

Please take this home with you

The Parish Church of St Andrew

Sunday 23 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher: The Revd James Reveley

10.00am

PARISH EUCHARIST

Celebrant: The Revd Belinda Searle-Barnes

Preacher: Nativity Presentation

Readings: Micah 5. 2-5a read by Susan Ashmead
Hebrews 10. 5-10 read by Richard Gallivan

Gospel: Luke 1. 39-55

Hymns: NEH 185, NEH 21, NEH 297, NEH 20 (omit *verse),
SASP 175, NEH 186

Anthem: Gabriel's message - *Basque carol*

Intercessions: Christine Garrett

Everyone is invited to the Main Hall for refreshments.

6.00pm

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Officiant: The Revd James Reveley

Everyone is invited to the Main Hall for mulled wine and mince pies



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



Prayers and Readings

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING - Micah 5.2–5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The LORD says to his people: ²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING - Hebrews 10.5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no

pleasure. ⁷Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' ⁸When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL - Luke 1.39–45

We say or sing

Alleluia

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This week we pray in particular for:

- Peace on Earth at Christmas time
- For our Christmas charities - St John's Hospice Moggerhanger and Swaziland Schools Projects

Prayers for our December Outreach Partner

ST JOHN'S HOSPICE MOGGERHANGER

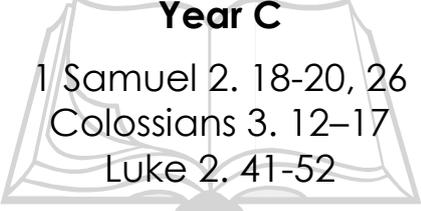
Providing specialist care and support
for people with life-limiting conditions
living in Bedfordshire and bordering
parts of Cambridgeshire.

Eucharist Readings for 30 December

First Sunday of Christmas

Year C

1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26
Colossians 3. 12-17
Luke 2. 41-52



MONDAY	24	Christmas Eve	
	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
	12noon	<i>Church Office closes for Christmas</i>	
	2.30pm	Crib Service	Church
	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Church
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Church
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass with incense	Church
TUESDAY	25	Christmas Day	
	8.00am	Holy Communion	Church
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	Church
WEDNESDAY	26	Boxing Day	
	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Quiet Room
THURSDAY	27	8.30am	Morning Prayer
			Quiet Room
FRIDAY	28	8.30am	Morning Prayer
			Quiet Room
SATURDAY	29	8.30am	Morning Prayer
			Quiet Room
SUNDAY	30	8.00am	Holy Communion
			Church
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	Church
	6.00pm	Evening Service	Church

There will be no Evening Prayer from Christmas Eve through to New Year's Day.

The Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, reopening on Wednesday 2 January.

The Church Centre will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January.

Notice Sheet Deadline

Please send all notices to Karen Parrott, Church Centre Office,
email: office@standrewsbedford.org by **12noon on Wednesday**.

This notice sheet is usually printed on Wednesday afternoon.

CHRISTMAS 2018

TODAY - SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS: This service with choir and orchestra is at 6.00pm today and all are welcome. Following the service mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the Main Hall.

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Join us for a joyful celebration of Christmas at our services - 8.00am Holy Communion and 10.00am Parish Eucharist.

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.

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019: Copies are available at the back of the church if you do not yet have one of these useful publications. It lists events happening at St Andrew's throughout the coming year.

ROTAS: The January rota has been emailed to most people but those without email can collect their copies from the back of the church. Please let the Office know if you change your duty with someone else.

COFFEE AND COMPANY: Join us for conversation and friendship over real coffee and delicious cake on Friday 4 January from 10.00am - 12noon in the Church Centre Foyer.

SINGALONG "MARY POPPINS": On Saturday 5 January at 3.00pm in the Main Hall we will be showing the original film, so do come along and join in with all the much-loved songs. Admission £1 in aid of St John's Moggerhanger. Refreshments available.

CHRISTIAN AID has been offered a day to collect outside both Tesco stores (Goldington Road and Cardington Road) on Saturday 19 January and Peter Littleford is looking for volunteers from all local churches to do a "shift" during the day. There was a similar event a few years ago which proved very lucrative. If you feel you could offer an hour (or more?) on that day, please let me know and I will pass your name on. You may wish to say what time/which store would be most convenient for you. Thank you in advance. Angela Huddart.

HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY: On the night of Saturday 26 January into Sunday 27 January join us for a sponsored sleep in aid of charities for the homeless. Please email the Church Office to register your interest.

MOTHERS' UNION: The raffle at the Wednesday service Christmas Lunch on 12 December raised a total of £92 for the Mothers' Union Away From It All (AFIA) holiday fund. Thank you for your generosity.

'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.

THANK YOU very much from the ministers, churchwardens and staff for the cards, presents and good wishes we have received this Christmas.

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.

TALK ABOUT LIFE ON A PACIFIC ISLAND by Mark Adkin - Join us for an interesting afternoon on Tuesday 8 January at 2.30pm in the Holt Room.

COMMUNITY

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.

CANTAMUS AT EPIPHANY: Saturday 20 January, 7.30pm, here at St Andrew's. Conductor: Gary Mudd. Organ: Paul Edwards. Tickets £10 (£6 concessions) on the door.

Christmas at St Andrew's



Monday
24 December
Crib Service with
real donkeys
2.30pm Service

Christmas at St Andrew's

Carols by Candlelight



Two services at
4.30 & 6.30pm
Christmas Eve
24 December

Advent Candle Song (SASP29)

Come and light the candles on the Advent ring,
scattering the darkness till the world shall sing.
Mary, full of courage, echoing God's "yes",
going on the journey God will greatly bless



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

