

**Readings for Sunday 1st March
The Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Readings for Thursday 5th March

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 31:4-5, 14-18 Luke 16:19-end

**Readings for Sunday 8th March
The Third Sunday of Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Readings for Thursday 12th March

Jeremiah 7:23-28 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-end Luke 11:14-23

**Readings for Sunday 15th March
Mothering Sunday**

Exodus 2:1-10, or 1 Samuel 1:20-28 2 Corinthians 1:3-7,
or Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35, or John 19:25b-27

Readings for Thursday 19th March

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 106:19-23 John 5:31-end

**Readings for Sunday 22nd March
The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Readings for Thursday 26th March

Genesis 17:3-9 Psalm 105:4-9 John 8:51-end

**Reading for Sunday 29th March
Palm Sunday**

Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-end of 27, or Matthew 27:11-54

Readings for Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Acts 3:11-end Psalm 8 Luke 24:35-48



**St Andrew's Rushmere
Focus for Weeks
1st March - 4th April**







 **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 





**World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2pm
at Rushmere Baptist Church**

This year's service has been written by the women
of Nigeria and the title of the service is
"I Will Give You Rest, Come".wwdp.org.uk



 **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!
  

 **Sunday 15th March 10.30am**
Mothering Sunday Parade Service
with uniformed organisations. 



British Summer Time Begins Sunday 29th March

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward



Church Services for Easter inside



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

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES

If you would like to help make the posies for Mothering Sunday, please come to the Church Hall at 2pm on Saturday March 14th.

If anyone has any greenery or small flowers, please bring them to the old end of Church on Friday 13th or Saturday morning to the Hall. Many thanks Dianne



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

Mission Breakfast SAMARITANS

8.30am to 10am

Saturday 28th March

Join us for breakfast followed by a talk about the 'Listening Volunteers' supporting anyone who needs help. Founded by Rev. Chad Varah in 1953 by 2014 their 201 branches in the UK & Ireland were receiving over 5 million calls a year. If you wish, stay for prayers – *All Welcome*

Mission & Giving Panel.



4pm - 5.30pm

EASTER
MESSY CHURCH

in Dumbarton Hall,

Saturday 28th March 2026



Messy Church full of joy, fun & 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

Annual Meetings

This year's **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** and **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place in the church hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th March 2026. This is an important part of church life; an opportunity to review the past year, look forward to St Andrew's mission in the coming year, ask about matters concerning the church and elect Churchwardens and members of the PCC and Deanery Synod.

If you are interested in standing for one of these roles and would like to find out what is involved, please speak to a Warden (Ruth Silburn and Kevin Brazier) or the current Synod members (Robin Brown and Hilary Platts).

You will need to be on the Electoral Roll of the parish if you wish to stand for office or vote at the meetings. Please speak to Gill Ainslie about this.

It would be helpful if you could notify the PCC Secretary (Hilary Platts) of any item you would like to be discussed in order to help in the planning of the agenda. The Minutes of last year's meeting, the Annual Report and other papers will be made available on the church website.

The next Focus is **5th April - 2nd May**
Please email items to: standrewr@proton.me
or phone, or text Claire on 07971 334142
By 9pm Friday 27th March

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:

<https://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.

The following tips come from the A Rocha Eco Church Calendar:

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast, helping you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.



Beginning on 18th Feb, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation.

Find out more and sign up at

<http://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

In March take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13th to Sunday 29th March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together.


Suffolk Coast and Heaths organise some events and provide pickers, bags and gloves. Pray for the local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it.


Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at:


<http://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean>


Charity Giving at St Andrew's Church Rushmere for 2025


'Generosity as a response to God's gift of love' At St Andrew's members of the congregation contribute on a regular basis towards the day to day operation of our church life, and also help to maintain and develop our ministries. In addition, we have special collections and events held at various times of the year to support a variety of charities to further their respective causes.

The Mission and Giving Panel (with the support of other church groups) chose four charities in 2025. In February, we supported  Tearfund, a Christian charity with over 50 years experience in international development working directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches to tackle complex poverty.


 The annual Christian Aid week was held in May. This was their 80th year of working with the disadvantaged across the world. Gifts were invited to help fund vital tools and training, so farmers can support their community to escape hunger.


Closer to home our charity of the month In July was Town Pastors Ipswich. Formed in 2006, Pastors are drawn from churches in and around Ipswich. They go out on the streets of Ipswich each Friday and Saturday night seeking; to serve and to help wherever there is a need. They are non judgemental and are driven by their faith and compassion. They are recognised by the police, venue door staff and revellers as people who make a difference. 

 In October we chose MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), a Christian organisation that provides aviation, communications, and learning technology services to more than 1,000 Christian and humanitarian agencies, as well as thousands of isolated missionaries and indigenous villagers in the world's most remote areas.

In addition to the above charities we continue to support FIND (Families in Need) which is a local charity. A bin is available in church throughout the year for gifts of food and toiletries culminating in a Christmas Gift campaign resulting in bags of goodies and vouchers. 

Charity Giving at St Andrew's cont...

We also continued with our support for RTU (Reaching the Unreached), a small Christian charity, working in remote areas of South India helping thousands of the most disadvantaged children and families living in marginalised rural communities. The charity has recently raised enough money to build, equip and staff a new medical centre which serves the local community as well as those in RTU houses and hostels. 

 We also maintain our support for CMS (Church Mission Society) partners; Dick and Caroline Seed, who are based in South Africa.

Money for other charities has also been raised through Quiz Evenings, Emergency Bucket Appeal (Myanmar Earthquake), Concerts, Mothers' Union, The Children's Society, Ride and Stride and other social events.

The total monies raised for the above charities was in excess of £16,000 (including tax recovery). We extend our grateful thanks to everyone who made this possible. We also continue to hold all those in need in our prayers and wish them well for 2026.

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

We have just had a really lovely afternoon celebrating the 10th anniversary of the re-opening of our MU Branch. It was re-opened in 2016. We were very happy to welcome some new members and 2 people joined as 'Friends of MU' which we were delighted about. Marion has produced a booklet 'Memories of St Andrew's Mothers' Union'. Complete with photos it tells the story of our MU branch over the last 100 years! A really good read, thank you to Marion!

Next month we meet on Wednesday 18th March at 2.30 and have Ken Stone coming to talk about 'A Royal Year' with illustrations. He is apparently a fervent, very knowledgeable Royalist and we are looking forward to his talk. The following week Wednesday 25th March the MU throughout the Diocese are invited to the Ipswich Minster at 2pm to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the MU movement by Mary Sumner. The Archdeacon of Ipswich is the preacher. It promises to be a very special occasion and anyone who is able is invited to join in. Any queries about our MU activities please contact Tricia on 07951817543 or tylertricia@gmail.com

Coffee Morning on 21st February We enjoyed a lovely, vibrant morning, which made a total of £243.50.

Easter Services at St Andrew's



Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

8.00am: Early Communion

9.15am: Sunday Praise

10.30am: Palm Sunday Service



Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week

30th, 31st March & 1st April

7.30pm Evening Service

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

10.00am Morning service

7.30pm Maundy Service



Good Friday 3rd April

11.15am: Walk of Witness to St Andrew's Church,
meeting point outside Selkirk Road Post Office

12-1pm: Good Friday Reflection at St Andrew's Church

Easter Sunday 5th April

8.00am: Early Communion

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