



St Andrew's
Open · Inclusive · Involved

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

If you have felt something special in this service and want to talk about faith, have a chat with one of the clergy or ministers after the service.

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 notice sheet.

The Third Sunday of Advent

17th December 2025

8.00am BCP Holy Communion

President and Preacher: The Rev'd James Sampson-Foster

10.30am Choral Eucharist

President: The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey

Preacher: The Rev'd James Sampson-Foster

Deacon: Helen Bryant

6.00pm Evensong

Officiant: The Rev'd Canon Edmund Newey

Reflection: Gwyneth Hickman

Collects:

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**

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 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. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

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

Curate: The Rev'd James Sampson-Foster
james.sampsonfoster@rugbychurch.org.uk

Associate Minister (Mission Hub):
The Rev'd Alison Baxter missionhub@rugbychurch.org.uk

Associate Minister (Compassionate Communities):
The Rev'd Sharon Crofts sharon.crofts@rugbychurch.org.uk

Ordinand: Helen Bryant helen.bryant@rugbychurch.org.uk

Wardens: Joyce Woodings warden1@rugbychurch.org.uk
Hash Mistry warden2@rugbychurch.org.uk

Assistant Warden: Ian Sheppard asstwarden1@rugbychurch.org.uk

Director of Music: William Uglow directorofmusic@rugbychurch.org.uk

Young Choristers: Rachel Cliffe youngchoristers@rugbychurch.org.uk

Community Engagement Lead: Joanna Bryan
joanna.bryan@rugbychurch.org.uk

Parish Office: Kate Foster office@rugbychurch.org.uk

Bookkeeper: Gaynor Farthing bookkeeper@rugbychurch.org.uk

Technical Coordinator: Ben Foster ben.foster@rugbychurch.org.uk

Website: standrewrugby.org.uk
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:



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