be generous also.

## 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.**

## 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 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