



St Andrew's

Open · Inclusive · Involved

Welcome to St Andrew's — may God's peace be with you.

The Third Sunday of Advent **17th December 2025**

6.00pm Evensong

Officiant: The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey

Reflection: Gwyneth Hickman

Responses: *Ferial*

Introit *Sung by the choir*

Creator of the starry height *Mode iv*

Opening Hymn 34: Earth was waiting, spent and restless

Beloved, we are come together
in the presence of Almighty God
and of the whole company of heaven
to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ
our worship and praise and thanksgiving;
to make confession of our sins;
to pray, as well for others as for ourselves,
that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love
and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace;
and to ask on behalf of all
such things as their well-being doth require.
Wherefore let us kneel in silence
and remember God's presence with us now.

Please kneel as we say together

**ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,
We have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the devices
and desires of our own hearts,
We have offended against thy holy laws,
We have left undone those things which we ought to
have done,
And we have done those things
which we ought not to have done,
And there is no health in us:
But thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
Spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults,
Restore thou them that are penitent,
According to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people
pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their
sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

All Amen.

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

Answer O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand

Cantor Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

**Answer As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.

Answer The Lord's Name be praised.

Please sit

Psalm 12

- 1 Help me, Lord, for no one godly is left;
the faithful have vanished from the whole human race.
- 2 They all speak falsely with their neighbour;
they flatter with their lips, but speak from a double heart.
- 3 O that the Lord would cut off all flattering lips
and the tongue that speaks proud boasts!
- 4 Those who say, 'With our tongue will we prevail;
our lips we will use; who is lord over us?'

- 5 'Because of the oppression of the needy, and the groaning
of the poor,
I will rise up now,' says the Lord, 'and set them in the safety
that they long for.'
- 6 The words of the Lord are pure words,
like silver refined in the furnace and purified seven times
in the fire.
- 7 You, O Lord, will watch over us
and guard us from this generation for ever.
- 8 The wicked strut on every side,
when what is vile is exalted by the whole human race.

Please stand for the Gloria if you wish

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Please sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 5.8-end

Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until
there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live
alone in the midst of the land! The Lord of hosts has sworn in
my hearing: Surely many houses shall be desolate, large and
beautiful houses, without inhabitant. For ten acres of vineyard
shall yield but one bath, and a homer of seed shall yield a mere
ephah.

Ah, you who rise early in the morning in pursuit of strong
drink, who linger in the evening to be inflamed by wine, whose
feasts consist of lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine,
but who do not regard the deeds of the Lord, or see the work
of his hands! Therefore my people go into exile without
knowledge; their nobles are dying of hunger, and their multi-
tude is parched with thirst.

Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its

mouth beyond measure; the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude go down, her throng and all who exult in her. People are bowed down, everyone is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are humbled. But the Lord of hosts is exalted by justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy by righteousness. Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture, fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.

Ah, you who drag iniquity along with cords of falsehood, who drag sin along as with cart-ropes, who say, 'Let him make haste, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment, that we may know it!' Ah, you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Ah, you who are wise in your own eyes, and shrewd in your own sight! Ah, you who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant at mixing drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of their rights!

Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will become rotten, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the instruction of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them; the mountains quaked, and their corpses were like refuse in the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

He will raise a signal for a nation far away, and whistle for a people at the ends of the earth; Here they come, swiftly, speedily! None of them is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a loincloth is loose, not a sandal-thong broken; their arrows are sharp, all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs seem like flint, and their wheels like the whirlwind. Their roaring is like a lion, like young lions they roar; they growl and seize their prey, they carry it off, and no one can rescue. They will roar

over it on that day, like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land— only darkness and distress; and the light grows dark with clouds.

Magnificat *Luke 1*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded
The lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath fill-ed the hungry with good things
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Please stand for the Gloria if you wish

Glory be to the Father :
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Please sit

New Testament Reading: Acts 13:13-41

Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet." 'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets

that are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you." As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "I will give you the holy promises made to David." Therefore he has also said in another psalm, "You will not let your Holy One experience corruption." For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died, was laid beside his ancestors, and experienced corruption; but he whom God raised up experienced no corruption. Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does not happen to you: "Look, you scoffers! Be amazed and perish, for in your days I am doing a work, a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you."

Nunc Dimittis *Luke 2.29*

LORD now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people ;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the Gloria if you wish

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

The Apostles Creed

Please stand

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting. Amen**

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Answer And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray

Please sit or kneel

Cantor Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Answer Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Cantor Our Father,
**which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.

Answer And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.

Answer And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Answer Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Then shall follow four Collects: The first for the day, the second for Advent, the third for peace, the fourth for aid against all perils.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen**

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Please sit

Anthem *sung by the choir*
Gaudete! Pie Cantiones

Reflection Gwyneth Hickman

Intercessions made for the world

Healing prayer: Irene W, George W, Luci & Sophie, Gillian M, Caroline, Lily, Denise, Mary S, Mary G, Cheryl W, Teresa V, David, S.M, Faith F, Jane B, William B, Rosemary & John K, Chris & Chris H, Sue P, Chris C, Carol S, Elizabeth I.

In memoriam: Louis Dussey, Julian Bomyer

Please stand

Hymn 55: When the King shall come again

Please remain standing

Blessing

Voluntary

News and Notices

Any item to be included should be with Kate by Wednesday, 12noon

Bereavement Point 2pm - 3.30pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month (plus the 5th if there is one!). Opportunity for group conversation and relationship building where everyone is welcome and comfort is offered <https://compassionaterugby.co.uk/>

The Big Table Gospel group meets every week around the talking table in the cafe, alternating on Thursday and Friday mornings. Contact John on shoparound1938@gmail.com

Church Mice Stay and Play Group Great news! Church Mice has restarted at St Andrew's. 10-11.30am Fridays (term time) for ages 0-4 years and it's free. Please spread the news where you can. Volunteers are warmly welcome, have a chat with Lydia, Joyce or Heather for more information. Thank you.

May Blossom Farm Live Nativity: Following the success of last year Hannah has kindly agreed to host another live nativity trail at her farm on the 20th December at 2-3.30pm. Come along and be prepared to dress up as a nativity character and follow the trail around the farm as we greet the animals that are there and sing a carol at each pen. Following the trail we will warm ourselves up again by having mulled wine/fruit punch and mince pies/shortbread.

It was a lot of fun last year so we look forward to seeing you there. Car parking spaces are limited so it would be useful to have an indication as to whether you intend to come by speaking to either Joyce Wooding or Rev'd Alison Baxter.

Christmas Cards. We would like to deliver Christmas cards to all the residents of our parish and we'd be really grateful for help

in distributing them. A list of roads in the parish, helpfully grouped by area, is at the back of church - please write your name against roads you would be willing to cover. You might like to do this with someone else, for company and safety.

Christingles. We're looking forward to our two annual Christingle services on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th December at 4pm. We would really appreciate help in making the Christingles on Monday 22nd December between 10.30am and 1pm. Making Christingles is a fun sociable activity - with the odd spare sweet thrown in! - so please have a word with one of the clergy or Joyce if you can spare an hour or more of your time to help.

Carol Singing We would be delighted if you could join the pastoral team, Rector & hand bell ringers who will be taking Christmas communion to the care homes that we visit during the year. This is a valuable outreach that is much appreciated by the residents and enjoyed by all those who attend.

Monday 15th December, 10.30am Granville House

11.15am Te Hira Residential Home

3.00pm Trinity Court

Does your child enjoy singing? Come and sing Christmas carols at our Christingle Service, 23rd December. Suitable for children from 7 to 13 yrs old. Workshop 2.30pm - Service at 4pm. To register and more info, giving child's name, age and a contact number, please email youngchoristers@rugbychurch.org.uk.

Julian Bomyer's funeral will be at St Peter's Bengeworth, Evesham, on Friday 19th December, at 3.00pm. There will be refreshments in the church afterwards. There is a tribute page: merstowgreen.co.uk

Diary for the week 15th - 21st December

Monday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Ball of Yarn Knitting &
crochet drop-in group
10.30am Art with Aish
Christmas Carols
10.30am Granville House
11.15am Te Hira
3.00pm Trinity Court
5.30pm School Carol Service
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice

Tuesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Reflective Eucharist
1.00pm Tuesday Lunchtime
Concert
2.00pm Bereavement Point
6.30pm Free Voice

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Pop Up Play Village
12.00pm Eucharist
5.00pm Young Choristers
7.00pm Women's Support group

Thursday

9.00am Morning Prayer
Church Closed for
School Carol Service
6.00pm Eucharist
6.30pm Board Games group
7.15pm Choir practice

Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer
Church Closed for
School Carol Service

Saturday

10am– 12pm Café Open

Sunday 21st November

4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Eucharist
6.00pm Christmas Carol Service

St Andrew's Staff Team

Rector: The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey rector@rugbychurch.org.uk

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Livestream: [twitch.tv/standrewrugby](https://www.twitch.tv/standrewrugby)
Facebook: St.Andrew Church Rugby

A collection plate is available at the back of church
or this link will allow you to give to St Andrew's online:
givi.ng/1160223



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