



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)

**14th December 2025**

## 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 Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father 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: Sunday 14th December**

**9.00am Communion, Dale**

**Reading: Luke 1: 26-56** (*page 1025 in the pew bibles*)

**Talk: Sing in Exultation—The First Christmas Carol?**

**6.30pm Carols by Candlelight, Stanton**

*No morning service at Stanton and no service at Risley today.*

**Next week: Sunday 21st December**

**9.00am Communion, Dale**

**Reading: John 3: 1-21** (*page 1065 in the pew bibles*)

**Talk: Sing in Exultation**

**4.00pm Risley@4 All Age Nativity Service in Risley Church.**

*No service at Stanton on the 21st December.*

## **The very first Christmas carol ??**

One of my favourite childhood Christmas memories is going carol singing on Christmas Eve with two or three other families who lived along our road, and at the end, being invited into quite a large posh house for mince pies and drinks. I still love singing Christmas carols, and so this year's Advent devotional book, "Sing in Exultation" is just up my street as each day we are invited to explore through a verse of a carol the Christmas story as told throughout all of Scripture beginning with the Old Testament prophecies and ending with Christ's birth and the hope of His second coming.

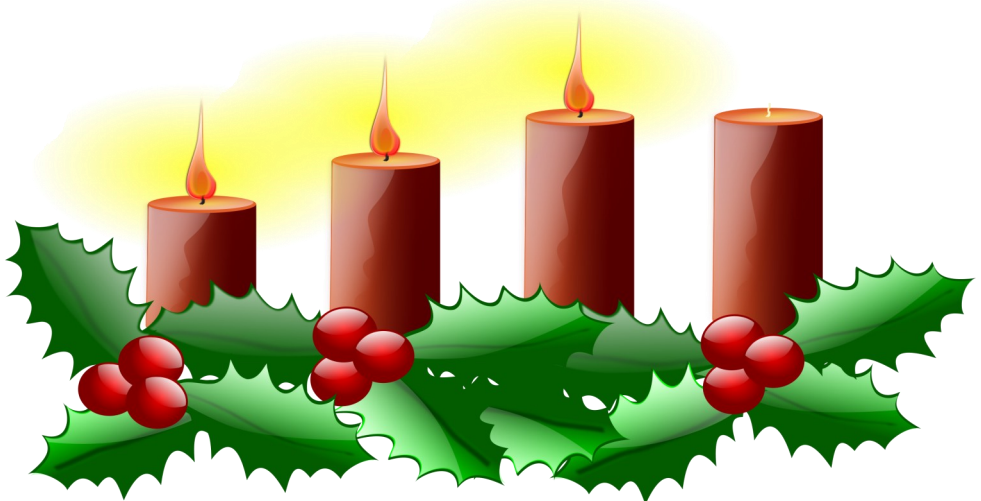
This Sunday, as we come to the third Sunday in Advent, I have chosen to look at what might be considered to be the "very first Christmas carol", "The Magnificat", which Mary sang in response to being told that she is to give birth to a child who "will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High".

Today, we often sing the well-known hymn "Tell Out my Soul", which captures the words of The Magnificat, and although not traditionally associated with Christmas, is a wonderful Advent hymn as we wait with hope and expectation for the birth of Christ our Saviour.

So, do come to Dale Abbey on Sunday Morning (9am Communion) to both sing this wonderful hymn and learn more about Mary and her response to the visit of the Angel Gabriel.

And don't forget the Carols by Candlelight service at Stanton by Dale at 6-30pm – where you will be able to sing lots of Christmas carols (but won't hear my sermon!!)

Rachel Hobbs



## **This week's news**

### **1.Church Office**

The office will be open Mon, Weds to Fri, 10.00am to 2.00pm. **CLOSED** on Tues morning. Open 12.30pm to 3.00pm. To contact the office, call 0115 9440609 or email: [elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk](mailto: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. Carol Singing at Woodhall Park Nursing Home, Risley**

Do come and join us tomorrow (Monday 15th December) at 2.30pm at Woodhall Park Nursing Home in Risley, where we will be joining in with singing traditional carols with the staff and residents. Everyone is welcome.

### **4. Carol Singing at The Chequers, Stanton**

We will be carol singing at The Chequers pub in Stanton on Wednesday 17th December, starting at 8.00pm. Do come along and join in on what is always a very well attended and lively occasion!

### **5. Christmas Tea & Company**

Tea & Company will meet for a Christmas Tea on Friday 19th December, 3.30pm to 5.00pm at the Gateway, Dale Abbey. Everyone is welcome!

### **6. Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army will be playing carols at Middlemore Cottages in Stanton on Friday 19th December starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

### **7. All Age Nativity**

Our All Age Nativity service will be at 4.00pm at Risley Church next Sunday (21st December). Do please come along and join in the fun! If you would like your child or children to join in, please can you make sure they and you are at church no later than 3.20pm so everyone has enough time to be allocated parts and to dress the part!

### **8. Remaining Christmas Services List!**

**Wednesday 24th Dec: 2.00pm Benefice Carol Singing at the Gateway, Dale**

**9.00pm Candlelit Communion, 'Midnight in Bethlehem', Risley**

**Thursday 25th Dec: 10.30am Joint Benefice Service—A Christmas Day Celebration with Communion, Stanton**

**Sunday 28th Dec: 10.30am Joint Benefice Service, Risley**

### **9. Our next Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship Meeting:**

*Monday 12th January, 7:30pm, St Francis, Mackworth, DE22 4FN* - an evening on global mission with Patrick Johnstone from Operation World. This event is open to anyone so please do invite your friends along. If you would like to go, please can you let Phil know, thank you!

### **Thank you**

A really big thank you to all those people who helped in anyway towards making our Benefice Christmas Lunch last week such a great success. Thank you to all the bakers, decorators, those who helped tidy away, quiz masters, birthday cake collectors etc and a special thank you to team Donna and Zak Goodwin for heading up the event. Your hard work and efforts were greatly appreciated! Thank you again to everyone involved!

## Dates for your diary in the coming weeks:

**Monday 19th January 2026– 7.15pm Joint PCC Meeting, the Old School, Stanton**

**Sunday 1st February– Try Church Sunday**

*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)** - (6.00pm—7.30pm) 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 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—Canaan Trust

Please pray for three vulnerable individuals the Trust is supporting who feel suicidal.

Pray for a family where the mother died, this week and the father died of cancer a couple of years back. There are two young children, one severely autistic and the only relatives are elderly grandparents.

Pray for a father, with three very young children, who is battling to maintain contact/access to his children.

Pray for those individuals and families who look to the Trust for support and help with food over Christmas. Pray that the Trust may not miss anyone who is in need at this time.

Pray for anyone who is homeless or may lose their accommodation over the Christmas period.

Pray for those who feel isolated and lonely that others may recognise their plight and reach out to comfort and help them.

**Street Prayers** Pray for businesses and residents on Golf Club Road, Arbour Hill and Rushy Lane.

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

**Bereaved** Families and friends of: Vivien Wallace, Roger Allen, John Hill, Colin Lawson, Margaret Wain and Trevor Lucas.

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

Stanton by Dale with Dale Abbey PCC Registered Charity Number: 1215525

Rector: Revd Philip Selby: Phone: 07768 095270 Email: [phil.selby@sdrchurches.org.uk](mailto:phil.selby@sdrchurches.org.uk)

Church office: 0115 9440609 Office email: [elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk](mailto:elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk)

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

01332 388678