



The Churches of  
**STANTON-BY-DALE with  
DALE ABBEY & RISLEY**

Saint Michael & All Angels, Stanton-by-Dale | All Saints, Dale Abbey | All Saints, Risley



[www.sdrchurches.org.uk](http://www.sdrchurches.org.uk)

**1st December 2024**

## Welcome to our service today, especially if you are a visitor

- Crèche facilities are available throughout the Benefice. Please ask one of the church wardens or welcomers where these can be found. Please also feel no embarrassment if your little ones make noise—we are a church family of all ages!
- There is no collection taken during the service but you are welcome to give towards the work of the church on the plate at the back or through the bank (bank details are on the back of this news sheet). If you do wish to give and are a tax payer please think about completing a Gift Aid declaration which are in the pew or next to the offertory plate at the back.
- If you know of anyone sick or in any sort of need, please pass the details on to one of the church wardens or clergy.
- Refreshments are served after our services. Please do join us for a chat; we are also happy to pray with you after any service.
- JAM Club (Jesus and Me) for children aged 3 to 11, takes place during our services (not All-Age Services) at Stanton and Risley. Details will be given during the service.

### Special prayer or collect - The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

For latest updates, please regularly visit our website: [www.sdrchurches.org.uk](http://www.sdrchurches.org.uk)  
or find us on: [facebook.com/SDRChurches](https://facebook.com/SDRChurches) or YouTube [youtube.com/@SDRChurches](https://youtube.com/@SDRChurches)

#### **This week: 1st December**

9.00am Traditional Communion, Risley  
10.45am All Age Morning Worship, Stanton (livestreamed)  
4.00pm Risley@4 All Age  
Passage: Isaiah 40: 1-5  
Talk: Advent in Isaiah #1  
*No service at Dale*

#### **Next week: 8th December**

10.45am Joint Benefice Communion Service with JAM Club, Stanton (livestreamed)  
12.15pm Benefice Bring and Share Christmas Lunch, Old School, Stanton  
6.30pm Advent Carols, the Gateway, Dale Abbey  
Passage: Isaiah 40: 6-11  
Talk: Advent in Isaiah #2  
*No morning service at Dale or service at Risley*

## “Comfort & Joy”

This week we are starting a series looking at the second part of the book of Isaiah, chapter 40 onwards. Its linked to our Advent book “Comfort & Joy” which is still available at our three churches.

I’ve been given the opening round in this series and will be looking at the start of chapter 40.

To set the scene three quick initial thoughts !

**A bit of back ground.** In the book of Isaiah through chapters 1 to 39 the Lord has been confronting the people of Israel for their wickedness and sin.

**A bit of history.** At that time Assyria was the ruling empire of the world. In chapter 38 we see Assyria surround Jerusalem, but ultimately God in His mercy and grace rescues Jerusalem. He does because Hezekiah chooses to humble himself before God Almighty.

**An interesting observation.** Moving to chapter 40, the Lord speaks a word of comfort beginning in this chapter. What’s interesting, I think, about the book of Isaiah is that it mirrors the bible. The bible has sixty-six books and Isaiah has sixty-six chapters. The Old Testament is 39 chapters and its focus is on the Old Covenant and the inability of Israel to live according to that covenant. The first thirty nine chapters of Isaiah are focused on the rebellion of Israel and also God dealing with the nations of the world in judgement. But the second half of Isaiah which is chapters 40 to 66 focuses on the promise and fulfilment of the coming of the Messiah.

The background now set, this week its “Comfort and Joy”, I’m guessing like me you can hear the tune of the Carol as you say the words?

I will be unpacking verses 1-5 of chapter 40 and looking how it applies to us as we start this season of Advent.

Blessings, Garry

## 8. Prayer Meeting

Our next All Together prayer meeting is on Weds Dec 11th, starting at 7.45pm, and it will be online. We’ll be welcoming James Clark, our mission partner in Belgium with Crosslinks at this meeting. The Zoom code for this will be shared nearer the time.

## 9. Christmas Magazine Distribution *(a valuable resource for our villages and areas where we live!)*

The Christmas Magazines are back from the printers and are ready for distribution. If you usually help with this, your continued support is greatly appreciated. Please don’t forget to pick up your own copy from church or one of our associated buildings and please remember to take extra copies for your family, friends and neighbours.

## Canaan Trust 2024 Advent Wish List

Our three churches and Risley Lower Grammar School are going to be supporting the Canaan Trust’s Advent Food Bank Appeal again this year. From now until Sunday 15th December, we will be collecting priority donations that are itemized on the flyers that you can find at the back of church, the Gateway and our other church buildings. The items listed include food, toiletries and clothing. Please do take a flyer and considering supporting this local charity. You can bring your donations to any of our church services and leave them there ready for collection (including the Gateway). The Canaan Trust will look to be distributing the donations from 21st December so we will need to get our collections to them by Friday 20th December. Thank you.

# This week's news

## 1. Church Office

The office is **open** Mon 9.00am to 11.30am. **Closed** all day Tues. **Open** Weds to Fri 9.30am to 3.00pm. To contact the office, call 0115 9440609 or email: elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk

## 2. SDR Churches Livestream - Stanton services

Our YouTube page can be accessed by clicking on the YouTube logo on our website or visit [www.youtube.com/@sdrchurches](http://www.youtube.com/@sdrchurches) – click the 'Live' tab for livestreamed services. Remember, you won't see the livestream until we start streaming (at 10.45am).

## 3. DISCOVER

The DISCOVER Course continues on Tuesday 3rd December 1.30pm to 2.30pm at the Gateway in Dale Abbey.

## 4. Christmas Tea and Company

**Tea and Company will meet next on Tuesday 3rd December, 2.30pm to 4.00pm at the Old School, Stanton. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a Christmas tea!**

## 5. Benefice Christmas Lunch

We are hosting a Benefice Bring and Share Christmas Lunch at the Old School on Sunday 8th Dec (NEXT Sunday) starting at 12.15pm. Lists will be in our churches for food items and names/numbers of people. Seasonal attire to be worn is encouraged! A glass of fizz, juice tea and coffee will be available on arrival. ***If you would like any other particular drink to share with your family etc (non-alcoholic or alcoholic) then do please bring that with you. For those wishing to "drop off" their food before the service, the Old School will be open from 10-10.30am.*** (Refreshments will not be served in church after the Stanton service. Please make your way up to the Old School ready to start lunch at 12.15pm)

## 6. Comfort & Joy—Advent Devotions from Isaiah 40-55

This years Advent Devotional book offering, 'Comfort & Joy' by Matt Searles is available in each of our churches. The 25 devotions, with a daily reading and short reflection, will take you through Isaiah 40-55.

This advent, join with Simeon in meditating on Isaiah's 'book of comfort'. Do please help yourself to one of these books, and if you are able to leave a donation of £1.00 on the collection plate to help cover some of the cost we would be grateful. If you are unable to, please don't worry. We would much rather you had a book than not!



## 7. Date for your Diary (also on the back of the news sheet) - (Please read and take note!)

**Sun 1st Dec—6.00pm Stanton by Dale Lights Switch On\***

**Tues 3rd Dec—2.30pm Christmas Tea & Company, Old School, Stanton**

**\*\*6.45pm Dale Abbey Lights Switch On\***

**Thurs 5th Dec—6.00pm Heroes and Impact Christmas Party, Old School, Stanton**

**Sat 7th Dec—Risley Lights Switch On and Christmas Fair (with the Salvation Army), Risley Memorial Village Hall\***

**Sun 8th December—12.15pm Joint Benefice Lunch, Old School, Stanton**

**6.30pm Advent Carols, Gateway, Dale Abbey**

**Tues 10th December—9.30am See and Know Christmas Party**

**2.30pm Carol Singing at Woodhall Park Nursing Home, Risley**

**Fri 13th December—3.30pm to 5.00pm Christmas Tea & Company, the Gateway, Dale Abbey**

**\*Events not run by church but do please go along and support them**

**\*\* Events added or time change since previously advertised**

### Dates for your diary in the coming weeks:

**Sun 1st Dec—6.00pm Stanton by Dale Lights Switch On**

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**Sun 15th December—4.00pm Risley@4 All Age Nativity service**

**HOME GROUPS are an important part of our ministry. They run in various places around the Benefice—please speak to Phil to find out more, we would love for you to be included.**

Do you need someone to chat to, or pray with? If so, get in touch, we'd love to help! Email: [elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk](mailto:elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk)

***See and Know (Toddlers)*** - Tues mornings during term time, starting at 9.30am, The Old School, Stanton.

***Heroes (7-11s)*** (6-7pm) and ***Impact (11-16s)*** (7-8:15pm) on Thursdays, both at The Old School, Stanton.

***Ignite (14-18s)*** - (6.30pm-8.00pm) Sunday evenings. Speak to Phil, Nick, Ali or Holly for further details.

**Bank Details- Giving:** Thank you to all who continue to support the gospel work and ministry of the Benefice financially, your support is *much appreciated*. If you would like to consider giving your donation direct to a church bank account, or passing on a cheque to either Phil, James or the church office, the account details are below:

**Risley:** Bank: NatWest; Sort code: 60 13 23; Account number: 96350199; Account name: PCC All Saints Risley (please make cheques payable to the account name)

**Stanton:** Bank: NatWest; Sort code: 60 11 37; Account number: 96512067; Account name: Stanton by Dale PCC (please make cheques payable to the account name)

**Dale:** Bank: NatWest; Sort code: 60 11 37; Account number: 96529903; Account name: Dale Abbey Church (please make cheques payable to the account name)

### Mission Partner Prayers— Crosslinks: James and Lou Clark and family, serving in Belgium

Thank you for praying to the Sovereign Lord to build his church here. We'd really appreciate prayer for:

1. Our 2 Big Question & Waffle lunchtime events - Thurs 28 Nov & Thurs 12 Dec. We are renting the local waffle shop to invite students to think about big questions, looking at Luke's gospel. Please pray for boldness in inviting, and students coming off the streets.
2. Our Christmas invitation service with choir : Saturday 14 Dec. Please pray for several of our school families and neighbours to come to that.
3. Brussels Bible Institute classes : James is doing a series of 3 Saturday classes on the Biblical Theology of Mission. please pray for folk understanding better God's plan to reach the nations, and for it to lead to more pro-active Word proclamation for His glory.
4. Our Student Weekend Away, 29 Nov-1Dec : James will be teaching on Colossians. Please pray for friendships deepened, folk to grow in thankfulness. And for strength for Lou looking after the family whilst James is away.

**Street Prayers** Pray for businesses and residents on Golf Club Road, The Village and Breaston Lane.

**The Sick** Jane Geary, Ian Hill, Ian Howarth, Audrey Sims and Marion Barnstall.

**Bereaved** Families and friends of: Anne Evans (Zena's mother in law), Hilda Naylor, John Cresswell, Ted Alsop, Derek Gregory, Frederick Perry, Barry Cross, Wendy Roome, Jean Chamberlain and Philip Brown.

### Contact Information:

Website: [www.sdrchurches.org.uk](http://www.sdrchurches.org.uk)

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Safeguarding: Contact 07398 609343 Jess Davidson-Egan; Childline: 0800 11 11; Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01332 388678