



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

e-Spire

February
2025

Nunc Dimittis

2nd February is **Candlemas** - when we commemorate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. A devout man called Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would meet the Messiah before his death, and his beautiful prayer in Luke 2:29-32 became known as 'Nunc Dimittis.' It is very familiar to those who attend Evensong .

A child within my arms now lays
Asleep, He's in my care,
The Son of God, the Spirit says
And now I speak this prayer:

O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word.
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord.

Salvation You have now prepared
Before the face of men.
Salvation with the world is shared
So all may live again.

O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word.
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord

A light upon the Gentiles, He
And Israel's glory, too.
Now all Your saving love may see
And all may come to You.

O Lord, now let me go in peace
According to Your Word.
My earthly life may gladly cease,
For I have seen You, Lord.

Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump





QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 01 March 2025

Doors open 6.30pm - Quiz starts at 7pm prompt

Teams of up to 6 people maximum (you can join a team on the night)

Prizes to be won for the top teams

Chilli and rice, cakes and biscuits, tea and coffee included

Bring your own drinks

Adults £10 and Children £5

Tickets available online, please use the QR code >>



ST ANNE'S, SALE
WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE

www.salestanne.org

"Looking out of the window"

At the very end of December I made a note in the diary that the rhubarb was beginning to look very healthy, along with the snowdrops which were poking their noses out, and indeed bending their heads - which was an encouraging sign of the New Year. On a brief tidying up session in the garden, in the sunshine in the garden on the 28th, I was plagued by midges - somewhat prematurely I think.



We have a bird feeder on a very smooth thin metal pole, and one day I was astonished to see a squirrel climbing it most successfully, only to be totally frustrated when it couldn't get any nuts out. However, around the same time there was a visit from a most elegant nuthatch, which is rarely in our garden. A charming robin also explored the same feeder on the same day. The robins and tits usually do a dash for the easier feeders when the parakeets, pigeons and magpies have finished gorging themselves.

One memorable view from the window was of two pigeons sitting side by side in the bird bath. They seemed very peaceful, and to have a

lot to say to each other! A last general comment about birds from my non-scientific viewpoint is that pigeons seem to plod as they walk round the lawn, whereas blackbirds bound with both feet together as they jump.

During the snow there were various footprints of all sizes and shapes across the back lawn, but it appears that we are as busy as the M6 for foxes. There

was a similar set of prints along the same route on each of the four days of white wonder.

In the gales and rain the heavy heads of the hydrangea bushes gave up the struggle and lay flat on the ground. A day later, when the sun came out, they recovered and stood up again. Nature is truly wonderful.

Finally, this morning when I was in the kitchen at 7am there was a little bird "singing its head off." I wonder what it was, because it was extremely dark outside and I couldn't see it. Perhaps this article should be headed "listening through the window" as well!

Bridget

Mothers' Union

When you read this it will be the start of February but I hope you all had a good Christmas and wish a happy and peaceful 2025 to everyone. I spent the Christmas period with my family and really enjoyed all being together. The family then went to Abersoch for New Year and on 2 January some of them did a charity dip in the sea. They actually paid for the privilege! My daughter-in-law, Claire was very sensible and decided someone had to be in charge of the towels and clothes.

I also hope that you all managed to stay safe and warm during the really cold and snowy period we had just after the start of January.

The December meeting was when we held our Symposium which was very enjoyable and a lovely way to start the Christmas period off. Apart from readings and carols we enjoyed mince pies, shortbread and mulled wine. Thanks go to Elizabeth for organising the readings and order of service.

Unfortunately because of the weather we had to cancel our Christmas Party in January; the roads were icy and really slippery. We are now holding it on Monday 10 February and incorporating it with our AGM. We will start at the earlier time of 7pm with our meal and after eating will have a shortened AGM. All the documents will be sent to you early in

February; we hope all will be agreed on as correct and you will have voted on one of the MU proposals from Chester. We will then continue with the party so do not forget your Prayer Partner gifts. I will also have organised for you to select your new Prayer Partner for the coming year. The cost of the party will be as noted £10.

I will be at the February meeting but will be on a plane heading back to England during the March meeting - I arrive in Manchester on the Tuesday morning. I am flying off to visit my friends in New Zealand so am hopeful for some warmth and sunshine. Some other friends are there at the moment and say that it is not the normal hot summer, only reaching early 20s but that will do me fine.

Carol and I went to see Mavis in January and had a good long chat with her, in fact we were there about three hours. She is looking really well and is certainly being looked after by her family. She says that she feels as though roles have reversed and she is no longer the Mum but the child being checked on all the time. It was lovely to see her and hopefully she will come to our annual meal out again.

Wishing all of you a very happy and peaceful 2025, love

Jackie and Carol

My Testimony

On 12 January Nancy Peacock was confirmed by the Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley. She spoke as follows:

What does my faith mean to me?

Faith is what makes me... me! My faith gives me security, knowing that God is with me everywhere I go and I know that he isn't going anywhere. I believe God is there for me and will help me throughout my whole life... through the good and the bad.

God will remind me that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. For example, in Lockdown during the zoom worships – is where I started to understand faith. I prayed to God to help us through it and now it is like a distant memory. I am proud to be a Christian, to come to a place of worship and be with my friends, family and most importantly God.

So, thank you God for helping me to find my sanctuary with you. Thank you for opening my eyes and allowing me to make new memories with my faith. I know that this is only the beginning of my journey with you and I can't wait to see where it takes me!

Well done Nancy! Bishop Sam spoke of being loved, precious and honoured. We hope that you feel loved, precious and honoured among us at St Anne's.



George Herbert, priest and poet - 27 February

If we were to name someone prominent from the 17th century, we might mention Cromwell or Shakespeare. It is unlikely we would remember George Herbert. However, he was a prolific writer, a gifted speaker and musician. His hymns are still sung today.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales in 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was

securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire.

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1 March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most

well-known hymns are *Teach me my God and King, Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, king of peace*.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and

cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral (Bemerton is a village, or now a suburb, on the edge of Salisbury.)

Richard Harries's Advent book for 2024 was "Wounded I Sing" looking daily at the poems of George Herbert. Their seriousness, self-analysis and exploring of temptation would make this a great book for Lent too.

Saint Valentine

There are several legends related to different versions of Saint Valentines, the most popular being the priest or bishop Valentinus who was born in Terni, an important town in Umbria, in 226 AD.

Valentinus ministered to persecuted Christians before Christianity was legalized. Legend tells us that he restored the sight of the blind daughter of a judge in Rome, thus freeing many arrested Christian inmates, before being arrested himself. One version of the story tells us that before his execution Saint Valentine wrote a note to the judge's daughter, signing it "from your Valentine", helping to inspire today's romantic theme of the holiday.

Another version has him secretly marrying Christian couples and giving them hearts cut from parchment as a sign of their love – a forerunner to the modern valentine note. In some versions he gives them roses.

The Emperor Claudius Gothicus condemned him to death for his faith, whereupon Valentinus was executed on the Via Flaminia outside Rome on February 14, 269, the date of his feast day established by Pope Gelasius I in 496 AD to be celebrated in honour of the Christian martyr. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when stories of courtly love were popular, likely associated with the "lovebirds" mating of early spring.



Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

These facts and figures for 2024 from national CAP show how important the service is in supporting people out of debt. Sale Debt Advice Centre in partnership with CAP UK supports clients on the journey to become debt free. And St Anne's along with other churches in Sale supports the debt advice centre prayerfully, financially and practically.

Debbie Walters, centre manager, reports that the Christmas event for clients was a great success, bringing clients and their families together for

an evening of fun, food and entertainment. Vouchers for hampers for Christmas were given as gifts.

Debbie has asked for volunteers to become Befrienders, to accompany Debbie on her visits and to walk alongside a client as they make the journey to being debt free. Please give this request some thought and contact Debbie or myself for more information if you feel able to help. Thank you.

Janice Mason



In 2024 you helped:

- Support 8,691 people on their journey out of debt
- 2,449 people become debt free
- Provide 983 instances of emergency aid, helping 638 households
- Enable 867 money coaching groups, 123 job clubs and 146 life skills groups to run

"I love the Church of England. I love its liturgy, I love its glorious parish churches, I love its lack of ideological fervour, I love the gentle and inclusive way that it is porous to those outside of the Church, I love the inheritance of faith that it preserves." Giles Fraser

Teaching the Lord's Prayer

The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell plans to teach the Lord's Prayer across the North of England throughout 2025, a priority of his vision for Faith in the North. He is to visit dioceses in the Northern Province of the C of E where he will be sharing the relevance of the Lord's Prayer to our world today, encouraging people to pray and live by this, as part of their missionary discipleship.

Archbishop Stephen is encouraging prayer, storytelling and church planting inspired by the Northern Saints such as Hild, Cuthbert, Bede and Paulinus. The aim is to foster deeper connections with the Christian faith across the north and renew the Church's missionary purpose to share God's love with all.

He says: "In less than 70 words, Jesus gives us a prayer to learn by heart and a prayer that gets inside our hearts, shaping the way we live. The Lord's Prayer surely is the best



place to start. It is said in just about every church service, from the coronation of the King to the christening of a child. It's a challenging prayer and when we say this prayer together, we become part of God's

movement of change, of bringing God's heaven to earth. It teaches us how to pray. But it also teaches us how to live".

Faith in the North is a movement of prayer and strategic resourcing which aims to help recapture the missional energy and commitment to prayer of the Anglo Saxon saints leading towards 2027, with the celebration of the 1400th anniversary of the establishment of the Church of Saint Peter in York and baptism of King Edwin by Paulinus in 627. To learn more about Faith in the North visit www.faithinthenorth.org

Dates of the Lord's Prayer Tour include

- Monday 10 March - Chester Cathedral
- Monday 17 March - Liverpool Cathedral
- Tuesday 1 April - Manchester Cathedral

'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken' - 12 February

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn', composed for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for the well-loved hymn "Glorious things of thee are spoken" came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) national anthem Deutschlandslied. In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of this hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar !

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...' It celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides, rejoicing that God protects his people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago he led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land.

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, Never fails from age to age?...

Play the Organ!

It's no surprise that many churches these days are struggling to find organists or musicians to lead the music in worship. For this reason, The Royal College of Organists had designated 2025 as PLAY THE ORGAN YEAR with a view to encouraging people young and older to have a go at playing the organ.

Many know that I have enjoyed playing the organ in a number of churches for the past 60 years and I would be sorry if there is no one coming up to succeed in the future.

Would you like to have a go at playing the organ? Come and see me after a service and give it a try. Do you have a young relative who might just be interested ? Again, come and see me after a service.

Wouldn't it be great if St Anne's could provide even just one new organist to keep our music alive for the future.

David Rickett

**PLAY THE
ORGAN
YEAR 2025**
The Royal College of Organists

News update from the Overseas Group

The Overseas group thank you for supporting the cake sales in 2024. These along with the Lent lunches raised £672 for St Anne's three mission partners: Trafford Youth for Christ, Bible Society and USPG/ Education for Change, as well as a donation to Christian Aid. We couldn't have raised this without you. Thank you.

We plan more cake sales in 2025, in February (in aid of TYFC) May (Christian Aid) September and December.

In February we look forward to Matthew Pryor, the new director of TYFC, joining us at St Anne's so that we can learn more about TYFC and its vision for the future.

We also look forward to hearing Becky Mathew

at MU in March on her recent visit to Sri Lanka. We are particularly keen to hear more about the church's role in providing education and development opportunities to families on tea plantations.



Lent lunches

**March 16 and 23
12 noon**

Why Lent lunches? We share a simple meal as part of our Lenten discipline to remember those who hunger. Soup and bread will be served and butter, cheese and fruit.

Who is it for? This is for everybody. A time of fellowship for all. Please join us.

Janice Mason

Anniversaries

125 years ago, on 27 Feb 1900, the Labour Party was founded in the UK, the same day as Bayern Munich football club in Germany!

75 years ago, on 8 Feb 1950, the world's first payment by credit card took place. The founders of Diners Club (now Diners Club International) used it to pay their restaurant bill at Majero's Cabin Grill in New York City.

The date of Easter

I have a battered old Book of Common Prayer dating from the early days of King George VI. It incorporates several "Tables to find Easter Day" from then till 2299. "This Table contains so much of the Calendar as is necessary for the determining of Easter; to find which, look for the Golden Number in the first column... against which stands the Day of the Paschal Full Moon, then look at the third column for the Sunday Letter..." and so on. Fortunately we can easily find it on Google instead of wrestling with this palaver.

So, should the Churches agree on a common date for Easter? That is the question for the leaders of the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, as this year (2025) marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople believes that 2025 is a 'golden opportunity' for Catholic and Orthodox believers finally to agree on a joint date for

Easter, because this year also brings a 'fortunate alignment' of the Easter dates of both churches.

Any agreement would only pertain to the date of Easter's celebration. It would not involve any joint liturgical practices. Those would require ecclesial communion between the churches, something which does not yet exist.

In 2016 the Archbishop of Canterbury held talks with Coptic Pope Tawadros II in Cairo, when he hoped that a unified date for Easter might be achieved within ten years. He commented that, for the C of E, either the second or third Sunday in April would be acceptable.



George discovered Christmas this year is December 25th

Don't hold your breath!

PS I can't see this prayer book, old and battered after a mere 80 years, surviving 350 years for people planning their services in 2299.

A prayer for an inclusive church

Save us from outdated ways of speech and patterns of thought which make the Good News sound like old news.

Save us from going on about sin instead of giving the invitation to new life, so turning the Good News into bad news.

Save us from narrow-mindedness which turns the Good News into good news for some and not for others.

As we create your new community of love, we aim to do so without walls and without barriers.

Show us how false we are when we work for a unity which depends on excluding others.

May your spirit give us her gift of imagination and invention, sensitivity and daring.

Help us to realise that only when the good news becomes good news for the whole universe will it become good news for us. Amen

John Henson, *Other Temptations of Jesus*

John Henson is a Baptist minister from South Wales whose very readable books like Other Temptations of Jesus, Other Communion of Jesus and Bad Acts of the Apostles help us to see the Gospel with new eyes.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. Anon

Nothing is often a good thing to say. Will Durant

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague. Anon

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

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Events Committee:	Please contact Ann Hunt: hunt289@icloud.com	
Sacristan/Head Server:	Sue Heath, 7 The Cloisters	0161 969 3167
Organist & Choir Leader:	Vacant	
Choir:	Tuesdays 6.45pm. Contact: matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com	
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 Janet Plumb	0161 905 3895

Guiding

Rainbows

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