



St Andrew's Church

Seeking God Together

NEWS AND NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2020

Last Sunday we live streamed a service for the first time and it was a great success. We would like to say a big thank you to Bradley Allen for his expertise and equipment. It is still possible to watch the recording on this link

<https://youtu.be/rtgjc5KdmWQ>

This week there is an added incentive to watch because Bishop John will be in St Andrew's leading the service. If you have access to the internet, do click on the YouTube link to share in the service.



Sunday 29th November

At 10.00 a.m. Bishop John will lead a service of Holy Communion from St Andrew's which will be live streamed. This service will be celebrating Advent Sunday and St Andrew's Day.

The YouTube link has been emailed out separately and is:

[29th November 2020, St Andrew's Church - YouTube](#)

The service will be available to view live at 10.00 a.m. or as a recording from later on in the day.

The service booklet is attached to this newsletter.

Under the regulations it is not possible to attend this service

11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. the church will be open for individual private prayer.

KEEPING US SAFE

When you come for private prayer, the chairs are socially distanced and you are asked to sanitise your hands on entry and exit. It is mandatory to wear a face covering (with some exceptions). We will keep a record of who comes for NHS Track and Trace or you can use the QR code on the door. If you do not feel well, please do not come to church.

December



We are very pleased that the Government has confirmed that we can hold public worship in December. We will therefore be holding services which people can attend and there will be no individual private prayer.

You must book a place to come to a service. You can book from the

Monday of each week by phoning the church mobile: **07548 940712**

The services for the first three weeks of December will be:

Sunday 6th December – 10.00 a.m. Service of the Word

Sunday 13th December – 10.00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 20th December – 10.00 a.m. Family Service

We will let you know the arrangements for services in Christmas Week soon. In the meantime, we do know that we will decorate the church as usual, including the Christmas tree. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the tree, please email standrewschurchchelmsford@gmail.com or telephone Margaret, Sandra, Linda or Andrew.

Advent course - "Prayer is"



We will be running an Advent course in December – on Thursday evenings 3rd, 10th and 17th December.

The course is called "Prayer is"

Our prayer life is something that grows and develops and we never stop learning or growing. None of us are experts in prayer. Our sessions will help us to think about prayer, what it is, how we might develop our prayer life, looking at things that might help us, learning from each other's experiences and seeking God together.

The course will be held via Zoom and will start at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to join in with the course, please let us know so that we can send you the Zoom invitation. Please email standrewschurchchelmsford@gmail.com

Facebook and website

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page. We've been posting videos, reflections and hymns to help you in your worship at home and to keep us all in touch. Search for St. Andrew's Church, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford.

Religious programming



BBC Essex broadcasts a Sunday Service every Sunday from BBC Essex from 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. This Sunday's service for Advent Sunday is conducted by Methodist Minister Revd Jenny Pathmarajah.

The morning faith show on BBC Essex is from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on Sunday.

The show will be on BBC SOUNDS for 30 days after broadcast.

The Church of England is streaming a service every Sunday at 9.00 a.m. You can find it on this link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services>



CHRISTMAS CARDS



We very much regret that this year it will not be possible for us to bring Christmas cards to church to share with each other. The guidelines ask us not to handle paper unless strictly necessary and we cannot let people congregate around a table to leave or collect cards.

We will, however, post a card to everyone in our congregation from your church family at St Andrew's and we know that everyone's wishes to each other will be part of that card.

thank you

A message from the Greenland family
Paul has sent us this thank you message.

To The P.C.C. and congregation of St. Andrew's, Chelmsford

Dear All,

Karen and I would like to thank you all for your recent kind gift of £400.00. We have had a lot of expenditure recently on the house in Springfield, and this gift has been a welcome contribution to this. We are now settled into the new house and enjoying it. Matthew is still waiting for his visa to be able to emigrate to the USA, but is enjoying doing his gardening job. Hannah is applying for University next September and has had 4 offers. Karen is working hard at CCHS on cover work and special needs coaching. I am still applying for posts and hope to be settled soon.

We wish you all our blessings and pray for you all as you face the future.

Best wishes

Paul Greenland

Sharing news



In normal times before Covid, we used to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, births etc at the beginning of the service. It's good for us all to keep in touch and celebrate together. You may also have some thoughts or other news to share, so do let us know.

WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

ADDITIONAL TEXTS FOR SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020

OPENING HYMN - Come, Now Is The Time To worship

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart .
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God .
Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.....

One day every tongue will confess..... (twice)

Come, now is the time to worship.....

Brian Doerkson
Copyright ©1998 Vineyard Songs

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

OR

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 64 1-9

GRADUAL HYMN – Lord I Come to You (The Power Of Your Love)

Lord, I come to you let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

*Hold me close, Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with You,
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day
By the power of Your love

Hold me close...

*Geoff Bullock.
Copyright © 1992 Word Music/Admby CopyCare*

GOSPEL READING - Matthew - 4 18-22

DURING PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Refrain from Christ Be Our Light Will Be Used.

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CLOSING HYMN - All Earth Was Dark (Lights to the World)

All earth was dark until you spoke,
then all was light and all was peace.
Yet still, oh God, so many wait,
to see the flame of love released.

*Lights to the world, oh light of man,
Kindle in us, a mighty flame,
till every heart, consumed by love,
shall rise to praise Your holy name*

In Christ you gave your gift of life
to save us from the depth of night.
Oh come and set our spirits free,
and draw us to Your perfect light.

Lights to the world,....

Where there is fear, may we bring joy,
and healing to a world in pain.
Lord, build your Kingdom through our lives.
till Jesus walks this earth again.

Lights to the world,....

O burn in us that we may burn
with love that triumphs in despair.
And touch our lives with such a fire,
that souls may search and find you there.

Lights to the world,....

*John Daniels and Phil Thompson
©1986 Ears and Eyes Music Ltd*

COME BYE, LOOK BACK, TAKE TIME, WALK ON A REFLECTION FOR ADVENT BY RT REV PETER HILL ACTING BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD



Advent, which marks the start of the church year liturgically, will soon be upon us: but so very much has changed since last year due to the pandemic. How will we approach it this time

round, when the map of life is so altered, and Advent and Christmas 2020 will be different? Let me offer you a road map.

For many years I have practiced pilgrim prayer walking. It's one of the ways the Lord deals with me and sorts me out, sometimes profoundly. Several years ago, when I was pilgrim walking in Derbyshire, I came across a modern sculpture of a 'Companion Stone'.

Companion Stones were large upright stones or stoops, set up 300 years ago and more, to guide travellers across the treacherous moorland and marsh of the Derbyshire Peaks from one village to another. Modern sculptors have carved new ones for display across The Peaks, which hold other directions: not to the safety of the ancient villages, but for the sometimes equally perilous journey we all take through life. They are a sort of spiritual map.

The one I first came across at the head of the Padley Gorge had four directions carved on it: **come bye look back take time walk on.**

I offer you those directions as profitable for our extra demanding journey through the four weeks of Advent this year. They fit well with other more traditional Advent themes and will I believe take us all the way to the edge of Bethlehem by Christmas Eve.

Firstly, Advent is COMING BYE - stepping aside. It is stopping to catch our breath, taking rest and refreshment before carrying on with the journey. If life and work allow, I encourage you to first take 2 or 3 days out in some shape or form, to be rather than to do, to step back and ponder.

Advent is also LOOKING BACK - A time to consider the way God has saved us; the way God has called us and brought us. Look back in wonder at what God has done in Jesus for us all: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Look back in thanksgiving on your journey so far and recall what he has done in your life, what he has taught you, how he has honed and shaped you.

Advent is TAKING TIME - to look up in waiting upon God, to ask for his sight and

wisdom for the journey, for Jesus to speak into our situations. Faithful waiting is required in Advent. As Jesus said, 'Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near' (Luke 21:28).

Finally, Advent is WALKING ON, renewed in our anticipation and ready to serve, up for the next adventure with the One who loves us, knows what's best for us and wants to use us to extend his Kingdom. For me that Advent challenge to move on must be about seeking justice and well-being for all, and in doing so pointing people to Jesus. It is a constant theme of the prophecies in the book of Isaiah: learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause (Isaiah 1:17).

What will that mean for me?

What will that mean for you?

What will that mean for us all by Christmas this year?

As someone has said, it is easier to be enraged by injustice half a world away than by a need half a street away. And let's not say we are too small or powerless to make a difference. As they say in Africa, if you think you're too small to be effective, you've never been to bed with a mosquito!

When we do get to Bethlehem this year, we will once again peek inside that stable door and kneel at the manger of him who threw stars into space. We will hear again his costly call to bring in his Kingdom of justice and kindness. As the letter to Titus reminds us, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people (Titus 2:11)

So this Advent, in this extraordinary year, I encourage us all to come by, look back, take time, and then walk on to serve our Lord Jesus afresh. That's how we get to Bethlehem this Christmas

AND SO WE PRAY

COLLECT FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



THANKSGIVING;

That on this Advent Sunday, and as we begin another Church Year, we may open our hearts in love and hope, as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

FOR THE CHURCH;

For wisdom and insight for the Diocesan Representatives in the final stages to identify the next Bishop of Chelmsford
For the Blessed Sacrament Church, and for Fr Paul and congregation.

FOR ST. ANDREWS;

For Bishop John leading our live streamed Holy Communion Service for Advent Sunday and St Andrews Day
For us all, as we celebrate St Andrews Day on Monday, that we like Andrew, can obey the call of Jesus, and follow Him.

FOR THE WORLD;

For those who are waiting for the end of violence, war, hunger and poverty.
For all affected by Hurricane Iota, in the Nicaraguas Caribbean Coast.

FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS;

For those who live or work in Pickwick Avenue, Murchison Close and Micawber Way.
For those who work in our hospitals, care homes, surgeries and pharmacies.

FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED;

We entrust to your tender care, Lord, Daniella, Debbie, Bishop John Holbrook, Hazel, Sarah, June and Tony, Richard Burningham, Revd. Dave O'Brien, and others known to us.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED;

Especially those who have died in our parish this week, and for those whose Anniversary falls at this time. May they rest in peace

As the Church Year comes to an end, we commend to you, Lord, all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year Amen.