

**Readings for Sunday 1st February
The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)**

Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2:22-40

Readings for Thursday 5th February

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24 Psalm 48:1-3, 8-10 Mark 6:7-13

**Readings for Sunday 8th February
The Second Sunday before Lent**

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-end

Readings for Thursday 12th February

Genesis 2:18-end Psalm 128 Mark 7:24-30

**Readings for Sunday 15th February
The Sunday next before Lent**

Exodus 24:12-end 2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9

Readings for Thursday 19th February

Deuteronomy 30:15-end Psalm 1 Luke 9:22-25

**Readings for Sunday 22nd February
The First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Readings for Thursday 26th February

Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 138 Matthew 7:7-12



Monday Prayers A time of coming together to pray for the church and parish from 4.30pm every Monday in church.

All are welcome.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful'. Col 4:2

The next Focus is **1st March - 4th April**
Please email items to: standrewr@proton.me
or phone, or text Claire on 07971 334142
By 9pm Friday 20th February



St Andrew's Rushmere

Focus for Weeks

1st - 28th February



Ash Wednesday Service

at St Andrew's

Wednesday 18th February

at 7.30pm



Coffee Morning

21st February from 10.00am

in the Church Hall



Enjoy refreshments, including delicious home-made scones.

Win a prize on our Raffle and pick up a bargain on our
Bring & Buy Stall.

8.30am to 10am Saturday 28th February

Mission Breakfast – All Welcome

Join us for breakfast followed by a talk about the transformative work of the Salvation Army in our community; sharing the good news, serving others without discrimination, nurturing disciples of Jesus, caring for creation, and seeking justice and reconciliation. If you wish, stay to pray for their work, staff, volunteers, those whom they serve and for whom they seek justice.

Mission & Giving Panel.



FIND Christmas Appeal Update

Hello everyone. A Big Thank you, for your generous donations at Christmas, to FIND this year.



In total I handed £440.00 worth of vouchers, on (15/12/25) to Jane Basham the new manager, 32 items of goodies were also taken.

A special mention also to all the people who bring in donations of food during the year. 30 bags of food items, donated between February and November, and the Harvest collection, filled one large and one small supermarket trolley. Sleeping bags and towels were also taken Thanks to Tim for helping with counting of the vouchers and Tricia for delivering some of the donations. Gloria

LENT COURSE for 2026

Our Monday Lunch-time Lent Course for 2026 will be based on the book and the film 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'. The Novel, and the film on which it is based, are about collaboration, a community in adversity and forgiveness.

During the course, we will watch sections of the film, before reading appropriate Bible passages, and then discussing the questions that both raise.

We meet in the Church Hall at 12.30pm and begin with coffee and biscuits, before watching a clip from the film lasting approximately 30 minutes. We aim to finish our discussion at 2pm.

There are four sessions, on the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd of March.

There will be a clipboard in the Hall to sign up.

Chris Yule



Plastic Chocolate Tubs Wanted

Do you have any empty plastic chocolate tubs that you'd like to get rid of? e.g. quality street, roses etc. They are being collected in aid of Macmillan nurses.

Please bring them to Church or contact Teresa on 01473 431114

Ways of Giving

We are very blessed to have a most generous congregation who give freely of themselves and their financial resources; we are extremely grateful, and we have many ways to make giving as easy as possible.

Also we can claim Gift Aid, increasing each donation by a further 25% at no extra cost to givers, so long as they pay sufficient Income Tax (or Capital Gains Tax) in the current tax-year to cover their donations.

If you wish to know more please ask a Warden, or our Treasurer Chris, who can supply Standing Order and Gift Aid forms if required. Thank you so very much for your continuing generosity to our Church.

Revd Alan Chris Gibson



4pm - 5.30pm
Messy Church
in Dumbarton Hall,



Saturday 28th February 2026

*Messy Church full of joy, fun and musical energy with
crafts and food for all the family!*

Free entrance! All welcome!

**Children must bring an adult. For more information email
alancomfort11@gmail.com**

Eco Cleaning Materials

Thank you to anyone who kindly donates cleaning materials for church use, which is much appreciated.

Could we please ask that you consider donating eco friendly products, such as 'Ecover', which are not only kind to the environment, but safer for us to store, as they don't contain harmful chemicals.



Lunch Club

There are now places available at Lunch Club if you would like to join us.



Lunch Club is held every Wednesday from 12.30 - 1.45pm in our church hall. A hot, two-course meal is served at table. Cost £5 includes coffee/tea.

We would love to hear from you if you, or someone you know would like to come along. Lifts to and from home can usually be arranged. Talk to Sue, Carolyn, or Jean.



First Sunday United Service
Sunday 1st March 2026
6.30pm at Rushmere Baptist Church



The Street, Rushmere St Andrew

All welcome - join in this worshipping community of local churches
(please note - no joint service in February)

Mothers' Union

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon on January 20th, a great start to the year. We had a full house with some visitors from Henley MU and several from our church family.



We heard about the church in the diocese of Kagera, Tanzania and Mike; a local Suffolk farmer told us about the work being done to improve yields of crops and the health of the local pigs.

It was a joy to have Bishop Darlington of Kagera with us for the afternoon.

Our February meeting is on Wed 18th and will be a very special occasion. We will celebrate 10 years since the reopening of our branch. We shall have our AGM and have some new members to be enrolled, then we shall celebrate. Everyone is welcome to come and join in. Any queries contact Tricia on 07951817543

Focus and much more is available on our website:
<https://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net>

Find us on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/standrew.rushmere>



Reaching the Unreached
Bumper Jigsaw and Book Sale
on Saturday, 14th March 10.00 -12.30



There will coffee and scones, bacon butties and cakes.

There will also be a raffle and cake stall .

Donations of books, puzzles and jigsaws can be left at Open Door during the week, cakes on the day.

This was a very successful morning last year and raised over £1000 for Reaching the Unreached, our charity we support in India. Let's see if we can do it again!



INSPIRE COUNSELLING

Inspire Counselling's next Day Seminar is about ADHD. This will be held in our Hall on Friday, March 13th, 9.30am - 4.30pm We are given one free place, available to anyone at St Andrew's so if you are interested in hearing more about ADHD then please ask Jean Yule for an Application Form.

World Day of Prayer
Friday 6th March
At 2pm



At Rushmere Baptist Church
The Street,
Rushmere St Andrew
wwdp.org.uk



RUSHMERE ST ANDREW'S SPRING 2026 CONCERTS

This year's programme of Sunday afternoon Spring Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere will be held in support of SMART (Suffolk Music & Arts Alumni Trust). The charity exists to ensure young people in Suffolk have access to arts opportunities, enriching their lives, providing funding to help Suffolk's young people to access music and arts opportunities, so vital in their lives in many ways.

Once again, there is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event.

All concerts begin at 3 pm and we look forward to welcoming you to any or all of them.

Further details can be found on the church's website:

<http://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net/music/concerts/>

1 March: Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

A thriving, enthusiastic group of 50 plus singers led by Nick Coleman; Musical Director. Mostly singing in four-part harmony, performing songs from musicals, pop songs from a range of eras, some classical pieces, as well as a large Christmas repertoire. A showcase of versatility and range of choral pieces.

8 March: Farlingaye High School & St Margaret's Primary School choir

Farlingaye are represented by a string ensemble performing chamber music in a variety of styles.

St Margaret's Senior Choir are delighted to be performing this afternoon; members span School yrs 4-6. Many of the performers started their musical journey and love of singing in the School training choir (yrs 1-3) and are looking forward to performing for you.

15 March: New Suffolk Brass

Formed in 2025, New Suffolk Brass is a group of 5 brass players. They come together to play original, transcribed or arranged music for Brass Quintet in a variety of styles. Their programme for this concert will highlight how the sound of the brass quintet has changed over the years, as well as featuring pieces that spotlight individual instruments.

Spring 2026 Concerts cont...

22 March: Octave

Octave was formed in 1989 by adding two singers to Front Porch Harmony, singing music of the lighter kind. The objective was partly to create a group capable of promoting an enthusiasm for music of the Spanish Renaissance, and for the compositions of Arvo Pärt. Octave's repertoire has become large and varied, entertaining a variety of audiences.

29 March: St Peter's Band

is the sister band to the Ipswich Hospital Band, with around 45 players and a varied and interesting repertoire. As well as fetes and country shows, the band also holds regular concerts with Ipswich Hospital Community Choir and Musicology vocal group, raising money for local health related charities.

Saturday 24th January Mission Breakfast Update



The breakfast was focused on the work of 'Open Doors' and launched as our February 'Charity of the Month'.

After a delicious breakfast we listened to a speaker from the charity, started by Brother Andrew in 1955. He distributed Bibles to underground Christian communities in communist countries. It has since grown and is active in 70 countries, helping Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

Our speaker gave examples how Christians risk violence, displacement, prison, discrimination, and even killed. In some countries owning a Bible is illegal, with no formal churches. North Korea is the most difficult country to practice Christianity.

A free copy of the World Watch List 2026 Top 50 can be obtained from opendoorsuk.org/www

We stayed to pray for the work of Open Doors and Christians in Iran, Ethiopia and sub-Saharan Africa and for the recent launch of the watch list to MPs to increase their awareness of persecution of Christians. Prayers were also given for staff and volunteers to spread knowledge and awareness of the work of the charity and in increased support for its work.

Mission and Giving Panel