

St Annes Parish Church Magazine

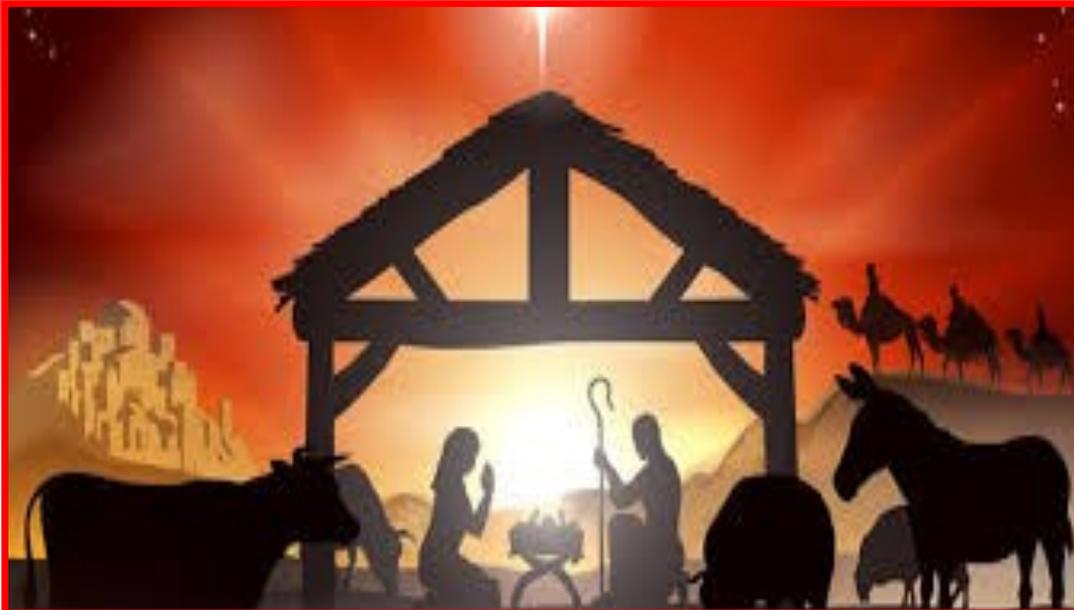
Influence



Winter 2020

£1.00

£6 for a yearly subscription



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Fr David writes

“the hopes & fears of all the years”

And so we reach December 2020, the end of a year we will all be tempted to want to forget. The Covid-19, coronavirus has meant a suspension of normal life; it has brought with it restrictions, lockdowns, isolation, anxiety, loneliness, jobs losses, suffering and death. And yet there has been a positive side to it; appreciation of the NHS and those who work within it, the employment of the internet in new ways which have enabled us to keep in virtual contact (I was going to write 'in touch', but that is not allowed) with one another, the swift development of vaccines which will ultimately keep us safe.

Of course for us Christians it has meant the suspension of our public worship life, also there are restrictions on the Occasional Offices; Baptisms are not allowed, Marriage Services can take place with severely restriction numbers, likewise Funeral Services. Locally we have done really well as a Church in Live-Streaming services and opening church for private prayer, approximately half the people who have visited our church have not been members of our regular congregation.

At this stage we look forward to two events in particular, Christmass and

New Year.

In a few weeks we will celebrate the birth of our Saviour, baby Jesus, the Word made flesh and laid in a manger. Normally we would enjoy singing Christmass Carols which hail his nativity, but the guidelines say that we should not because of the increased risk of spreading the virus. One of the favourites is 'O little town of Bethlehem'. The first verse of the Carol ends with the words, 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight'.

As we know, there are plenty of fears around at the moment. In addition the pandemic in general and the lockdowns and restrictions in particular there is the knowledge that for each of us the whole of our life takes place against the backdrop of certain death; the more years that pass the nearer it comes.

The carol, though, speaks of hope as well as fear, and in the birth of this new-born baby lies our optimism. In time He is the one who will defeat death and usher in the eternal kingdom of heaven.

..... *Continued overleaf*

Fr David continues

A week after we have celebrated Christmass Day we will, as a nation, party as the New Year arrives.

With it also will come hope, hope in particular, that the coronavirus pandemic will be overcome. We know that vaccines have already been developed, approved and the program has now begun so we expect this process to accelerate in 2021. Hopefully by Easter there will be new life, or, as they say, a new normal when most people have been vaccinated.

We have hope, also, that creation is a year nearer to the return of our Lord to bring in the kingdom in its final form, when, 'God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There shall be an end to death, and to mourning and crying and pain, for the old order has passed away'.

Although we shall not be able to sing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' this Christmass in church, nevertheless in our hearts we know that the hope and fears of all the years are met in him now and for eternity, and we praise God for the gift of Jesus Christ and for hope in Him that overcomes all our fears.



Christmas Memorial Trees

There are two Christmas trees now in church, one is under the bell tower and the other is at the altar.

You are invited to come to church and write star for your loved one and hang it on the tree in their memory

Church is open from **9th-23rd December from 3-5 pm**
for prayer and reflection.

Worship & Prayer Diary - December 2020

Date	Day	Worship Times	Intention
Tuesday 1st		10.30 am Eucharist	Charity
Wednesday 2nd		9.00 am Eucharist	Making music
Thursday 3rd		6.45 pm Eucharist	Religious tolerance
Friday 4th			Right use of money
Saturday 5th		9.30 am Eucharist	Anniversaries of death
+ Sunday 6th	Advent Two	10.30 am Eucharist	Judgement
Monday 7th	S. Ambrose	12 noon Eucharist	Church/State relationship
Tuesday 8th	Conception of BVM	10.30 am Eucharist	Women
Wednesday 9th		9.00 am Eucharist	Christian ministry
Thursday 10th		6.45 pm Eucharist	Elected MPs
Friday 11th			Criminals
Saturday 12th		9.30 am Eucharist	Healing
+ Sunday 13th	Advent Three	10.30 am Eucharist	Hell
Monday 14th	S. John of the Cross	12 noon Eucharist	Prayer life
Tuesday 15th		10.30 am Eucharist	Emergency Services
Wednesday 16th		9.00 am Eucharist	Our Queen
Thursday 17th	O Sapientia	6.45 pm Eucharist	God's Wisdom
Friday 18th	O Adonai	9.05 am Eucharist	God is Lord
Saturday 19th	O Radix	9.30 am Eucharist	God's Sign
+ Sunday 20th	Advent Four	10.30 am Eucharist	Heaven
Monday 21st	O Oriens	12 noon Eucharist	O Dayspring
Tuesday 22nd	O Rex	10.30 am Eucharist	Christ our King
Wednesday 23rd	O Emmanuel	9.00 am Eucharist	God is with us
Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve	11.30 pm Midnight Mass	Final preparations
+ Friday 25th	Christmass Day	10.30 am Eucharist	Nativity of our Saviour
Saturday 26th	S. Stephen	9.30 am Eucharist	Martyrs
+ Sunday 27th	Christmass One	10.30 am Eucharist	The Holy Family
Monday 28th	Holy Innocents	12 noon Eucharist	Little children
Tuesday 29th	Thomas Becket	10.30 am Eucharist	Archbishops
Wednesday 30th	In the octave	9.00 am Eucharist	Thanksgiving for Jesus
Thursday 31st	In the octave	6.45 pm Eucharist	Our hopes and fears

Christmass Services 2020

Sunday 20th December

Home made Carol Service with readings -
video will premiered in the evening
(details to be announced)

Tuesday 24th December
Christmass Eve

4.30 pm - Children's online Crib Service
Live-streamed by Zoom video conference
11.30 pm - Midnight Eucharist in church

Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Day

10.30 am - Holy Eucharist in church

“O Come all ye Faithful”

Worship & Prayer Diary - January 2021

Date	Day	Worship Times	Intention
Friday 1st	Naming & Circumcision	10.30 am Eucharist	Power of Jesus' name
Saturday 2nd	Ss. Basil & Gregory	9.30 am Eucharist	Anniversaries of death
+ Sunday 3rd	Epiphany	10.30 am Eucharist	The coming of the Magi
Monday 4th		12 noon Eucharist	Church Order
Tuesday 5th		10.30 am Eucharist	Schools
Wednesday 6th		9.00 am Eucharist	Rule of law
Thursday 7th		6.45 pm Eucharist	Church governance
Friday 8th			Nurture of children
Saturday 9th		9.30 am Eucharist	Healing
+ Sunday 10th	Baptism of Christ	10.30 am Eucharist	Holy Baptism
Monday 11th		12 noon Eucharist	Mothers
Tuesday 12th	Aelred of Hexham	10.30 am Eucharist	The way of holiness
Wednesday 13th	Hilary	9.00 am Eucharist	Fight against heresy
Thursday 14th		6.45 pm Eucharist	Prisoners
Friday 15th			Scientists
Saturday 16th		9.30 am Eucharist	Peace
+ Sunday 17th	Epiphany Two	10.30 am Eucharist	Jesus of Nazareth
Monday 18th		12 noon Eucharist	Medical workers
Tuesday 19th	Wulfstan	10.30 am Eucharist	Simplicity
Wednesday 20th		9.00 am Eucharist	Care Home residents & workers
Thursday 21st	Agnes	6.45 pm Eucharist	Martyrs
Friday 22nd			Religious life
Saturday 23rd		9.30 am Eucharist	Justice

Worship & Prayer Diary - January 2021

Date	Day	Worship Times	Intention
+ Sunday 24th	Epiphany Three	10.30 am Eucharist	Signs and Miracles
Monday 25th	Conversion of S. Paul	12 noon Eucharist	Conversion of England
Tuesday 26th	Timothy & Titus	10.30 am Eucharist	Soul friends
Wednesday 27th		9.00 am Eucharist	Purity
Thursday 28th	Thomas Aquinas	6.45 pm Eucharist	Theologians
Friday 29th			Courage
Saturday 30th	Charles	9.30 am Eucharist	Our Lady of Walsingham
+ Sunday 31st	Candlemass	10.30 am Eucharist	The Presentation of Christ

Note from the Editor:

As Christine has said in her MU article, this has indeed been a year like no other. This dreadful virus has touched the lives of EVERYONE in one way or another.

A friend recently sent me a short video highlighting the sheltering which God has done over the years to his people and the great things which have resulted from the sheltering. Noah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Naomi, David, Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, disciples in the upper room, Paul, John and Jesus in the tomb for 3 days, we don't know what God is planning, but what we do know is what he has done in the past and that is what we can count on today. Just as in the past when God sheltered his people he won't stop now, so we must trust in the shelter of God to be our refuge.

**'You have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge for the needy
in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. Isaiah
25:4**

Taken from - Shelter in God by Dr David Jeremiah

There are still challenging times ahead with many uncertainties, but we must be grateful for all that we have and give thanks for the wonderful support of family & friends, the church community and the loving care of our Father. I know that with our trust in God and our continuing prayers we will come through this.

The Editorial Team wish you all a very Happy & Safe Christmas with best wishes for
a Happy & Blessed 2021.

If you have anything that you would like to share with us please email to:

stannesparishmag@gmail.com

Church Food Donations

As well as some gifts going to food banks a significant proportion of your donations are also distributed to families and children in our Parish by staff at our church school. On behalf of the food bank and our Church School I extend heartfelt thanks to all those who continue to contribute to this worthy cause, and I commend it to you.

For some families, making ends meet can be very difficult under normal circumstances and such problems are only exacerbated during times of viral plague, lockdown and the consequent severe economic challenges. Many, including those who are self-employed or 'just managing' on minimum wage can, under such circumstances, soon find themselves thrown into financial difficulty and facing terrible choices such as whether to heat or eat!

Our obligation to our neighbours is one that is conveyed by our churches ancient tradition, by scripture and by our common humanity. The duty we owe to our neighbour (and in particular to those who live in our parish) has been a long established tradition of our Church.

After the dissolution of the monasteries it was the local parish church that took over the responsibility for distributing what was then called the dole to those in need.

As our Vicar has pointed out we are one of the few institutions that exists to serve none members, and the Church of England's parish system, (which by custom, tradition and law) binds us to our immediate community provides us all with ample opportunity to demonstrate God's love in very practical ways.

Our duty to the needy is also clearly outlined in Holy Scripture (there being well over 400 references to the poor and poverty in The Bible) with Matthew chapter 25 vs 35-45 being a particularly poignant exposition of the love we demonstrate through the practical aid we give to others.

Some of us may be surprised to learn that we are officially a poor parish and anything we can do to help is greatly appreciated. The plight of those in need is sadly an ongoing problem which will last well beyond this present crisis. For many families the consequences of economic difficulties can be disastrous, and this not just something we hear about on 'News at Ten' but sadly this can be a reality experienced by some of those who live within the sound of own church bellies.

How can I contribute? Non-perishable food can be brought and placed in a basket at the back of church. When the church is open half an hour before and after each service. And 1 pm to 5 pm on Fridays

Where will the gifts go? Our gifts will be donated to local food banks and/or to families at our Church school.

**A S Page
Verger**



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Heyhouses C of E Nursery



We are now 21 years old! Nursery officially opened in the modular building on Saturday 30th October 1999.

Nursery was in the planning for several years before, but funding was an issue, but thanks to the generosity of a loan from Mr Tom Westall we were able to go ahead with the plans.

The building was not ready for September 1999, so we used one of the classrooms in the infant department with 5 children on role. This soon increased and the rest as they say is history.

We operated for 15 years in the modular building which was at the end of the original junior school playground (the middle of the main school field as it is now). Over the years we were successful in gaining grants to extend the outdoor play area, adding a much needed canopy and shed. Through fundraising events we were able to have bespoke equipment made for us a sand pit, water wheel, tower (all now relocated in our current garden).

In 2013 plans were passed for the school to be rebuilt and we were fortunate to be part of the plan. We re-located to Scout Headquarters on Heyhouses Lane for 12 months and finally moved into our new building in September 2014. Our staff have remained consistent too, with some staff being with us for over 18 years. We have also been delighted to welcome back as volunteers and now employees children who have attended here over the years.

This has probably been our most challenging time, but as always with the Heyhouses spirit we are rising to those challenges and dealing with it to the best of our ability with the incredible support of parents, trustees, our advisor Penny and the Early Years' team at LCC.

We are grateful to so many people for their support over the years, we would not be where we are with out the help from Mr Westall, who always said 'it was the best investment I ever made'.

So many children have benefitted from the care and education of Heyhouses Church of England, our original motto was 'First Steps in Building a Future' and it continues to be exactly that.



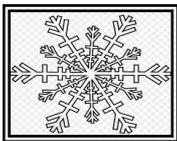
Heyhouses Deputy moves to Pastures New

At the end of this term Heyhouses Church of England Primary School says farewell to Mrs Sarah Bashora, a very dedicated and faithful Deputy Head.

She leaves Heyhouses after 11 years to take up the Headship at Clayton-le-Woods Church of England Primary School, in Clayton-le-Woods.

Mrs Bashora will be sadly missed by everyone, teachers, staff, children, parents and governors. She has brought something very special to our school.

We wish her all the very best as she takes on her new role as a head teacher and we hope that you will all keep Mrs Bashora and her family in your prayers, as they begin a new chapter in their lives.



Quote for Winter

"Words are mere bubbles of water
but deeds are pure drops of gold"



50/50 FUNDRAISING CLUB NEWS - UPDATE

Many of you will already know that due to Covid 19 restrictions the 50/50 club has been temporarily suspended. However just in case you are not aware this means that from and including Sunday 22 March 2020 no 50/50 draws have taken place and no payments are due until the draw reconvenes.

When it is decided to resume, the number of weeks where no draw has taken place will be disregarded. Therefore anyone in credit on 22 March will still be in the same number of weeks credit when the draw is resumed. If you were in debit ie owing subscriptions before the 22 March you will still be in the same number of weeks debit.

An announcement will be made in the magazine when it has been decided to recommence the draw.

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Mothers' Union from Christine Buckley

The year 2020 will be remembered as a most unusual and difficult year and as I write this article we are in our second lockdown because of the virus.

Sadly we have not been able to participate in our Harvest Thanksgiving and the usual distribution of generous gifts from the children. Many of us who have been rather housebound have spent many hours in the garden, on good days, and enjoyed harvesting our own home-grown fruits and vegetables. As I was unable to buy tomato seeds I planted seeds from two different bought tomatoes which of course were unknown varieties to me. Both types of seed grew outdoors very successfully and we are still eating the tomatoes in November, the green ones ripening in a brown paper bag.

We are fortunate to live in such a lovely town with the sea and promenades to enjoy as well as the various gardens, keeping our distance of course. We are aware that not everyone has transport to get around and have to rely on the help of friends and family. It has been difficult for us all not to be able to see our families who live away and we will continue to rely on the telephone and the internet to keep us connected.

Remembrance Day has been marked in various ways and it was very moving to see all the veterans and watch the services on the television, and thankfully our own church service shown on Facebook and lead by Fr David.

Preparations for Advent and Christmas will be rather different this year and there will not be the Tree Festival which we have been holding for many years.

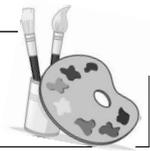
Mothers' Union members have been involved with the Festival and also the collecting of gifts for the children and teenagers using the Oak Tree Centre in St Annes, which of course we will not be able to do this year.

Our church is collecting items for the Food Bank to which people may like to contribute (see page 15 for details)

Our members have not been able to meet since March and so we have not been able to worship together in church or to enjoy outings and share meals together. However we participated in our MU Wave of Prayer in October and I will continue to remember all our members in my prayers.



Christmas Cards 2020



Sincere thanks to Maggie Chowns for allowing us to use one of her paintings for this year's Church Christmas Card.

We have received numerous complimentary remarks about the picture on this card. Beautiful!

Many thanks, Maggie. Keep painting!



Foodbank



There is a basket at the back of church for any tinned and other non-perishable donations which we are passing to the Fylde Foodbank

Please check that all items are well within their "Use by" date.

Thank you for your support.

Ringling Notes



During the Summer three of our ringers, Adrian Page and Dianne & Derek Smith, advised me that they would no longer be ringing at St Annes.

I would like to personally thank them for their loyalty and friendship over the years that they rang with us.

Stuart Newton

In response

In responding to the above one is naturally drawn to reflection.

Forgive the pun but ringing appeals to me on so many levels, it is mentally and physically challenging and provides a diversity of friends and potential comrades the length and breadth of this kingdom. It enables one to serve the church, to call the faithful to worship and to participate in the living history of this land as its bells continue their ancient tradition of announcing or commemorating personal, local and national events. The original internet!

Some ringing events and activities naturally stick in one's mind..... here are just a few.....

- An inquisitive ten year old chorister making a solo venture up the medieval staircase to the ringing room of St Mary's Cheltenham and being completely over awed by the apparent ease with which the (seemingly elderly twelve ringers) rang endless high speed complex permutations of number without ever clashing the bells or referring to notes. These were real experts but they had the patience and kindness to teach this intruder. I was hooked. Looking back at pictures of them they seem quite youthful now!
- A teenager and his friends cycling round Cotswold villages to ring at different towers.....and getting to know which rural pubs were most likely to prove hospitable to very youthful ringers!
- One rural tower where the captain regularly rang two bells at once whilst another brave and determined member of his team refused to give in to severe arthritis and maintained control over his bell by ringing one handed and using a leather glove to physically strap the tail end of the rope to his wrist and arm!!! He was a very able ringer.
- Being terrified as a youngster when visiting at Pershore Abbey, the traitor Cromwell (pardon the historical bias) had destroyed the bells and in the process of restoration some absent minded architect had apparently forgotten to install the floor! (See they even had cowboy builders in the 17th century!) As a consequence the ringers ring from a suspended cage.....my confidence ascending into the cage was not increased by being told that the opening of the wrong door would result in a 200' drop.

- Waiting with a girlfriend outside a Cornish village church to ring some newly restored bells. Curiously enough the vicar was first to arrive in a rather splendid looking vehicle. When we explained why we were there he said, “ Thank you my lovelies I’d forgotten they was goin’ to ring them bells, better be movin my new car, before they gets goin’ and half the tower starts a fallin on it!!!!” Obviously he did not trust bell hangers or 13th century masons, ‘O ye of little faith’. !!!
- Raising money for the church roof by doing several sponsored sleep overs in the tower of the most haunted village in England. We certainly saw more than the odd few spirits but that was due more to the generosity of the local inn than the hamlet’s scary reputation! Sleeping above quarterly chiming bells was also quite challenging.
- In 1986 Harry (the then captain of our tower) sent a new and somewhat slimmer member of the team through a narrow chamber filled with decaying pigeons to reconnect one of the drivers for the hands on the clock faces! I certainly recall that one; I nearly got permanently stuck, and can assure you ‘odeur de pigeon’ will never catch on!!!
- The Vicar of St Annes phoning early in the morning to order the half muffling of the bells to announce a royal passing, and a neighbour reporting that on hearing the haunting muffled sound realized something was wrong and turned on the radio to learn of the death of the Princess of Wales.
- Having a rare Friday afternoon off at the start of the school vacations and trying to make the 350 mile journey home in time for bell practice, which always seemed like a good start to the hols which told me I was home’.
- Earlier this year after ringing for morning Mass I made a far too hasty speedy descent from the ringing room . As a result I hurtled down the stairs and tumbled out of the tower door straight into a family of startled visitors. With black cassock and academic gown a flying, the newcomers could have been forgiven for thinking that we really do have bats in the belfry.
- I should have known better really, for a similar and even more embarrassing incident had taken place at St Paul’s cathedral (Dundee not London!!) Having accepted a kind invitation to ring for the enthronement of the new Bishop I arrived at St. Paul’s early in the hope of being able to make a slow and leisurely climb up the rather high tower. Unfortunately I had mistimed my ascent. As I made my way upwards I could clearly hear someone moving at an impressive pace behind me and they were swiftly catching up. Huffing and puffing I finally came across a doorway arch which would serve both as a resting place for myself and a passing point for the athletic mountaineer below. I was however embarrassed to discover that my pursuer was no young whippersnapper or fitness freak in T shirt and shorts but rather a wonderful elderly lady more given to respectful twin set and pearls! As she passed she turned, smiled, and in a voice of sympathetic of reassurance whispered, ‘it’s not far to the top now ’ Being out paced by an energetic OAP was not to be the last humiliation of the day! Having tolled the tenor bell immediately before the service I was the last person to head down into the

cathedral. Apparently we were required to be sat in the nave before the service started. In order to comply with my host's wishes I made haste and hurtled down the steps. This was a mistake. Descending a long spiral staircase at speed resulted in me coming upon the exit rather faster than I had anticipated. Giddiness and momentum meant that I couldn't stop and as a consequence I hurtled out of the door like some demented bowling ball heading uncontrollably towards the defenceless pins. Unfortunately the unmissable target ahead of me was the gathering procession of the entire Episcopal bench and several sheriffs. At least I can say Scotland's great and good have been bowled over by me.

- Having no immediate family and consequently finding myself free on Boxing Day I climbed our tower in order to repair one of the bells. After swinging it over by hand I looked out of one of the louvers and saw a couple of people in the churchyard looking up at the tower and examining their watches. The bell had by now made many strikes and the confused onlookers, who were clearly still filled with the Christmas spirit were in a state of bewilderment and puzzlement. Maybe they thought we had converted to a 24 hour system !
- Chiming several bells at eight o'clock on Thursday evenings to honour our NHS workers and demonstrating the churches solidarity with the people was a particularly humbling experience.
- Touching comments from grieving relatives when we have rung the ancient Nine Tailors.
- I shall, of course continue to enjoy my ringing across the Fylde and commend the activity to you all.

Adrian Page

Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting Tuesday 20th Oct 2020

Electoral Roll Report

A brand new Electoral Roll was prepared in March 2019 as part of the normal 6 year cycle. The new Roll contained 204 names compared to 248 on the old 2013 Roll, when it expired. By March/April 2020 the number had grown to 206 with 10 additions (including 7 re-joiners from 2013) and eight deletions (4 deaths, 2 removals and 2 by request).

The ER was updated again in September 2020 prior to the postponed APCM, when there were 7 removals (5 deaths and 2 removals) balanced by 7 additions, leaving the total Roll unchanged at 206, approximately 50-50 resident and non-resident in the parish.

The regular weekly attendance (individuals over 16 attending once or more in the week averaged over the four weeks of October) was 143, which has been fairly flat for several years.

Gerald Wilson

Foodbank

We continue to be humbled by the generosity of people who have donated food this year.

Please note that church is open half an hour before and after our daily Eucharist which itself lasts 30 minutes, services start as follows:



Sunday 10.30 am
Monday 12 noon
Tuesday 10.30 am
Wednesday 9.00 am
Thursday 6.45 pm
Friday - church is open from 1.00 - 5.00 pm
Saturday 9.30 am
Many thanks for your continuing support



Pilgrims Coffee Stop Currently on hold



Every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays), from 10:00 am -12:00 noon we will be serving delicious coffee, tea and biscuits in the **Parish Rooms** in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is welcome!

So why not come along and join us for a weekly get-together and chat.

Reflected Faith Series: Grace for all

Recently we thought about one key element of gathered worship – the Welcome. It is for everyone, regardless of how they look, or dress, their faith or their behaviour. This month, being the month of Advent and Christmas, let's focus on Grace.

God, in Jesus, did not wait for us to become perfect or reach up to Him but rather He came to us, in the daily mess of our lives; as and where we are.

I recently heard someone say: 'God's nature is goodness', and the Bible confirms that this is true. He cannot help it. That's what He is. He is goodness, and grace, and forgiveness, and faithfulness, and all those wonderful attributes that come from the pure essence of love.

It's what we strive for – to be more like Him every day. Then our welcome to others will also be full of grace, His grace, and not guided by our own likes or prejudices. Instead, we can reach out to others spontaneously, from a heart of love.

This Advent and Christmas it will probably be harder to welcome people into our times of worship. Virtual is not the same as actual, and actual will include facemasks. But that does not mean that we should give up on reaching out to those who visit our church. This year, more than ever, they may need us. Many will be lonely this Christmas, far from their families.

So, although our normal church services may be disrupted, we have to remember that services are not the church; WE are the church. In what has been an extraordinary year, perhaps we can each of us find an informal way of sharing our Christmas joy with anyone whom God sends our way.

Over the coming weeks: Think about what it is about Christmastime services that people love. How can we distil that into a socially distanced service or meeting, a virtual experience or into an envelope or maybe a box to their doors?

*The Revd Dr Jo White
From her series 'Looking at God'*

Diocesan Communications Update

Information from the diocese is available to view on our website.

Lots of useful and interesting information with links to photographs, articles and diocesan initiatives.

Praying for Healing

On the second Saturday of each month at the 9.30 am Eucharist we pray for those who are in need of God's healing.

Laying on of hands and anointing are available.

If you have a particular concern for somebody or for yourself please do join us.

Church of St Anne Guide Book only £2.50, available from the church bookstall. Highly recommended

WE ARE A GIVING CHURCH - CHARITABLE DONATIONS 2020

We donate 10% of our planned-giving income to charity. This year we are supporting the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement, North West Blood Bikes, Fylde Coast Women's Aid, St. Anne's Friends of Trinity Hospice, the Stroke Association and individual causes identified by the clergy.

More information on our website: www.stannesparishchurch.org

Nursery Praise

The worship, prayers and story time will be followed by refreshments.

All 4 year old children are welcome, together with parents and carers.

This will resume as soon as it is possible to do so.

Babies & Toddlers

Come and join us in the Parish Rooms on Wednesday afternoons in term time from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Childminders and Carers are all welcome for tea and a chat with plenty of toys for the toddlers.



Influence

Articles for inclusion in the magazine for **February**

should be handed in at the Parish Office or e-mailed to: stannesparishmag@gmail.com before 11 am on

MONDAY 15th JANUARY

Thank you



St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness, his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

How Many More Waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally *saw God in front of his situation*. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.'

The Naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus, a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January, eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.



For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

f	q	z	u	c	s	d	k	w	v	o	n	o
j	f	t	m	d	n	r	t	g	o	d	c	l
p	r	o	p	h	e	t	h	a	f	r	v	f
p	r	a	y	i	n	g	n	s	f	i	l	q
l	w	a	i	t	i	n	g	a	e	s	j	d
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l	n	f	t	s	m	u	y	i	i	a	s	b
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d	i	o	m	t	a	d	h	u	g	l	s	p
a	d	s	p	m	i	u	p	r	s	d	i	e
n	e	e	l	f	a	m	i	l	y	c	t	a
n	u	p	e	o	p	l	e	a	d	e	r	c
a	j	h	p	i	n	c	o	u	p	l	e	e

Temple
praised
peace
Jesus
Anna
Israel

baby
offerings
inside
everyone
people
Saviour

Anna
prophet
couple
God
Joseph
leader

family
lifetime
Mary
praying
waiting
world

Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>



INFLUENCE ADVERTISING

Do you have a business or know of one that would benefit from advertising in our church magazine?

If so please contact the Parish Office for details.

A quarter page advert only costs £60 for the year!



Martin received the latest Christmas coronavirus regulations from the diocesan office.



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

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www.chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk**

**Email:
chris@chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk**

Children's Church

**We meet on the 2nd & 4th
SUNDAYS at 10.15 am in
the Parish Rooms
EVERYONE is welcome!**

Children enjoy activities in the Parish Rooms then we go over to church around 11.15 am to be part of the service with the rest of the congregation.

At the end of the service the children are given the opportunity to talk about what they have been doing and show us their 'work'.

Monthly 'Family Services' also take place where Children's Church is involved.



Heyhouses C of E Nursery School

Are you looking for a nursery place for your child?

If you are interested in a place at this outstanding nursery with close links to the primary school please contact us at

denise.heyhouses@btconnect.com

or call

01253 640110

Are you a business looking for advertising space?

For more information please contact:

The Parish Office on
01253 722736



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



Sunday	Week or Feast	Sunday Communions	Sunday Attendance	Weekday Communions

Not applicable at the moment

*Includes all main Sunday Services, excludes baptisms etc



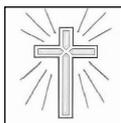
Baptisms



Daisy
Maximilien

Marriages

No marriages



Recently Departed

Please pray for those who have died recently, among them:

Valerie Asquith
Stephen Byrne
Evanne Catley
Maureen Colledge
Rodney Grierson
Stephen Grierson
Alistair Heyworth

Jean Kay
Marion Kidman
James Lambert
Eric McKenzie
Alan Marcella
Ada Melling
David Murray
Christine Pearson
Gerald Philpott
Peter Scholtz
Brian Timms
Bert Waddington



*"May they rest in peace
and rise in glory"*

Memorial & Lady Chapel Lights

The Lady Chapel light has been sponsored by the St Annes Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham in honour of Our Lady and in memory of departed members of the Cell.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



It is possible to have names of departed loved ones placed in the Memorial Book. Please simply take a form from the back of church and return it to the Parish Office. Donations given with names for entry will be placed in a special memorial fund, to be used in memory of loved ones, according to the church's needs.

Contacts

Church Officers and Organisations

Lay Readers:

Mr Bill Hembrow 721872

Mrs Joan Johnson 712674

Director of Music:

Mr Alistair MacKenzie 722366

Verger: Mr Adrian Page

Contact the Parish Office 722736

Servers: Mr Gerald Wilson 730806

Hon. Secretary of PCC: Vacant

Hon. Treasurer of PCC:

Mr Richard Baker 727878

Heyhouses C of E Primary School:

Mrs Elizabeth Hodgson: 722014

Ext 1 - Infant Dept, Ext 3 - Junior Dept

Mrs Denise Brown (Nursery) 640110

Email:denise.heyhouses@btconnect.com

Captain of Bellingers:

Stuart Newton 725958

Planned Giving Officer:

Richard Baker 727878

Electoral Roll Secretary:

Gerald Wilson 730806

Press Officer: Lesley Dawson 726589

Parish Rooms: Parish Office

Magazine Editorship: Parish Office

Magazine Adverts: Office 722736

Flower Guild: Mrs Brenda Lyon 722725

Safeguarding Officer:

Denise Duke 789268

Email: sapc.safeguarding@gmail.com

Mothers' Union:

Christine Buckley 728666

Babies and Toddlers:

Janice Vause 07814834188

Children's Church:

Contact the Parish Office 722736

Nursery Praise: Jan Hood 720344

Operatic and Dramatic Society:

Alison Thornton 739235

Heritage Mural: Vacant

Handbell Ringers:

Christine Buckley 728666

Men's Fellowship: Vacant

Uniformed Organisations

For details of our uniformed groups
contact: Fr David

Usual Services at St Annes Parish Church

Sunday

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.15 am Children's Church

(2nd & 4th Sundays)

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

6.30 pm Evening Worship

(see Worship & Prayer Diary for details)

Weekday Services

The Eucharist is usually celebrated at the
following times:

Monday 12.00 noon

Tuesday 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.00 am

Thursday 6.45 pm

Friday 9.05 am

Saturday 9.30 am

Parish Information

Parish Office

2a Oxford Road, St Annes on Sea

FY8 2EA

01253 722736

stannesparishoffice73@gmail.com

Open Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 12 pm

For information regarding Weddings
please contact Fr David - 01253 722725

For information regarding Baptisms
please contact the Parish Office - 01253 722736

Churchwardens

Mr John Pitches - 07855 144286

Vacant

Deputy Churchwarden

Stuart Newton - 01253 725958

Website Administrator:

Paul McMahon

paulmcmahon1@aol.com

Registered Charity No: 1155188