St Andrew's Church

Open • Inclusive • Involved



Advent Carol Service

From Darkness to Light

Advent Sunday

29th November 2026

6.00pm

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

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched off.

The service sheet gives directions on when to stand, sit or kneel, but please feel free to remain sitting if you prefer. Toilets are available through the arch beside the main entrance.

We have a plate at the back of church for offerings; a link to online giving is on the back of this service sheet.

Before the service

The bells will ring until 17:50, with the five minute bell tolling until 17:55.

The choir will begin in the Lady Chapel for Prayers and then move to the West End at 17:55.

The organ will play the Organ Prelude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - J.S. Bach BWV 659* to finish at 17:55 when the lights will be dimmed.

We wait quietly, watchfully, hopefully.

The service begins at the West End with the Church in darkness

Choir **Matin Responsory**

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: 'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: 'Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

First Reading *from the North Door* *Isaiah 60: 1-3, 21-22*

A reading from the sixtieth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

During the hymn, the choir moves up the North and South aisles. The Cross, clergy, and thurifer move up the centre to the Chancel step

Choir O come, O come, Emmanuel,
redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone,
far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Please stand

All **O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw**
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
the royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty,
from that high mountain clothed with awe
gavest thy folk the elder law.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel
Words: Latin, based on the Great O Antiphons; translated T. A. Lacey (1853-1931)
Music: French Franciscan Processional, 15th century

Please remain standing

Second Reading *from the centre of the Nave* *Isaiah 9: 2-5*

During the reading the Advent candle is placed at the front of the nave as a symbol of the hope of Christ

A reading from the ninth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Verses 1-2 choir only*

Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

The choir moves to the Chancel

**When Earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a virgin-mother's womb.**

**To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our Judge in that tremendous day,
ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen**

Words: Latin 6th or 7th Century translated by J M Neale (1818-1866)
Music: Mode iv

The Bidding Prayer *The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey*

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled; and let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

The blind receive their sight and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves; for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in joy lift up its voice to the light and love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer unto God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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.

Please sit

Third Reading *from the lectern* *Isaiah 11: 1-9*

A reading from the eleventh chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:
But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.
The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.
And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

Choir A Spotless Rose

The altar candles are lit and the altar censed.

A spotless Rose is blowing, Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing, Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Words: German, 16th century; translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Please stand

HYMN

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace,
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy belovèd name.

Words: P Doddridge (1702-1751
Music: adapted from a version in Ravenscroft's The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1621

Please sit

Fourth Reading *from the lectern* *Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11*

A reading from the fortieth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is

pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.
O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Thanks be to God.

Choir **And the glory of the Lord (*Messiah*)**

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Words: Isaiah 40:5 (Authorised Version)
Music: G F Handel (1685-1759)

Please stand

Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Words: Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676–1749)
translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)
Music: Winchester New adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand Buch, Hamburg, 1690

Please sit

Fifth Reading *from the lectern* *Mark 1: 2-8*

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Thanks be to God.

Choir **This is the record of John**

This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him,

What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Words: St John 1:19-23, 26-27 (King James Bible)
Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Please stand

Hymn

During the hymn, the Cross, choir, and clergy move to the Lady Chapel. The congregation is invited to join in the Lady Chapel or the North Aisle. The candles on the altar are lit together with candles at the statue of Mary.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,'
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Basque Carol arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Please sit

Sixth Reading *from the statue of Mary.* *Luke 1 26-37*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the

Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.
For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR Magnificat

In the reading we've just heard, Mary goes on to sing a hymn of praise to God, the Magnificat.

During the Magnificat, the altar of the Lady Chapel is censed.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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 filled 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.

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 stand

HYMN

During the hymn all move back to their places and all candles are lit

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: Cross of Christ, J Stainer (1840-1901)

Please remain standing

Seventh Reading John 1

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

Choir **O Nata Lux**

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis,
nos membra confer effici
tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
deign in your mercy to receive
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant that we may be made
members of your blessed body.

Words: Latin hymn, probably 10th century
Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)

A moment of silence is observed and prayer is offered.

O Emmanuel, God with us, our world waits in darkness, longing for thy light. May that light dispel shadow and fear, bring hope, peace, joy, and love, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

All **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

During the hymn, the Procession moves through the Church to the Sanctuary Steps.

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) et al.
Music: Helmsley (traditional English melody)
Verse 4 arranged by Davvid Willcocks

Vesper Responsory

Priest Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.
All **Tomorrow go ye forth,**
and the Lord He will be with you.

Priest Stand ye still,
and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
All **Tomorrow go ye forth,**
and the Lord He will be with you.

Priest Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and the Holy Ghost.
All **Tomorrow go ye forth,**
and the Lord He will be with you.

Priest We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.
All **In the midst of thy temple.**

Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we who with joy receive Thy only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when He shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

All **Amen**

Blessing

Christ the sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel *(Andrew) Carter*

Join us this Christmas

www.standrewrugby.org.uk

Monday 30th November 6pm
St Andrew's Day Festal Evensong
Sung by the choirs of Rugby School

Friday 4th December
7pm Air Ambulance Charity Concert

Saturday 5th December
The Snowman film with live music by
The Band of Central England. Performances at 2pm & 5pm

Tuesday 8th December
7pm Rotary Tree of Light service

Saturday 12th December
7pm The Manchester Carols Concert

Saturday 19th December
from 3pm Lantern Parade

Sunday 20th December
6pm Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 23rd December
4pm Christingle Service

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December
4pm Christingle Service
11:30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Friday 25th December
10:30am Festal Eucharist

Festival of Christmas Trees

Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 2pm from Friday 27th November. Vote for your favourite tree and raise funds for The Wildlife Trust and May Blossom Farm



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