



ST ANDREW'S, CHESTERTON

*A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages*

www.standrews-chesterton.org

Weekly News Update, 24 November 2023

The St Andrew's Advent Fayre takes place tomorrow, Saturday 25 November from 1 - 4pm. Come along for seasonal gifts and a cup of tea and a slice of cake. The Fayre in the Hall will be followed by a concert in Church with students from Chesterton Community College.

Last opportunity to donate to CRC Christmas bags – this Sunday: Helen Druiff will be at Cafe Church on the Hall on Sunday to receive any items. A list of suggested donations is [here](#). As Helen wrote in last week's News: 'Each year, Cambridge Regional College put together Christmas bags for children and young people in care who are studying at the college. Christmas can often be a difficult time of year for our vulnerable young people, therefore we would like to give them something special to open. The Mission and Giving Group have again this year very kindly agreed to donate £200 towards vouchers to cover essentials, phone top-ups, etc. Items can also be donated by church members, and if you have anything you could give, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.'

Are you interested in singing in the choir for our Christmas Eve Carol Service? If so, Chris (chris.pountain@standrews-chesterton.org) would love to hear from you! Practices will be held on Friday 8 December 7.30-9.00, Friday 15 December 7.30-9.00, Friday 22 December 7.30-9.00 and immediately before the service from 5.15; of these Chris asks that you attend at least two including 22 December as well as on Christmas Eve itself. He needs to know numbers involved by the end of November so that music copies can be printed in time for the first practice.

Happy news! Maggie Tate Druiff had a baby girl 2 weeks ago: Vera who weighed 6lb. 13oz. All are well. Congratulations to Maggie and Toby and also to the new grandparents, Helen and Harry Druiff.

Supporting Crossways hostel this winter

Last winter, as a church we supported the new Crossways pop-up homeless hostel in our parish by supplying milk (later milk and bread) on a daily basis from early November to the end of March. This project is part of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project <https://www.cchp.org.uk>

There are three ways you can support the Crossways hostel project this winter. 1) As a volunteer (visit www.ittakesacity.org.uk/support-us/ for more information). 2) Financially: If you would like to make a one off or monthly donation here are the details: "St Andrews Chesterton PCC" Sort Code: **20-17-35** Account no: **80263524** using the reference: **MILK**. Taxpayers: Gift Aid can be reclaimed on your donation. And/or 3) In Prayer - committing to pray regularly for the residents, staff and volunteers.

If you have further questions please speak directly to Sharon Neufeld or Patricia Abrey over coffee or on 07761 478499 or pcc.secretary@standrews-chesterton.org Thank you.

Service details

Sunday 26 November, Christ the King

8.00 am [Holy Communion](#) (BCP; live-streamed and in church)

10.00 am [Parish Communion](#) (live-streamed and in church)

10.00 am Cafe Church meets in St Andrew's Hall.

Sunday 3 December, Advent Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP; live-streamed and in church)

10.00 am Family Service (live-streamed and in church), followed by a short Communion Service in church.

5.30 pm Choral Evening Service for Advent and St Andrew's Day

5.30 pm Youth Group meets in St Andrew's Hall.

Weekdays

Every weekday, except Tuesday: [Morning Prayer](#) online at 9.00 am.

Tuesday: Morning Prayer in church (Common Worship) at 9.00 am.

Monday: Coffee Morning in the Hall, 10.45 am to 12 noon.

Tuesday: Morning Prayer in church, 9 am.

Bible Study Group in the Annexe, 10.30am.

Pilgrims Group meets at the Vicarage, 7.45–9.15 pm.

Please pray for...

Please continue to pray for Lorna Dazeley and family as they mourn for Derek.

Please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East, and aid for all those suffering from the ongoing terrible violence.

From the Book of Remembrance: Kerry Linda Kathleen Greenwood and her son Adrian, Charles H. Osbourn, Dorothy Pratt.

More news and some reminders...

Friday 1st December. The Friends Luncheon Concert in the Church. 12.30pm. Organ Recital by Shanna Hart. Free Admission. Retiring Collection for The Friends of St Andrew's.

Lighting in church. Those of us who have been in church recently on darker mornings or for evening events and services will have noticed that fewer lights are working than we would expect. Unfortunately, recent attempts to solve this by changing the bulbs have revealed that the fault lies with many of the light fittings - a number of which have failed at the same time. To improve the lighting in the short-term, we plan to introduce some stand-alone lighting. The PCC has recognised and agreed the need to bring forward a long-planned project to upgrade to an energy-efficient and flexible lighting system, and to find the funds for this as soon as possible. Please bear with us while the project is planned and implemented. If you have any views about our future lighting needs in church, you are most welcome to share them with Philip in the first instance.

Duncan Cowan Gray has been licensed as a part-time, self-supporting Associate Priest to St Andrew's. Duncan, Amy and their children moved to Cambridge from the Diocese of London last year, and have been part of our congregation for some months now. As Duncan works full-time in secular employment, he will principally serve as part of the clergy team presiding and preaching on Sunday mornings. Please do make Duncan and Amy and their family welcome. We look forward to their ministry among us.

The Allcomers Group will sing regularly at the All-age Communion Service on the third Sunday in the month. If you would like to take part in future months, please let Chris know at chris.pountain@standrews-chesterton.org

Book Club: The next meeting of the Book Club will be on **Tuesday 28th November, at 8pm**, at the home of Ewa Allen (42 Hawthorn Way, Tel. 367351). We will be discussing *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk. It's set in a rural part of Poland and is part mystery story, part philosophical 'fable', offering ideas on injustice against marginalised people, animal rights, hypocrisy of traditional religion, among other issues. As ever, new and occasional members are most welcome.

The October–November edition of Chesterton Chimes, which contains news from our church community and details of services and events coming up in the next two months, is available [here](#).

PCC News - from July, September and November!

After an unintended hiatus in reporting on recent PCC meetings, here's an update from three in row!

In July the PCC had an "away evening" at the Vicarage to do some thinking on the themes of Nourish, Cherish and Restore. A number of aspirational objectives were decided on, including building a pastoral team, offering more hospitality in the Hall to the wider community especially young families and older people, and growing a music and worship culture prioritising participation.

In September there were Staffing Updates on Music, Ministry, Youth and Administration as the new term got underway. We learned about our then proposed and now licensed Associate Priest, Duncan Cowan Gray. Sarah Glover, a member of the Healing and Wholeness Prayer Group, was preparing to undertake the training process to become a volunteer Authorised Lay Assistant (pastoral visitor). PCC formally needed to support this training and wholeheartedly did so.

We were informed that, after many months of volunteer support to the Church office throughout the Vacancy and beyond, Deborah Bick was needing to step back from many of these tasks. Deborah would continue some remotely, once she and David moved house out of Cambridge.

The main PCC discussion stemmed in part from divergence within the North Cambridge Deanery churches on the matter of sexuality and identity, specifically the discussions and decisions at General Synod in February this year on what have become known as the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith and the blessing of same-sex relationships. Our discussion centred at this stage on how and what we communicate about our Welcome at St Andrew's through our printed materials and the website. It was articulated that St Andrews is a church of diverse opinions and theology but also of mutual respect for differing views. It was preferred not to link our church to any specific label linked to a side, which might include some and exclude others, but to respond with nuance and integrity to the questions that the "Honest Church" movement invites. It was agreed some additional sentences could be drafted for the church website which made it evident St Andrew's is open to both women's and men's ministry, that we "affirm the dignity and value of all human beings as God made them, and so include LGBTQ+ people in our welcome".

At our November meeting PCC acknowledged the recent loss of Derek Dazeley, former Churchwarden, PCC member and Chair of the Friends of St Andrews as we considered what Romans 12 meant to us, knowing it had meant so much to Derek.

PCC were delighted to approve the appointment of Linda Holmes as volunteer Parish Safeguarding Officer, a role that Rachel Clarke has performed admirably since 2021. Rachel is pleased to transition Linda into her role.

PCC were updated on changes in music following on from its difficult decision to restructure music roles, and so give notice by the end of September that the Director of Music role would finish with the calendar year. Peter Wadl's decision to leave his role with immediate effect, and so take 3 months' fees in lieu of the notice period, was understood in the circumstances; while also acknowledged to bring a disappointment that we were not able to acknowledge publicly the time Peter had performed this role. The organisational work in response to this more abrupt change has mostly fallen to Chris Pountain, serving in an interim capacity. Chris reported being encouraged by the collaboration he has with 4 organists and a large number of singers and musicians who are now supporting our 10am worship. The new structures of our music and worship are being trialled in this way and helping to inform what paid and volunteer roles will be needed to cover the tasks being identified in the future and what form services might take.

On Finance news, it is hoped the potential deficit for 2023 should be less than first thought, due to increased giving. Even more encouraging is the Budget for 2024 is a balanced budget in spite of increased energy and insurance costs. Our major expenditure is the Parish Share and PCC decided to pay our full Parish Share as has been our practice. This goes to the Diocese to fund our full time Vicar, pension, housing, diocesan support and training for curates etc.

PCC approved a reduction in the time Rachel is employed on Church matters to half a day a week instead of 1 full day per week. The Hall Management agreed at the same time to increase Rachel's salary provision to 4.5 days a week to help Rachel focus on further development of the Hall and its community links.

In tandem with this decision we hope to recruit a Church Communications Administrator to cover the many administrative tasks which have proven impossible to cover by volunteers or our overworked Vicar! This role will involve collaborating with a variety of people and working in the Hall office on Friday mornings and across the week for a total of 7 hours.

We had a few items on our building to consider, most pressing being the lighting which has been found to include a number of failed light fittings. Some temporary solutions will be needed until new LED based solutions can be installed.

We agreed the next year would be a period of experimentation to more effectively use our building and to rethink certain locations of furniture for improving our Worship, Prayer, Hospitality, Welcome and Storage spaces. To enable the better use of our refurbished Chancel area for prayer and worship, PCC approved the purchase of a portable ramp for greater accessibility.

PCC intends to produce a Register of Risk Assessment and Management, promoted as a helpful document at a Churchwarden Training Day that Maggie and Chris attended in October.

Community News & Notices

The Chesterton Community Choir will be performing **Vivaldi's Gloria** and a selection of seasonal favourites at a festive concert to be held in City Church (12-16 Cheddars Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8LD) on **Wednesday 6 December at 7.30 pm**. Tickets cost £10 (cash on the door).

www.chestertonchoralsociety.org.uk

ESOL Cafe in Chesterton: A friendly group meets on Tuesday mornings at St Laurence's Church to help anyone who would like to improve their English speaking for whom it is not their first language. Each session deals with a different useful topic. Please see this [flyer](#) for details and visit www.esolcafe.co.uk, where the programme for this term can be found.

Please email any notices for inclusion in the next Weekly News Update by 12 noon on **Thursday 30 November** to admin@standrews-chesterton.org. Thank you.