

Church Bulletin

Reaching out....." Hi so great to see you!", You, too! "Wow you don't look any older since we last saw you 3 years ago" "I might need to introduce you to everyone, as I don't think anyone on the call was here when you were". This was the opening exchange I had with an ex-colleague on a Zoom call recently. The greeting was warm and genuine. As each person joined, I realised I had not met most of them, those I had, weren't on the management team 3 years ago. I felt like a social outsider. I was introduced to the group and smiled as a few responded with "Oh yes I've heard your name mentioned before", but decided it was better not to ask in what context!

As the meeting started the chairperson asked me what I was now doing? I explained that I had three jobs, delivering cars, invigilating, and was licenced to take Funerals. "Bl**dy hell that's a bit weird" said one of the contributors who'd forgotten to mute his microphone. I couldn't help myself "which one?" I asked. The now embarrassed individual struggled to get his microphone back on and finally responded with "Er....the funerals". "Why's that then?" I asked..... "Er I just can't imagine you taking a funeral?" " Oh, I can?" said someone else on the call, clearly trying to help their colleague out of this hole he had dug himself in. I sensed this was now getting a bit awkward and I explained how and why I had taken this route. The conversation then continued for a short while. Different people offering thoughts on my choice of work and their views on church, faith and the question they were all curious about "how much do I get paid for doing a funeral". This conversation therefore side-tracked the original purpose of the meeting. Who would have thought such a simple question and answer could interrupt the flow of important business.

I reflected on the impact of Zoom and the way people access information last week, as we had the cameras and upgraded sound system installed in church. There is a slight trepidation that with the services being live streamed, people may choose to stay at home rather than come to church, which I hope won't happen. However, as a church, I'd rather view it as an opportunity to reach out to more people. To give those who are unable to attend church due to ill health or for other reasons, the opportunity to "be in church" on a Sunday and join in with the church family in worshipping God. I expect it will also provide a chance for those who used to come to St Andrews, but have now moved away, to join in. The most important opportunity live streaming will offer us, is the chance to reach those who have never stepped foot in our church, but are curious and feel safer clicking the link on the webpage or Facebook page, rather than stepping through the door, at this point.

When Jesus returned to his heavenly Father, he gave his disciples this instruction "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19). That command still stands.

I hope and pray that the live streaming of our services and other events, will help us reach out to those who are curious. That it will provide us as a church, with a different and modern opportunity to bring people to know the Lord.

Nick Tooby - Churchwarden

Reminder

If you have volunteered to help put up the church Christmas decorations this Saturday, 4th December, please arrive at the church for 2pm.

Volunteer Sidespersons and Readers for Christmas Services

We are looking for volunteers for some of our Christmas Services:

24th Dec Crib Service 2.30pm – 2 readers

24th Dec Crib Service 4pm – 2 readers

24th Dec Midnight Mass – 2 sidespersons

If you are able to help, please let Julie know on 07756 918847 or administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk

Christmas Services

Enclosed is a flyer which details our Christmas services.

8am Communion

8am Communion service on the first Sunday of the month will restart this Sunday, 5th December. All welcome.

Toy Service

Our annual Toy Service, will take place on Sunday, 5th December, starting at 10am. Everyone welcome. We will be pleased to receive new, unwrapped toys to place under the tree on Sunday and Thursday. These will be sent to Tile Hill Children's Centre to be distributed to children in and around Tile Hill who will be without this Christmas.

Wednesday Service

Our Wednesday Service has now resumed and commences weekly at 10am. Everyone welcome.

Book Club

The next Book Club meeting is on Thursday 6th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

If you are interested in being part of the group, or have any questions please contact Sue Masters (07958322026).

Building Our Faith

Our Wednesday evening bible study and fellowship takes place on Wednesdays at 7.30pm on Zoom. From Wednesday 24th November for four weeks, we will have an Advent Theme and it is a space to read the Bible and to share together. Everyone is welcome to join us.

The zoom joining details are available from Sue Masters.

If you have not joined us before you are very welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me. Sue Masters, Tel: 07958 322026, Email: susanmasters@sky.com

Covid Update

Following a meeting this week with the public health team they have shared the following advice:

As of Tuesday 30th November, targeted measures to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant take effect;

- Face coverings are compulsory in shops and settings such as banks, post offices and hairdressers, as well as on public transport unless individuals are exempt from doing so. All hospitality settings are exempt. Face coverings should be worn in communal areas of universities, colleges and schools by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above.
- All international arrivals must take a PCR test by the end of the second day after arrival and self-isolate until they receive a negative result, even if fully vaccinated. The PCR tests are available online from private providers.
- If you're a contact of someone who may have been infected with the Omicron variant, you must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of your age or vaccination status. You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Vaccination Update;

- All eligible adults in England aged 18 years and over will now be offered a covid19 booster vaccination by the end of January. Following advice from the independent experts at the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), everyone who is currently eligible - including those aged 40 and over, health and social care workers and those at increased risk from the virus due to health conditions - will be able to book their jab from three months after their second dose.
- The government and the NHS are urging younger people to wait until they are called forward by the NHS – with the more vulnerable continuing to be prioritised for their booster, to top up their immunity to the virus as soon as possible.
- Younger age groups will be invited by the NHS in due course in order of age, grouped into 5-year age bands.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-adults-to-be-offered-covid-19-boosters-by-end-of-january>

COVID19 still remains a serious health risk and you should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others;

- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer
- Follow the new guidelines that have come into place regarding face coverings in shops and on all public transport
- Wash your hands regularly
- Get tested and self-isolate if required
- If you haven't already, get vaccinated (first 2 doses + booster for those eligible)

Foodbank Donations

To donate to Central foodbank, Sue Barnes is coordinating this so please contact her to drop off food at her house. Contact Sue at susanbarnes1960@outlook.com

If you are unable to give food you can also donate online here: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/rddonate-checkout/>

Happy Birthday

To Lesley Lee, who celebrates her birthday tomorrow, 4th December.

Do send Julie your favourite bible verses or hymn verses, names for prayer and any birthdays, celebrations or articles for inclusion in the bulletin. Julie can be contacted on 07756 918847 or administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk

Church Contacts

Vicar: Jo Joyce - 07588 576351 email revjoannajoyce@outlook.com

Churchwardens: Nick Tooby – 07951 925772 and Becky Crowe - 07875 552518

Parish Administrator: Julie Crow – 07756 918847

Parish Safeguarding Officer and Children's Advocate: Linda Chylinski - 024 7646 8535

Diary Dates December		
Sun 5 th	8.00am	Communion Service
	10.00am	Toy Service
	3.30pm	St Andy's at St Oswald's church
	6.00pm	Rock Solid
Tues 7 th	6.00pm	Drama Group at St Oswald's Church
Weds 8 th	7.30pm	Building our Faith on Zoom

St Andy's Services

5th December - St Andy's at St Oswald's church, 3.30pm, all ages welcome - Church without Walls

12th December - St Andy's at St Oswald's church, 3.30pm, all ages welcome

19th December - Lantern Procession from St Oswald's church 3.30pm, all ages welcome

26th December - no meeting for St Andy's church