

**Readings for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
The First Sunday of Advent**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13      Luke 21:25-36

**Readings for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Isaiah 26:1-6    Psalm 118:18-27a    Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**Readings for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
The Second Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5:1-9, or Malachi 3:1-4    Philippians 1:3-11    Luke 3:1-6

**Readings for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Isaiah 41:13-20      Psalm 145:1, 8-13      Matthew 11:11-15

**Readings for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
The Third Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20    Philippians 4:4-7      Luke 3:7-18

**Readings for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Judges 13:2-7, 24-end    Psalm 71:3-8      Luke 1:5-25

**Readings for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a    Hebrews 10:5-10      Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**Readings for 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

Acts 13:16-26      Matthew 1:18-25

**Readings for 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10      John 1:14

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December – No Service**

**Readings for Sunday – The First Sunday of Christmas**

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

**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 **5<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
Please email items to: [standrewr@proton.me](mailto:standrewr@proton.me)  
or phone Claire 07971 334142  
**By 9pm Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December**



**St Andrew's Rushmere  
Focus for Weeks  
1<sup>st</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> January**



**Christmas at St Andrew's  
Advent United Service at St Andrew's  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm**



**Informal Worship at Dumbarton Hall  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm**

**Christmas Messy Church  
at Dumbarton Hall  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm**



**Carols by Candlelight  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm**  
Sing carols and listen to the story leading to the birth of Jesus, with choir, music group and organ.



**Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Crib Service at 4.00pm**

For children and all the family  
Join in the story of the birth of Jesus,  
with carol singing



**Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Midnight Holy Communion Service at 11.30pm**

**Christmas Day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am  
Family Holy Communion**



## Reaching the Unreached Sale Success

Thank you to everyone involved with our annual sale, which has realised over £2,800 so far. We are so grateful for the donations of goods, help on both days and those of you who came and supported us, especially in very cold weather on Friday. Once we get a final total we will contact Mo Houlden, the UK organiser for RTU, who will advise on how the donation from us will be used.

## Eco Church Award

We are excited to share with you, that we have started our application for Gold, although there still needs to be a lot of supporting paperwork.

Progress is being made, in that you may have noticed our new cycle rack adjacent to the church and the vegetable box in the church garden. Thank you to Kevin, Bob and Ken for helping to get these off the ground (apologies for the pun).

As Christmas approaches, we are going to try a communal Christmas Card Board, which you are welcome to use if you wish. There will be a pin board in church for you to add your church family cards to from the first week in December.

Thank you, Ruth

## Charity of the Month – FIND Christmas Appeal



It is time again when we support our local Charity FIND at Christmas. It is following the same format as before, collecting a label from the festive tree, get your donation, and bring it to church in a festive bag. A tree will be in Church from **24th of November**.

Maureen has requested supermarket vouchers; value of £10.00 upwards with the accompanying receipts. These can be obtained from Sainsbury, Aldi, Tesco, M&S, Primark, or any toy stores.

Other acceptable gifts are tin/tubs of chocolate, boxes/tins of biscuits and sweets, placed in a festive bag and bring to church by the last collecting date of **15<sup>th</sup> December**, so they can be delivered.

Once again – Thank You. Gloria

A VERY big THANK YOU for your support with the REAL ADVENT CALENDARS. Thank you for your orders, your prompt collection and payments AND an especially BIG **Thank You** for donating 23 calendars to FIND.

Happy Advent everyone. Margaret.

## Ways of Giving

We are very blessed to have a most generous congregation, who give freely of themselves and also their financial resources. For this we are extremely grateful and we have many different ways to make giving as easy as possible. Also, we can claim Gift Aid which increases each donation by a further 25% at no extra cost to the 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 very much for your continuing generosity to our Church. Revd Alan Chris Gibson



## St Andrew's Mothers' Union

We had a lovely afternoon in November doing 'Edible Craft' with Eileen, one of our members, guiding us. In December we have our Christmas party on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm**. This year we have 'home made' entertainment and time for just being together with the usual sumptuous tea! We will have some 'doggy bags' ready for people who have eaten Christmas lunch at Lunch Club and are not able to do the tea justice! The retiring Diocesan President; Linda Ginn will join us so we can thank her for all she has done for MU in Suffolk in the last 6 years.

## Operation Christmas Child

Very many thanks to all people who gave items to go in the Shoeboxes, money to cover the costs of transporting the boxes, and all those who helped to fill the boxes and get them ready to be sent. We sent 59 boxes in total including those filled by the young people at the Youth Club who wrote notes to include in their boxes. One of our congregation – Brian - told me today that he went one year on a lorry to deliver boxes to Eastern Europe and he has never forgotten the faces of the children as they received their boxes! Thank you everyone who contributed.

## Carol Singing at Your House

Once again we are going out in small groups to sing carols to people at their houses. This will take place on **Monday 23rd December from 6pm**. If you would like to be one of the carol singers or you would like to have some carol singers visit your home, please contact Rachel Daniels on 07759 033722.