



CHESTERTON CHIMES

News from St Andrew's Church, Chesterton
A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages



Welcome...

...to December and January's edition of the Chesterton Chimes.

In this edition you'll find service details for December and January - taking us into the new year - as well as news and details of events coming up in these two months.

You can find updates from our children and youth work ([pages 6 and 7](#)), news from Azul Wazi ([page 9](#)), and Philip's reflections as we celebrate 30 years of women priests ([page 10](#)).

For full details of all our Advent and Christmas services, please take a look at [page 12](#).

*Wishing you all a joyful
Christmas as we
remember and rejoice in
our Saviour's birth.*



Services in December

at St Andrew's Chesterton

8am

every Sunday

Holy Communion

from the Book of Common Prayer

10am

every Sunday

1 December

Family Service +
Short Communion

5:30pm

Choral Evensong

8 December

Sung Eucharist + Junior Church

15 December

All-Age Communion

4 pm

Christingle

22 December

All-Age Communion

**23
December**

12 pm

Midday Communion

3 pm

Crib Service

**24
December**

6:30 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

11:30 pm

Midnight Eucharist

**25
December**

8 am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am

All-Age Communion

29 December

All-Age Communion

Services in January

at St Andrew's Chesterton

8am
every Sunday

Holy Communion
from the Book of Common Prayer
Quiet. Thoughtful Sermon. Traditional prayers.

10am
every Sunday

5 January

Family Service + Short Communion

A shorter, less formal service (35-40 mins), with an interactive talk. A break for refreshments, before a shorter Communion service open to all.

5:30 pm

Epiphany Service

12 January

Sung Eucharist + Junior Church

A longer Communion service in church with choral music. Groups for ages 0-16 run in rooms in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.

19 January

All-Age Communion

All generations worship together. Words and music blend the traditional and contemporary. A warm and social time with refreshments at the end.

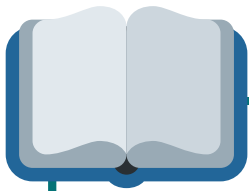
5:30pm

Contemplative Service

26 January

Parish Communion + Cafe Church

A traditional service with hymns & thoughtful sermon in church. Cafe Church is an informal and creative service suited to young children - in St Andrew's Hall, followed by refreshments for all.



READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER: DECEMBER

Readings for 1 December

The first Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33.14-16, Psalm 25.1-9, 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end, Luke 21.25-36

Monday 2	Revelation Ch. 19
Tuesday 3	Revelation Ch. 20
Wednesday 4	Revelation 21.1-8
Thursday 5	Revelation 21.9-21
Friday 6	Revelation 21.22-22.5
Saturday 7	Revelation 22.6-end

Readings for 15 December

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3.14-end, Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

Monday 16	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Tuesday 17	1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Wednesday 18	2 Thessalonians Ch. 1
Thursday 19	2 Thessalonians Ch. 2
Friday 20	2 Thessalonians Ch. 3
Saturday 21	Jude

Readings for 8 December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3.1-4, Philippians 1.3-11, Luke 3 1-6

Monday 9	1 Thessalonians Ch. 1
Tuesday 10	1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Wednesday 11	1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thursday 12	1 Thessalonians Ch. 3
Friday 13	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Saturday 14	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

Readings for 22 December

4th Sunday of Advent

Michal 5.2-5a, Hebrews 10.5-10, Luke 1.39-45

Monday 23	2 Peter 1.1-15
Tuesday 24	2 Peter 1.16-2.3
Christmas Eve	
Wednesday 25	Matthew 1.18-end
Christmas Day	
Thursday 26	Acts Ch. 6
Friday 27	1 John 2.1-11
Saturday 28	Revelation 22.6-end

Weekday prayer and bible study

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

09:00am Morning Prayer online (M)

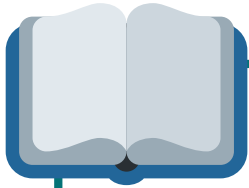
Tuesdays

09:00am Weekly Morning Prayer in church

10:30am Fornightly Bible Study Group (Hall)

For more information contact John Reynolds:
reynolds.4@btinternet.com





READINGS FOR DAILY PRAYER: JANUARY

Readings for 29 December

1st Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-end

Monday 30	John 1.19-28
Tuesday 31	John 1.29-34
Wednesday 1 Jan	Romans 2.17-end
Thursday 2	John 1.35-42
Friday 3	John 1.43-end
Saturday 4	John 2.1-12

Readings for 5 January

Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6, Psalm 72, 10-15, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

Monday 6	John 2.13-end
Tuesday 7	Isaiah 63.7-end
Wednesday 8	1 John 4.7-end
Thursday 9	1 John 5.1-12
Friday 10	1 John 5.13-end
Saturday 11	2 John

Readings for 12 January

Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43.1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8.14-17, Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Monday 13	1 Corinthians 1.1-17
Tuesday 14	1 Corinthians 1.18-end
Wednesday 15	1 Corinthians 2
Thursday 16	1 Corinthians 3
Friday 17	1 Corinthians 4
Saturday 18	1 Corinthians 5

Readings for 19 January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 62.1-5, Psalm 36.5-10, 1 Corinthians 12.1-11, John 2.1-11

Monday 20	1 Corinthians 16.1-11
Tuesday 21	1 Corinthians 6.12-end
Wednesday 22	1 Corinthians 7.1-24
Thursday 23	1 Corinthians 7.25-end
Friday 24	1 Corinthians 8
Saturday 25	Philippians 3.1-14
Conversion of Paul	

Readings for 26 January

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12.12-31, Luke 4.14-21

Monday 27	1 Corinthians 9.15-end
Tuesday 28	1 Corinthians 10.1-13
Wednesday 29	1 Corinthians 10.14-11.1
Thursday 30	1 Corinthians 11.2-16
Friday 31	1 Corinthians 11.17-end
Saturday 1 February	1 Corinthians 12.1-11



NEWS AND MESSAGES: JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS

Since the last Chimes, our Junior Church groups have settled in. **The story of the burning bush was covered in café church with beautifully coloured flame-like prayers attached to its branches.**

10th November was Remembrance Sunday. The Wonderers (approx. Y2-Y5) had an age-appropriate historical retelling of the First World War and Armistice with sand (always popular) standing in for the mud of the trenches and battlefields. Everyone then scattered some poppy petals over the scene. **The artistic response was to make our own poppy wreath from paper and card,** which was presented at the war memorial along with the 'official' Church wreath laid by members of Junior Church. As the Wonders' wreath was not weather-proof, it was placed with the prayer net inside the church for the remainder of November.

Our youngest group, the Rainbows, thought about how we might pray when events make us rightly angry and upset. We looked at the angry prayer from the Psalms, as the children are already familiar with prayers of thanks when we're feeling glad. This modelled **how we can be honest with God about our thoughts and feelings** - we can talk to God when we're angry and upset as well as when we're calm and happy. We can even use our 'angry voices' and 'grumpy faces', illustrated by the 'emotions stones'.

Looking forwards, should you have children interested in dressing up for the Nativity service, please let their group leader know. Parents/carers are by no means excluded - always good to have some to shepherd the sheep!

Don't forget there are still opportunities to help out, should the spirit move you - please contact our Youth Worker, Jess (jess.bent@st-andrews-chesterton.org).



@standrewschesterton

HELP NEEDED!

Due to changes in current volunteer availability, the youth group is looking for some new volunteers to join us on Sundays so we can continue to have fun as we explore faith, life, and community in a safe space.

Please speak to Jess to find out more:

jess.bent@standrews-chesterton.org

NEWS AND MESSAGES: YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Exciting things are afoot for December and January with the youth group here at St Andrew's!

It all starts with a youth group evening on the 1st of December. Then, on the 2nd, there is bible study for those in Sixth Form, followed by WHY group on the 8th and a lunchtime Christmas party on the 15th. In addition to all the Christmas services and events you can come along to, our young people are taking part in the Christmas Eve Nine Lessons and Carols choir!

After a break for Christmas, we will be getting back into the swing of things on 12 January with WHY Group, where we will be considering what it means to be an EcoChurch - a conversation we will be having across the month. Speaking of which, there will be a Games 'n Lunch on the 19th and a youth group evening on the 26th.

If you have any questions about youth at St Andrew's, know a young person who might like to be involved, or want to volunteer with us, just let me know!

Jess

jess.bent@standrews-chesterton.org



Youth Choir

This term we have started youth choir teaching and practice sessions on a Thursday evenings 7-8pm. Led by Sharon Neufeld, these sessions share the fun and energy of song, rhythm and beat. The group is designed to appeal to those in school years 4-13. It's an ideal progression for anyone who has enjoyed Minims, as well as a space for other youth wanting to develop their interest in music and find their voice.

Contact Sharon Neufeld for more information:
sharon.neufeld@gmail.com

NEWS AND MESSAGES

Church Mice

BABY & TODDLER GROUP AT ST ANDREW'S HALL
Thursdays, 10-11.30am in school term time

Having been dormant since the Covid pandemic, **Church Mice started up again in September.** We have been delighted at how quickly the group has developed into a warm and friendly community, welcoming parents and carers with children aged 0-4 from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities.

Church Mice offers toys and crafts for toddlers and preschoolers with a dedicated play-space for babies. The sessions end with a story and song time and some parachute games, which have proved especially popular. If you find yourself and your little one(s) free on a Thursday morning, please come and join us to relax with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit! There are also breadsticks, raisins and sippy-cups of water for children.

We welcome families of all shapes, sizes, blends and generations. Suggested donation £1. No need to book, just turn up! For more info, email churchmice@standrews-chesterton.org



Minims singing group

The young singers in Minims have been enjoying learning a new song and getting ready to sing it at the Christingle service. This term they have also had a go at playing handbells for the first time. At this time of year, it's dark by the time we finish singing and enjoy biscuits and a bit of time to chat together. The atmosphere is so exciting as the 4-8 year olds move around the building, playing and feeling at home in the church building.

Contact Lizzie Fleming for more information:
lizzie.fleming@standrews-chesterton.org

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
of the month
4pm-4:45pm in Church

Celebrating women priests

On Saturday 28 May 1994, the first ordinations of women to the priesthood in this Diocese took place in Ely Cathedral. Among those ordained on that historic day were two women Deacons then serving at St Andrew's Chesterton: Revd. Linda Randall and **Revd. Lorna Dazeley**.

For those unfamiliar with the history, women such as Lorna and Linda had previously been able to serve in the roles of Deaconess and then Deacon in the Church of England. But only after a long-campaigned-for vote in the General Synod in 1992 was the way paved for the ordination of women as priests - enabling them to preside at the Eucharist, and have authority to absolve, bless and consecrate, as well as become vicars and hold other leadership positions in the Church of England. Two years later, the first ordinations took place in cathedrals across England.

On 9 November this year, I was privileged to accompany Revd Lorna Dazeley to a Communion service at Ely Cathedral celebrating 30 years of women's ministry as priests in this Diocese and the wider Church of England. Bishop Dagmar, Acting Bishop of Ely, presided, and Canon Jessica Martin, one of the leading preachers in the contemporary Church of England - and soon to be Dean of Chelmsford - gave the sermon. It was a moving service to be a part of, giving thanks to God for the pioneering leadership and committed service of ordained women in parishes, congregations and communities in this generation. As I came away from the service, I asked God to show us how we can continue to grow as a church that recognises and affirms God's call to leadership and service in



the people among us of differing shapes and backgrounds, ages and gifts, gender and experience. For if we miss that recognition and affirmation, we will miss out on so much of what God has called the church to be - as we did for so many centuries before 1994.

Philip Lockley

Volunteer opportunities at St Andrew's

We continue to have a range of volunteer roles that we are looking to recruit new people to across our church life. Roles involving working with children, youth and vulnerable adults are subject to the Church of England's Safer Recruitment procedures. Roles include:

- **Sunday Lunch Club** - cooks, waitresses, pudding makers, setting up and clearing away people
- **Junior Church Group** - Leader and Assistant roles
- **Youth Group** - Assistant roles
- **Minims and Youth Singing Group** - Co-Leader-level and Assistant-level roles
- **Life Events Verger** - supporting the ministry team and welcoming families and guests at baptisms, weddings and funerals
- **Healing Prayer Ministry team**

If you would like to discuss your interest in any of these roles, please contact Philip. Role Descriptions, Person Specifications, and details of the recruitment process for each role are available on request.

For Sunday Lunch Club volunteering please contact Karrie: karriefuller@hotmail.com



A visit to a Synagogue - by Rosemary Mathew

I am doing a one term course on the Hebrew Bible with the U3A, and it happened that one session was unexpectedly held at the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Auckland Road. It also happened that a service would be going on that same morning at which, one of the group assured us, we would be very welcome. It was a service for the Simchat Torah or Rejoicing of the Law.

On arrival I was welcomed in by a lady and a gentleman who escorted me up the stairs, and into the sanctuary where services are held. I went to sit inconspicuously at the side, but they shepherded me to the front and sat me between them. I was handed a service book with parallel texts in Hebrew and English, open at passages from Genesis.

On the reading platform, or bimah, facing the congregation, three Torah scrolls were placed with the yad (pointer) which is used to indicate the words to be read or chanted, since the open scroll should not be touched by the hand. Members of the congregation came forward in turns to read, one being a 14-year old girl who had only recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah.

When summoned forward the reader stood facing the congregation, and moved to their left (our right) having read, when another person was called forward and took their turn. Both men and women wore beautifully embroidered white shawls called tallit, and kippot, or skull caps, on their heads.

After the readings prayers were said in English, much as in the C of E. They included prayers for peace in our war-torn world, especially for "The land of Israel, and 'all' (my emphasis) who live there; the hostages, all those who mourn and suffer..."

These were followed by prayers for healing, with known personal names spoken aloud, again much as we do in church. Indeed it was notable the many similarities between us, and how many of our texts are taken word for word from the Hebrew Bible.

Indeed one Jewish man said afterwards that once a Christian lady (presumably not a regular church-goer) had said to him, "Oh, you have the same Psalms as we do!" He resisted the temptation to say, "we actually had them first!"

After the service the scrolls were lifted and carefully replaced in the Ark.

Then we went to a different room where refreshments were available, and visitors were made very welcome. Only after that did our U3A group retire to the small and comfortable library for our course, which, by the way, is extremely interesting and well-researched.



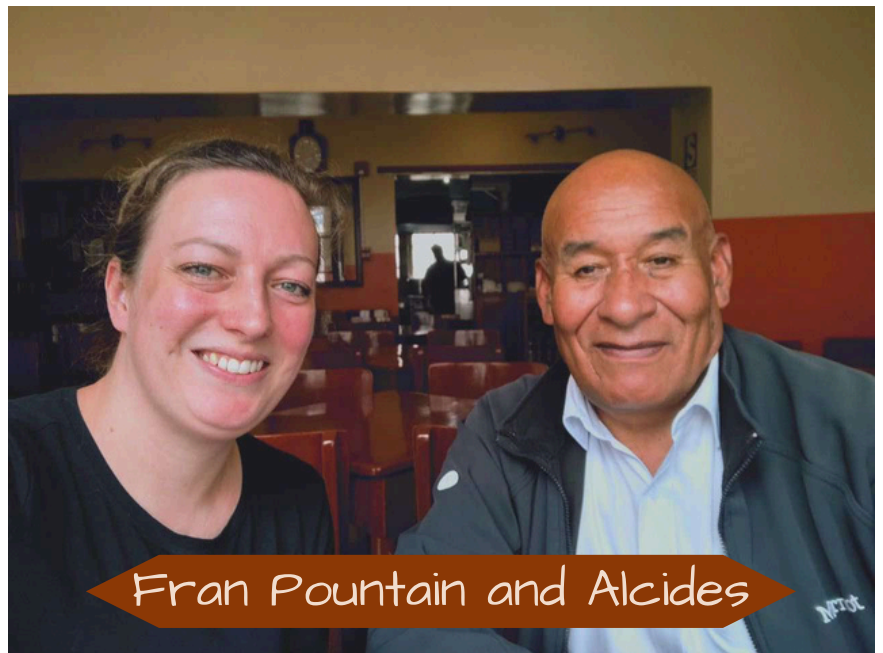
NEWS AND MESSAGES: AZUL WASI

We are sorry to report that Azul Wasi is going through a difficult time, and that its future seems rather uncertain.

Alcides's sight problems continue, and it seems as if there is no treatment available; he finds it difficult to read and cannot drive. It is also becoming more difficult to find sponsors, so he is facing financial challenges with ever-rising costs. Despite all this, his commitment remains total and he is determined to see the present cohort of children through until they can be independent, though he is no longer accepting new children.

Dante and his family are also committed to the project, and Alcides plans to give him more responsibility. Dante was brought up at Azul Wasi and now lives there, assisting Alcides - he is the tutor, and his wife Victoria is the cook. The good news is that the twelve children in residence are well and flourishing as they approach the end of another school year (which in Peru is the same as the calendar year).

For some time now we have been sending Alcides a significant contribution (currently £925 per month) towards food costs, with occasional additional payments when there is some special need.



Our practice has always been to keep a reserve of at least six months' payments in our funds so we can guarantee continuity, and Alcides has greatly appreciated the regularity of our contributions. However, this reserve has built up substantially over the past year, and we feel able to offer him some additional support for the months of January and February, when there are substantially higher than usual costs with the beginning of the new school year, for which fees, equipment and uniforms have to be bought - and maybe for other things as 2025 wears on.

We have been in close touch with Alcides over the last few weeks and are grateful that he has felt able to be so frank with us about the future of the project and its financial position. Fortunately, our daughter Fran (the original contact with Azul Wasi 20 years ago, when she worked with Alcides at the very beginning of the project) was able to meet with him on a recent trip to Peru, and it was very good to have her perception of how things stand. We will obviously be keeping the situation under review, and will use our excess funds to try and help Alcides through the immediate future, while maintaining our regular contribution to the food costs.

So, please, pray for Alcides, for his own family (who have sacrificed so much over the years), for Dante and his family, and above all for the children who are being given a loving and stable home when they might otherwise be at risk on the streets. It is clear to us that it is Alcides's trust in God that has enabled him to carry his vision forward, and in every email he sends he prays for God's blessing on us and thanks us for our faithful support.

Chris and Mary Pountain
azulwasista@gmail.com

Christmas For All Generations

at St Andrew's Chesterton



**Sunday,
15 December,
4 pm**

Christingle Service

Make your own Christingle and celebrate the light at the heart of Christmas.

**Thursday,
19 December,
6:30 pm**

Community Carols

Featuring CSD Brass leading much-loved carols and followed by warm refreshments.

**Sunday,
22 December,
10 am**

Nativity Service

You are welcome to come dressed as your favourite Nativity character for this service.

**Monday,
23 December,
3 pm**

Crib Service

A classic Crib service, featuring the beloved nativity story. For toddlers, early years, and all the family.

**Tuesday,
24 December,
6:30 pm**

Nine Lessons & Carols

A traditional Christmas service with carols sung by St Andrew's Choir and St Andrew's Youth Choir.

**Wednesday,
25 December,
10 am**

All-Age Christmas Celebration

Come and celebrate with us as we joyfully ring in Christmas together!



7-9 February 2025 



Cambridge TradFest '25
A weekend of Irish music and dance on Mill Road

Oisín Mac Diarmada fiddle • **Daithí Gormley** accordion
Samantha Harvey piano, dance • **Elaine Reilly** banjo






with **Grace Lemon** pipes • **Bryony Lemon** accordion • **James Carty** flute

Friday Family Ceili
7 February 2025, 7pm - 9:45pm
Mill Road Community Centre
Music by The Lemon Ceili Co.
All dances called. All ages and abilities welcome.

Saturday Workshops
8 February 2025, 10:30am - 12pm
St. Philips Church
Oisín fiddle • Daithí accordion
Elaine banjo • James flute / whistle
Samantha sean-nós dance • Robin Gracey & Polly Kempson Set Dancing

Saturday Session Trail
8 February 2025, 3pm - 6pm
Kingston Arms Oisín & James
Devonshire Arms Daithí & Elaine
The Alex Samantha & Niamh Gallagher
8 February 2025, 8pm - 10:30pm
Kingston Arms Elaine Reilly
Devonshire Arms Oisín & Steve Prosol
The Alex Daithí & Samantha

Sunday Concert
9 February 2025, 3pm - 4:15pm
St. Philips Church
Oisín, Daithí, Samantha, & Elaine in concert

Get your tickets at cambridgetradfest.co.uk



Use code **EARLYBIRD15** for 15% off before 15 December

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OPEN FOR PRAYER & VISITING
Monday-Sunday:
9am - 4pm



-  St Andrew's Church, Chesterton
-  St Andrew's, Chesterton
-  @standrewschesterton

The Chesterton Chimes is released once every two months. The next edition will be for February and March 2025: if you have church news or messages that you would like to include, send them to Pip Tofaris by 19 January (email pip_rodgers20@hotmail.com).

Thought for the Month

WRITTEN BY REVD STEVEN MCGREGOR

At the moment, I am reading Anthony Trollope's brilliant biography of Marcus Tullius Cicero. A statesman and man of letters, Cicero began his career as a lawyer, first achieving notoriety when he defended a farmer accused of patricide and of murdering his father. The trial is fascinating, not least because Cicero risked his life in agreeing to defend the accused. But I was struck by a moment early in the proceedings when farming is disparaged by the prosecution. In response, Cicero reminds the court that:

'In the times of our ancestors men of the highest rank and character, who at any time might be summoned to take the helm of the State, nevertheless spent very much time and trouble on the cultivation of their lands, so a man ought to be excused if he confesses himself a rustic, since he has always lived in and clung to the country, especially since there was nothing he could do which would be more agreeable to his father, more pleasant to himself, or really more honourable.'

For example, says Cicero, when the deputation approached one Atilius to offer him the consulship in 250 BC, they found him on his farm, 'sowing his field with his own hand'. He was 'summoned from the plough' to attain the highest rank in the land. A similar veneration of farming is found in Virgil's Georgics.

This reverence for honest labour, exemplified by the image of Atilius at his plough, calls to mind another figure whose work transformed society - not in fields of earth, but in the fields of language and faith.

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was a theologian whose English translation of the Bible, replete with memorable turns of phrase, became foundational for the King James Bible and is still part of our language today. In the account of Tyndale's life, as recorded in Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Tyndale is reported to have said: 'that if God spared him life, ere many years he would cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more of the scripture, than he did.'

By translating scripture into the common language of the day, Tyndale sought to bestow the ploughman with a higher calling.

Across a span of more than a millennium—both Cicero and Tyndale regard the ploughman as a meaningful figure, a kind of archetype for what is ordinary as well as honourable. In Cicero's case, he was the foundation stone for the grand edifice that was the Roman state. In Tyndale's, he was part of something even greater in duration, greater still in size, and most great in its calling and its reward: the church.

This shared reverence for the ploughman reflects a deeper truth: that the noblest achievements, whether in building a state or nurturing faith, are grounded in the virtues of diligence and humility.

Across time and cultures, the figure of the ploughman reminds us that greatness often grows from the simplest and most steadfast of beginnings.

Contact

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Due to variable working patterns and external meetings the office is staffed at irregular times throughout the week. To avoid a wasted journey, if you wish to meet with Rachel in person please call the office or email in advance to arrange.

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