

# Welcome to St Andrew's

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



It's lovely to have you worshipping with us today, if you are new, we would love to welcome you, please do introduce yourself to one of our welcomers on the door. If you need any help or information, they will be happy to assist.

To find out more about what's on at St Andrew's please see our website and Facebook pages;

<https://standrewseg.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsChurchEasternGreen/>

## The Third Sunday of Advent

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 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 for ever.

## **First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

NRSVA (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

## **Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

### ***The Testimony of John the Baptist***

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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## **Notices**

### **Christmas Events this Week**

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm - Tea with Santa**

Join us for tea and games and a chance to meet Santa, Tickets £5 contact Rev Jo on 07588 576351.

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm - Carols by Candlelight**

A traditional service of Carols and Christmas readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

#### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm - Blue Christmas**

A quiet reflective service for all who find Christmas difficult.

#### **Prayer Ministry**

The Prayer Ministry Team will be giving healing Ministry a particular focus on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It will be a time when members of the team will meet immediately before the service to pray for the service, the church family and the parish. Should anyone wish for prayer for themselves or on behalf of another, please feel free to join us either before or immediately after the service. This coming Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month and members of the Prayer Ministry Team will be available.

#### **Alpha**

Have you ever wondered if there is more to life? Alpha is a course to find out more about Christianity, to think about what Christians believe. You don't have to have a faith, and you can bring all those nagging questions you aren't sure about. We can't promise to answer them all, but we can promise an interesting evening with food, chat and a chance to discuss the deeper questions of life. If you would like to find out more and are interested in coming along, or in helping, chat to Rev Jo for more info. Our next course will be starting in January 2024.

#### **Tots Time**

Tots time is our new Tots group for babies toddlers and their carers. We will be breaking now for Christmas, our dates for 2024 are: 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March. Pop in any time from 8.45 am, finishing around 10.15am.

#### **Time to Pray 2024**

As we start the new year, we invite you to join us to pray together for our mission and witness for 2024. The first Saturday in the month will be a time to come together to pray and to listen to God as we think about what God is calling us to be and do as a church, within our parish and also beyond to the new estate.

We will meet in church at 9.30 on the following dates:

6<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

There will be coffee and pastries available after the time of prayer. Sue Masters, [susanmasters@skycom](mailto:susanmasters@skycom)

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Our Advent 4 service on the morning of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December will be a short service of communion, without hymns, to enable our volunteers to focus on Christmas services later in the day.

### **Accommodation Search**

Greg Smith has a curate who will be doing a placement at Bablake School in January for 3-4 weeks. He is looking for accommodation. If you can help for some or all of that time please speak to Jo.

### **Volunteering and Safeguarding**

All church volunteers, whether paid or unpaid, will need to be safely recruited and possibly also require a basic/enhanced DBS check. If you have any questions about safeguarding and volunteering, please speak to Julia McNaney on 07872 614688 or Rev Jo.

### **Donations**

Should you wish to give online to support the work of the church, the link below or the QR code will take you directly to the page. It is a secure way of supporting the churches ministry. Thank you for your ongoing support. Nick Tooby.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/eef64318-0a22-4db7-8d81-0ab3ccddf15d>



<b>Diary Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.00pm	Tea with Santa
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Carol Service
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6.00pm	Blue Christmas
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Wednesday Communion
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Said Communion
	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Christmas Day Communion

*Please send notices for next week to Julie by Thursday, email [administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk](mailto:administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk) or call 07756 918847*