



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 Second Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; 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
or find us on: facebook.com/SDRChurches or [YouTube youtube.com/@SDRChurches](https://youtube.com/@SDRChurches)



This week: Sunday 4th January 2026

10.30am Joint Benefice Communion Service, Stanton (livestreamed)

Passage: 1 Peter 2: 4-9 (page 1218 in the pew bibles)

Talk: Declaring the praises of God in 2026

No services at Dale or Risley today

Next week: Sunday 11th January

The First Sunday of Epiphany, The Baptism of Christ

9.00am Communion, Dale

10.45am Morning Worship with JAM Club, Stanton (livestreamed)

4.00pm Risley@4 with JAM Club

Passage: Matthew 2: 1-12 (page 966 in the pew bibles)

Talk: The Gospel of Matthew: The Rising Star

Our New Year Verse for 2026:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

(1 Peter 2:9)

As we begin the New Year together we are going to be spending some time thinking about these wonderful words from 1 Peter 2:9. These words list the huge blessings that are given to those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' followers are chosen by God, drawn into His Royal Priesthood, made into a Holy Nation, and are God's special possession. It truly is the most remarkable description of God's church.

So, believer today, marvel at the truth of these words. Our churches are full of 'ordinary' people like me, with gifts and talents, hopes and dreams, fears and struggles, worries and concerns. Church is a 'hospital for sinners' not a 'museum for saints'. Yet, whilst it is true that we are all ordinary people, the way the Lord Jesus views his church is incredible! He values his church, the people who make it up, above everything—we are God's **special** possession. As we start this New Year, we need to remember who we are!

And we've been given the most marvellous job to be getting on with: *to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light*. This is the task we will recommit to at the start of this year: Declaring the praises of the Lord Jesus Christ who has been so kind to us in drawing us into his family.

Will you join us in this task of declaring God's praises? To do so, you need to be a part of His church—his chosen people. Come to Jesus Christ at the start of this New Year and experience for yourself the blessing of being one of God's children, his chosen people, part of his royal priesthood, his special possession. There truly is nothing better!

Happy New Year! *Phil*

Magnify—equipping, enjoying, exalting

On Saturday 24th January, 9.00am to 9.30pm, the Cornerstone Church in Nottingham is running a brand-new day conference created to encourage those who serve in the church each week in gathered worship (playing instruments, singing, sound desk, etc) or help shape Sunday services in any way. The day is made up of three distinct events:

Equip—9.30am to 12.30pm: a relaxed morning of practical, hands-on training

Enjoy—3.00pm: a fun, family-friendly worship session with Awesome Cutlery

Exalt—7.00pm: an evening of rich, Christ-centered worship, singing old and new songs led by Phil Moore and Ben Skee.

For more information (cost etc) and bookings, please visit:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/99284>

Special Prayer for The Epiphany—6th January

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

This week's news

1. Church Office

The office will be open Mon to Fri 10.00am to 2.00pm. 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 – click the ‘Live’ tab for livestreamed services. Remember, you won’t see the livestream until we start streaming (at 10.45am).

3. 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!

4. All Together Prayer Meeting

Our next All Together Prayer Meeting is on Wednesday 14th January, ONLINE starting at 7.45pm. The Zoom code for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.

5. Joint PCC Meeting

Our next Joint PCC meeting will be on Monday 19th January, 7.15pm, the Old School, Stanton

6. Phone Number—Contact

Please note that there is no longer a landline available to call the Rectory. If you need to call, please use Phil’s church mobile number 07768 095270. Thank you.

7. New Year Verse /Prayer Meeting Dates Card

As from today, postcards are available in Stanton church which give a list of our 2026 Benefice Prayer Meeting Dates and our New Year verse. You may have been given one as you came into church this morning. If not, do please pick one up. They will be available at Risley and Dale churches as from next week.

8. Try Church

‘Try Church’ invitation cards are available in church for you to either take one for yourself (if you are new to church) or for you to pass one on to a friend, neighbour or relative who you would like to invite to church or who has shown an interest in coming, but hasn’t made that final step as yet. Try Church Sunday is on February 1st, 9.00am at Dale Abbey, 10.45 at Stanton by Dale and 4.00pm at Risley. There will be a warm welcome for anyone and everyone, and you never know what you might discover!

9. Tea & Company

Tea & Company will meet for the first time in 2026 on Friday 16th January, 3.30 pm to 5.00pm at the Gateway, Dale Abbey. A list of this years meeting dates is available on noticeboards and at the back of church.

10. Groups starting back

Do please check with your group leaders (Home Groups, Heroes, Impact, Ignite, See & Know etc) to see when they are starting to meet again in 2026.

A big thank you to all of you who were involved in any way with helping to make our December events and services such a great success...the list of tasks covered is huge, but includes church decorators, bakers, refreshment serving, cleaning, readers, prayers, Nativity organisers, Christmas Lunch organisers, sermon leaders, candle lighters, hosting children’s group events....thank you!

Dates for your diary in the coming weeks:

Monday 12th January -Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship Meeting, 7:30pm, St Francis, Mackworth

Wednesday 14th January—7.45pm Online All Together Prayer Meeting

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

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— Middle East Media

Please pray that the MEM Christmas 2025 Christmas Appeal has proven to be a great success. Donations were asked for to help train caregivers (teachers, charity workers and church leaders) in North Africa to be equipped to use *Life in the Desert* with groups of children in refugee camps, orphanages and disadvantaged communities. The refugee children are arriving in North Africa from Gaza, Syria, and Sudan. *Life in the Desert* is MEM's 3D animated series, helping children to find healing and hope through stories that reflect their experiences and to help them process pain, rediscover joy and build trust in God. Every trained caregiver can reach 400-800 children, and by using these animated stories and activities, they are able to help the children begin to heal. Do please pray that enough money was donated during the Christmas appeal time frame to continue to build the work and hope that *Life in the Desert* offers.

Street Prayers Pray for businesses and residents on Park Close, The Moor and Derby Road.

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

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

Rector: Revd Philip Selby: Phone: 07768 095270 Email: phil.selby@sdrchurches.org.uk

Church office: 0115 9440609 Office email: elaine.warren@sdrchurches.org.uk

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