



**ST ANDREW'S, CHESTERTON**  
*A thriving, open and welcoming church community  
for all ages*

[www.standrews-chesterton.org](http://www.standrews-chesterton.org)

## **Weekly News Update, 15 December 2023**

**Our Third Sunday of Advent Evening Service will be a Taize Contemplative service of poetry, prayer and reflection at 5.30pm, this Sunday 17 December.** All welcome to this distinctive service of music in the tradition of the Taize community, as well as Advent poem and scripture reading.

**Coming up next week: Thursday 21 December, 6.30pm - Chesterton Community Carols - in church.** Do remind neighbours and friends to come along for the annual carol singing led by CSD Brass band, hosted in St Andrew's church, raising funds for WinterComfort. All welcome to this joyous community event. Warming seasonal refreshments served after the singing!

**Instrumentalists needed!** St Andrew's has a small band of musicians (including singers) who lead worship at the family service (first Sunday of each month). We are **valiant** but **rather few** in number. Please consider dusting down that instrument languishing in your loft! Come and join us! We welcome a variety of instruments as this adds to the breadth of sound in worship. We meet to practise a day or two before the service. There is a google sign up sheet where you can register your monthly availability.

We plan to have an informal musical gathering sometime in the New Year TBC. But you don't have to wait for this to relay your interest.

You can chat to any of the leaders or current musicians if you've got questions, and/or contact Catherine Blydenstein at [c.bly127@gmail.com](mailto:c.bly127@gmail.com) If and when you're happy to have a go, we can add you to our email list for communications, and invite you to a practice session.

**Don't delay - Come and play** with us! - Catherine Blydenstein.

**Advent reading and reflection** - Advent is a season in the church's year when Christians have traditionally been encouraged to set aside time for reflection and personal prayer, as also in Lent - though, frankly, it's good at any time of year! It is during *Lent* that St Andrew's has a custom of meeting together in organised small groups, often centred on reading a devotional book together; and the intention is to revive these in February. Yet, as we enter Advent, if anyone would like a book recommendation for your personal reading and devotion in this time, I recommend Paula Gooder's *The Meaning is in the Waiting: the Spirit of Advent* (Canterbury Press, 2008). Philip

**Church furniture arrangements and adjustment for Christmas season and beyond** - Some of the services in the Christmas season will require us to make some adjustments to the regular position of items of furniture near the front and back of church - for example, to accommodate a larger choir for Nine Lessons and Carols, and potentially to improve space for welcome and serving refreshments. When you are in church, you may therefore notice these adjustments as we pilot arrangements for how best to use the worship space for our uses at this time. The PCC has recently agreed the need for this, and committed itself to working this out sensitively and together. *Philip*

## Service details

### **Sunday 17 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

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

10.00 am [All-age Communion & Nativity Service](#) (live-streamed and in church).

5.30 pm Contemplative Taize Service for Advent in church.

### **Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

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

10.00 am All-age Communion (live-streamed and in church).

6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist

### **Monday 25 December, Christmas Day**

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

10.00 am All-age Communion (live-streamed and in church).

## 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.

## Please pray for...

The family of Jill Pratt.

Please continue to pray for peace in all parts of the world where there is conflict and violence.

**From the Book of Remembrance:** Ada Masters. Doris Mary Wells, Sladden Bridgeman Wells

## More news and some reminders...

**Looking beyond Christmas...: North Cambridge Prayer Night - to be hosted by St Andrew's, Monday 22 January, 7.45pm.** In this last year, several churches in North Cambridge of different denominations have been partnering to hold a regular prayer event, involving sung worship, sharing issues which our different communities are facing and helping with, and praying for this in different ways. In January, St Andrew's will be the venue for the next such event - previously held at St George's in June and Arbury Road Baptist in September. If you would like to learn more, or explore opportunities to be involved in prayer themes or music, contact Philip. More details to follow in the new year.

### **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/](http://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](mailto:pcc.secretary@standrews-chesterton.org) Thank you.

**The Allcomers Group** sings 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](mailto:chris.pountain@standrews-chesterton.org)

The next meeting of the **Book Club will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, at 8 pm**, at the home of Ewa Allen (42 Hawthorn Way, Tel. 367351). We will be discussing *Light Perpetual* by Francis Spufford, a novel that follows the fictionalized lives of five children killed during a V-2 attack in London in 1944, imagining an alternate world in which they lived. As ever, new and occasional members are most welcome.

**The December 2023 –January 2024 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](#).

## Community News & Notices

**Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has launched this year's Surviving Winter Appeal** to raise £20,000 to support local households facing fuel poverty. The Foundation appeals to those who are in a position to help, to please donate to support those who will struggle to stay warm this winter: [justgiving.com/campaign/survivingwinter2023](https://justgiving.com/campaign/survivingwinter2023). The Foundation will then work with partnering charities across the county to distribute the raised funds, by making direct payments towards energy costs, like topping up prepayment meters, financing upcoming gas and electricity costs or paying for heating oil deliveries.

Next week's Weekly News Update will be the last until the new year. Please email any notices for inclusion by 12 noon on **Wednesday 20 December** to [admin@standrews-chesterton.org](mailto:admin@standrews-chesterton.org). Thank you.

Office Closure - The Hall and Church Office will be closed from 4 pm Friday 22 December until 9 am Thursday 4 January. Emergency contact details for this period will be published in the Weekly News Update on Friday 22 December.