

St Anne's Record

Issue 2

11th January 2026

The STARS – St Anne's Rejoicing Singers!

Following several weeks of hard work after Sunday services, a dozen stalwart singers took part in the annual Service of Carols and Readings on 21st December. We were pleased to welcome Kirsten for the evening. She had been a part of the musical scene at St Anne's some years ago.

The service was indeed a joyful occasion and the three choral items made a notable contribution. Having the Singers "up-front" also encouraged the congregation to join in the carols with gusto.

There was a general feeling that the group should not let this be the last time they sang together – possibly with others joining in. There are several special services in prospect during the coming year, each with particular music.

Perhaps the first opportunity might be the Candlemas service on 1st February? It would be lovely to have something during/after communion to mark that moving occasion.

Do speak to Bill if you are interested in joining in.

Greetings from Kalmar, Sweden

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2026 to everyone at St Anne's.

As I am writing there is a thick layer of snow outside, -2 degrees and still snowing. Very wintry.

In May 2023 I relocated from Highams Park to my town of birth Kalmar, Sweden after 17 years in London including 5 years as a member of St Anne's, to be closer to my elderly father. He is now 89 years old and with a mixed dementia diagnosis.



I see him almost every day.

Having settled in Kalmar with work and a home of my own I eventually joined the Cathedral Choir. Some of the singers are still there since 30 + years ago when I briefly joined them, before my further studies for Mozart's Requiem followed by a choir trip to Prague. It felt a little bit like a homecoming. Leadership, has of course

changed many times over the years and at present there are three church musicians serving with the Head Organist Daniel Larsson being in charge of the Cathedral Choir. In June 2025, my first concert after joining, we did Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo and Te Deum by Otto Olsson. For All Souls in November we did Duruflé Requiem followed by two concerts in December. The last one being first half of Handel's Messiah. On Palm Sunday we will be performing St Mark Passion by Swedish composer Fredrik Sötenstam with music inspired by Swedish folk music.



The second organist at the cathedral, Noa Edvardsson, is a remarkable young talent that fills the cathedral with his organ concerts playing music from Star Wars and computer game Minecraft. Young people who are not familiar with the church come because of familiar music in a new context. A fabulous way of introducing new and young people to a place of worship. He also arranged a concert with the youth choirs performing music from the late Swedish DJ Avicii. There weren't enough seats for all the people that were interested and got rejected at the door. He is a really top notch musician who can play all the traditional music. I am very excited to have two such wonderful musicians present both in church services and for concerts.

This is, in my opinion, the result of the leadership delivered by the Vicar of Kalmar parish, Gustav Lundborg. Gustav started his position in January 2023 and has worked really hard to bring around change in accordance with his vision of what he would like Kalmar parish to deliver for its parishioners and beyond. I have known Gustav for a long time since he is the husband of one of my closest friends. We met during our years at University in Uppsala and after his ordination as priest he has been serving in the diocese of Växjö, which Kalmar belongs to. He officiated my mother's funeral and the church blessing of Mahesh's and my wedding. I consider him my family vicar.

However, St Anne's and its members will always have a special place in my heart together with St Paul's New Southgate, the two congregations I was a member of during my years in London. I feel a special connection with the Anglican Church and I miss the poetic use of words in the service, such as the prayer of preparation and post communion prayer. The Swedish language feels very flat in comparison or should I say "too much to the point". When I moved to Highams Park it took a

while for me to find St Anne's, but once I did I felt in safe hands. The place where I wanted to be for my worship. You embraced me with open arms and that embrace will always remain with me.

...and it is still snowing...

Nina Hammarberg, 4th January 2026

Colin Humphreys

A number of you will remember Colin and his late wife Vera – whose anniversary was noted in the December newssheets. They were active members of the St Anne's community for many years.

After losing Vera, Colin decided to move closer to his daughter and son-in-law, Tina & Clive, in Snape, Suffolk – where he bought a bungalow close to them. As we had a second home there at the time, we were able to introduce Colin to the Churchwarden and congregation of our church - St John the Baptist. Colin became friends with a number of the locals and joined in with the weekly Thursday morning maintenance crew who look after the medieval church and churchyard. He also joined the "Grumpies" who meet weekly at lunchtime in the local pub!

During the autumn Colin suffered from several falls and had to spend some time in Ipswich hospital. He and Tina decided that it would be best for him to move into a self-contained unit in their house. Despite his reduced mobility, they still intend to take him to the pub to meet up with his friends, but the arrangement will be best for them all.

We sent Colin a card with best wishes from his friends at St Anne's.

Erika & Bill

St Anne's Bazaar November 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who supported November's bazaar, in so many ways

- Putting up stalls and decorations
- Welcoming visitors
- Running and helping with stalls
- Providing refreshments
- Supporting Father Christmas and offering other children's activities
- Supplying (and making) goods for sale
- With publicity – including those who volunteered to take estate agent boards

- Creating the display of nativity scenes in church – and the musical accompaniment
- And so many other contributions, seen and unseen

It was lovely to see so many visitors enjoying their time at the bazaar, including more children and families than in recent years. The final total raised for church funds was £3529, by some way the biggest total for some years, so congratulations all round.

Although our main bazaar preparations happen in the Autumn – save for the stalwart few who are already making goods for next year! – we do have a couple of requests for help now.

First, your unwanted Christmas gift might be just the thing for a stall next November, so we would be happy to receive any items you would like to donate.

Second, the Teddy Tombola was such a success that for the first time in years we have almost exhausted our rolling stock of soft toys and need to rebuild from scratch. So if you have any soft toys stashed away at home, or can spread the word to friends and family, we'd very much welcome help in collecting a fresh supply.

And of course, any reflections on the bazaar, or new ideas that would help with planning for November 2026, are always welcome!

Valentine Singers Concert - Danube Discovery 28th February 4.30pm

The next concert will be at St. Anne's on Saturday, 28th February at 4.30pm.

Conducted by Christine Gwynn and accompanied on the piano by Tim Smith, this musical voyage along the Danube will feature music associated with the countries and cities linked by this great river.

Advance tickets will be available soon from Lindsey Archer or from www.valentinesingers.org.uk - Adults: £15; Students & Benefit Holders: £8

Forthcoming events

Sat 7 th Feb	10am-noon	Jumble Sale
Sat 28 th Feb	4.30pm	Valentine Singers Concert
Sun 1 st Mar	6-10pm	Games Evening with Bring & Share Supper
Sat 7 th Mar	10-11.30am	Table-Top Sale
Sat 2 nd May	10-11.30am	Table-Top Sale