

Please take this home with you

# *The Parish Church of St Andrew*

**Sunday 16 December**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Celebrant:** The Revd James Reveley  
**Preacher:** The Revd David Powell

**10.00am**

## **PARISH EUCHARIST**

**Celebrant:** The Revd James Reveley  
**Preacher:** The Revd Belinda Searle-Barnes  
**Readings:** Zephaniah 3. 14-end *read by Pat Quickenden*  
Philippians 4. 4-7 *read by Mavis Wiltshire*  
**Gospel:** Luke 3. 7-18  
**Hymns:** SASP 185, NEH 345, SASP 82. NEH 499, NEH 168, NEH 415  
**Anthem:** O come, ye servants - Tye  
**Intercessions:** Ann Mason

Everyone is invited to the Main Hall for refreshments.

**8.00pm**

## **COMPLINE**

**Officiant:** Dr Diana Stretton  
Followed by a glass of port.



**Please ask a sidesperson if you would like a large print version**



# **Prayers and Readings**

## **COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.       **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING - Zephaniah 3.14–20**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING - Philippians 4.4–7**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL - Luke 3.7–18**

*We say or sing*

**Alleluia**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

<sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

### **This week we pray in particular for:**

- those who are bringing the Peace Light to us on Monday and all those who carry a light of peace in our dark world
- our parishioners who have been invited to attend our Christmas services
- leaders of the nations of Europe

### **Prayers for our December Outreach Partner**

#### **ST JOHN'S HOSPICE MOGGERHANGER**

Providing specialist care and support for people with life-limiting conditions living in Bedfordshire and bordering parts of Cambridgeshire.

### **Eucharist Readings for 23 December**

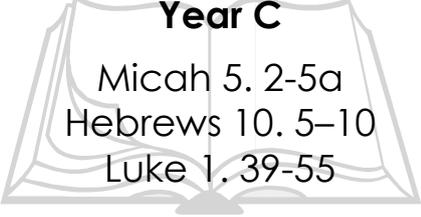
Advent 4

**Year C**

Micah 5. 2-5a

Hebrews 10. 5-10

Luke 1. 39-55



MONDAY	17	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		11.30am	Relaxation Session	Quiet Room
		12.30pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch	
		5.00pm	Peace Light received	Chapel
TUESDAY	18	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		11.00am	Carol singing	Kimbolton Lodge
		2.30pm	Julian Group	Quiet Room
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Quiet Room
WEDNESDAY	19	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		10.30am	Holy Communion	Church
			<i>Celebrant: The Revd David Powell</i>	
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Quiet Room
		6.15pm	Carol Singing	Dorothea Court
		7.00pm	Carol Singing	Hepworth House
THURSDAY	20	7.30pm	St Alban's Study Centre course	Dent Room
		8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		10.30am	House Group	Charlbury Court
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Quiet Room
FRIDAY	21	7.45pm	Tower Bell Practice	Church
		8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		10.30am	Parish Nurse Drop-In session	Consulting Room
		10.30am	Carol Singing	Airedale
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Quiet Room
		7.00pm	Treble Choir	Dent Room
		7.00pm	Christmas Orchestra rehearsal	Church
7.30pm	Christmas Choir rehearsal	Church		
SATURDAY	22	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
		5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Quiet Room
SUNDAY	23	8.00am	Holy Communion	Church
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist	
			with St Andrew's Nativity presentation	Church
		4.00pm	Choir and Orchestra rehearsal	Church
	6.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	Church	
		followed by mulled wine and mince pies	Main Hall	

### Notice Sheet Deadline

Please send all notices to Karen Parrott, Church Centre Office,  
email: [office@standrewsbedford.org](mailto:office@standrewsbedford.org) by **12noon on Wednesday**.  
This notice sheet is usually printed on Wednesday afternoon.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2018

**ARRIVAL OF THE PEACE LIGHT:** On Monday 17 December there will be short service of prayers to receive the Peace Light at 5.00pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to attend.

**THE TRAVELLING CRIB** is now on its annual journey from home to home around the congregation, but there is still time to sign up to host the crib for a night. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church. If you would like to know more about the crib, please speak to Vicki Edwards.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** There is a rehearsal for the augmented choir at 7.30pm on Friday this week and the orchestra meet half an hour earlier at 7.00pm in the church. This rehearsal finishes at 9.15pm.

**CAROL SINGING IN RESIDENTIAL HOMES:** We still need carol singers to join with others from St Andrew's to sing carols and/or recite poetry and readings in local nursing homes this week. On Tuesday 18 December at 11.00am a group will be going to Kimbolton Lodge. On Wednesday 19 December we will be visiting Dorothea Court at 6.15pm and then Hepworth House at 7.00pm and the final visit will be to Airedale at 10.30am on Friday 21 December. Please make a note in your diary and add your name to the sign-up sheet.

**RED CANDLE ARRANGEMENTS:** If you are able to make a small arrangement for church using evergreen foliage, please collect a dish and a piece of floral foam from Ann Mason in the Main Hall during coffee after the 10.00am service today.

**MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE SERVED AFTER THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE 23 DECEMBER:** Please sign the lists in church if (a) you can provide some mince pies and (b) if you can help prepare, set up the Hall before the service and/or serve wine after the service and help clear up. Members of the Events Committee would appreciate some extra help, if you would like to know more please contact Hilary Papworth.

**SIDESPEOPLE - CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for the additional Christmas services. Please could you sign up for services that are convenient to you.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** We need help between the services on Christmas Eve to move furniture in the church in preparation for the next service. If you feel you can help, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

**MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER:** The church will be open for Morning Prayer after Christmas. However, from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day there will be no daily Evening Prayer. The Church Centre and Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. The Church Office will reopen on Wednesday 2 January.

**BOOK CIRCLE:** The next meeting is on Monday 4 February, 7.45pm, when we will be discussing "After The Fire" by Alan Everett. Please join us for a lively discussion.

**'LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH':** Are you under 30? We would like to send you for a few days in Derbyshire in March 2019. Contact James or Ian Smith if you would like to express an interest in attending.

**ST ANDREW'S MEN'S WEEKEND AWAY**– 22 - 24 March 2019 at the Horstead Centre in Norfolk. The theme is Making a difference where we are. Leaflets are available at the back of the church with further details.

**MISSING BOOK:** If anyone knows the whereabouts of the little book of pronunciation of Biblical names that usually lives in the Chapel, please could they let one of the staff in the office know. Thank you.

### **FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S**

**PANTOMIME:** Please can those who signed up for the pantomime at Milton Keynes Theatre on 11 January 2019 confirm their continuing interest by making a payment for £16 per ticket as soon as possible. Please submit your payments to the Church Office in an envelope marked for the attention of John Thynne re: Friends Pantomime Visit. Cheques should be made payable to "*The Friends of St Andrew's*" please. Thank you.

### **COMMUNITY**

**MEDITATION, MUSIC AND SILENCE:** A short lunchtime service on Thursdays in November and December at St Paul's Church from 1.05pm - 1.30pm. Led by members of the Anglican Town Centre Churches. All welcome.

**ALMSHOUSE VACANCY:** The Frederick Ray Trust (Rays Close, Bedford) offers accommodation for deserving older single people or couples in need of housing. Applicants must be capable of independent living and meet certain other criteria. Please see the notice board in the Church Centre corridor for details of how to apply, should you be interested. Application deadline 31 December 2018.

# Christmas at St Andrew's



**Sunday**  
**23 December**  
**Children's Nativity**  
**Presentation**  
during the  
**10.00am Service**

**FESTIVAL OF**  
**NINE LESSONS**  
**AND CAROLS**  
**SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER**

**6.00PM**

**ORCHESTRA & CHOIR**  
**CONDUCTED BY**  
**IAN SMITH**  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
**PAUL SEARLE-BARNES**

## Advent Candle Song (SASP29)

Come and light the candles on the Advent ring,  
scattering the darkness till the world shall sing.  
John the Baptist telling us God wants to forgive,  
calling us to change the way we work and live.



**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, KIMBOLTON ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 2PF**

**VICAR:** THE REVD JAMES REVELEY (*Day off - Friday or Saturday*) 01234 354234

**E-MAIL:** vicar@standrewsbedford.org

**CURATE:** THE REVD DUNCAN GOLDTHORPE (*Day off - Friday or Saturday*) 01234 268689

**E-MAIL:** curate@standrewsbedford.org

**CHURCH CENTRE OFFICE:** 01234 216881

(Open Monday - Friday 9.00am-1.00pm & 2.00-4.00pm)

**E-MAIL:** centremanager@standrewsbedford.org

**WEBSITE:** www.standrewsbedford.org

Charity Registration number 1130171

**This Notice Sheet is also available on the website**

