

Happy 125 birthday

To everyone at St Anne's a big happy birthday to you all. You don't look a day older than ... well what a celebration 125 years and still going. With thanks to past generations worshipping and praying and gathering together for all occasions.

I was very pleased and happy to be invited to the celebrations, but sadly I can't get away from the three churches I now look after. My time with you as priest in charge and then vicar from 2005 to 2017 was a time I remember with great fondness and with a bit of sadness as sadly my wife and I split up during my time with you. It was then that I discovered the depth of friendship support and generosity, that to me epitomises the character of St Anne's congregation, that you have all because of the love and care you show each other.

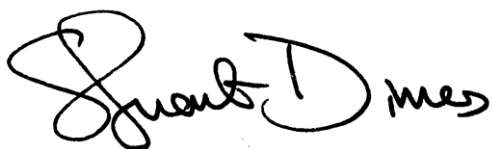
There are fond memories I have of BBQs on the vicarage lawn, midnight mass services with Brian and me having to finish the wine in the chalice! Then the choir concerts and Christmas fair. And just who was Father Christmas!!!!

Yes there was lots of hard work which we all got involved with and also some difficult times we shared, but it was that depth of character that is St Anne's and I was privileged to be part of your journey.

There is one memory I hold dear, amongst the many others, and that was going on the deanery Marching to the cathedral and joining other churches on the way and gathering at the cathedral with our church banners and Bishop David, in the service praying for the individual churches as he lifted each banner up and when he came to St Anne's, it was a small banner but he said that although 'St Anne's was a small church she punched above her size'

Happy birthday St Anne's and may your heart grow stronger and love grow deeper as you journey on into the next chapter...

All my love and every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Jones". The signature is stylized with a large 'S' and a cursive 'J'.