

**Readings for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Candlemas**

Hebrews 2:14-end      Luke 2:22-40

**Readings for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24    Psalm 40:1-3      Mark 6:7-13

**Readings for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
The Fourth Sunday Before Lent**

1 Kings 18:16-38    1 Corinthians 15:1-11      Matthew 8:6-13

**Readings for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Readings for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
The Third Sunday Before Lent**

Daniel 6:10-23      Luke 6:17-26

**Readings for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Genesis 9:1-13      Psalm 102:16-23    Mark 8:27-33

**Readings for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
The Second Sunday Before Lent**

2 Samuel 23:1-7    1 Peter 5:1-11      John 10:11-18

**Readings for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

James 2:1-9      Psalm 1      Mark 9:41-end

**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 your selves to prayer, being watchful and thankful'. Col 4:2

The next Focus is **2<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
Please email items to: [standrewr@proton.me](mailto:standrewr@proton.me)  
or phone Claire 07971 334142  
**By 9pm prompt Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**



**St Andrew's Rushmere  
Focus for Weeks  
2<sup>nd</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> March**



**St Andrew's at Dumbarton Hall  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm**

Music group, great worship songs, relaxed children's table for families, with tea and cake to follow.



**Coffee Morning  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
10.00 – 11.30am  
in the Church Hall**



Join us for a lovely morning for refreshments, scones, Bring & Buy Sale, Raffle.

Cakes to sell and items for the bing & buy and raffle would be gratefully received on the day.

**February Mission Breakfast, Talk and Prayer  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 8.30am to 10am**



**Open Doors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

**Speaker: John Gillett**

John is a speaker for Open Doors that works in over 50 countries supplying emergency aid, Bibles, training Church leaders, delivering Bible based literacy programmes and supporting Christians who suffer for their faith - Christians for whom living out their faith means facing beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse, or being forced to flee their homes.



**Messy Church**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**3.00 – 5.00pm**  
**at Dumbarton Hall**



Joy, fun and musical energy with crafts  
 and food for all the family.  
 All welcome. Children must bring an adult.

**Reaching The Unreached**

Our first fund raiser in 2025 will be a **Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Sale** to be held on **Saturday March 29th from 10am-12.30** in St Andrew's Church Hall. There will be SUPERB REFRESHMENTS including our famous Bacon Butties, Sausage Rolls, Cheese Scones and of course Coffee, Tea and Cake!

Please let your friends and family know about this, especially if they are keen puzzlers or bookworms. Last year's similar event was an amazing success with lots of interest, also a lovely social occasion.

Donations of Paperback Books and Jigsaws will be gratefully received before the day (so that jigsaws can be checked etc) please leave at the church any morning between 10 and 12 when 'Open Doors' is happening or contact Rachel on 07759 033722.

**Sunday Breakfast** is open to all, attending either the 8.00am or 10.00am service and is served from 9.00am, in the church hall, after the 8.00am Communion Service.

Come and enjoy coffee, tea, toast and fruit for a small donation.

A mobility walker, with a seat and basket is available.  
 Free of charge. Please contact Ruth on 01473 711872.

**February Charity of the Month is Tearfund:**

Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development. They believe that poverty is not God's plan, and an end to extreme poverty is possible. Tearfund work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in underserved communities in more than 50 countries to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:



*Humanitarian response:* They respond quickly to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need throughout the recovery process. *Community development:* They partner with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources, and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

*Advocacy and influencing:* They help individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and they challenge unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.

*Please explore their work at:* <http://www.tearfund.org>

*Please support Tearfund with your prayers and if you are able by your giving, a leaflet and giving envelope are available in church, the basket for donations will be out **until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** Thank you - Mission and Giving Panel*

**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

## 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 20th March 2025.

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. If you are interested in standing for one of these roles and would like to find out what is involved, please talk to a Warden (Ruth Silburn and Kevin Brazier).

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.

## World Day of Prayer

Every year on the first Friday of March the World Day of Prayer takes place around the world. The service begins in Samoa and then goes around the world westward and ends back in the Pacific about 36 hours later. The service is written by the women representing many different denominations from a different country each year. This year it has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands.

In East Ipswich many of the churches join together to plan the service. We are going to the Salvation Army in Woodbridge Road at 2pm on Friday March 7th. The theme of the Service is 'I made you wonderful' - Psalm 139 v14. It is a lovely service and we hope that many of you will be able to come and join with Christians from all the other local churches for this very special occasion.

## Mothers' Union



We had a really fabulous afternoon at our January meeting when James and June Wright came to talk about 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'. Their retired Guide dog came too and Peter brought Paddy who is nearly one and will soon go for further training. We had a Raffle and overall we were able to give the organisation £150 which they were delighted with.

In February we have our AGM on Wednesday 19th at 2.30pm in the Church hall. We shall get through the business as quickly as possible then have something more lighthearted and a good tea!

There are copies of our programme for the year available and as ever we welcome visitors.

Advance notice. Thanks to Sue Scotchmere's persistence on the phone we have booked a day at The Hut in Felixstowe on Tuesday September 30th. (it required upward of 200 attempts to get through and success came in mid afternoon) Thank You Sue!

## Report on January Prayer Breakfast

On Saturday Jan 25th a good number of us enjoyed a convivial breakfast in the Church hall before hearing a very interesting and informative talk from Val Dufour about the work of Tearfund. She focused on the work they are doing in South Sudan but they work all across Africa and other parts of our world.

They are working to 'transform communities', using the local churches and biblical principles, to help people to help themselves. 'The best way to fight poverty is to empower people to take control of their own destiny'.

We then prayed in small groups using the 'prayer points' about Tearfund's work that Val had provided.

If you have never attended a Prayer Breakfast please do think about joining us next time!

PS Advance Notice. If you would like to learn more about Tearfund Val is coming to speak to us at Mothers' Union on Wednesday June 18th.

The **REAL EASTER EGGS** are not on sale in Supermarkets, so PLEASE sign up in the Church hall for your requirements.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010---- it shares the Easter story and supports Fairtrade.

Please see the poster for variety and details.

- Original Milk Chocolate egg £5.50
- Dark chocolate egg £6.50
- Fun pack of 6 midi eggs £6.50
- Easter Mug + 3 midi eggs £9.99
- Easter Blessings Chocolate bar £3.20



If you would like to donate any of the above to FIND please put 'F' by your order.

**PLEASE** sign up by **March 2nd** to allow our order to be 'free delivery'.

As previously, payment will be on receipt of your 'Eggs'.

Many thanks on behalf of the 'Meaningful Chocolate Company. MM.



**Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancakes**  
**4th March 6.30-8.30 pm**  
**In the Church Hall**

Cost £5 for adults, children free.

Contact Sue 723957 for places.



### Electoral Roll

This year, everyone is removed from the electoral roll. If you would like to remain on it, you'll need to complete an application form. These forms are located at the back of the old end of the church.

Please hand them in to either a Church Warden, Sides-person, or Gill Ainslie. The deadline for submitting the forms is Sunday March 9th.

### RUSHMERE ST ANDREW'S SPRING 2025 CONCERTS



This year's programme of Sunday afternoon Spring Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere will be held in support of Family First Ipswich, a Christian charity which enables families through a network of volunteers to find solutions to the challenges impacting their lives.

Once again, there is no charge for admission to these concerts and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event. The concerts present a high quality of performance and a wide range of musical styles:

**16 March: Jenny's Accordionists** We welcome Jenny's Accordionists to perform their usual eclectic programme of music, popular and classical. The seven-strong group is well known in East Anglia but travels widely in Britain and Europe. Find them on Facebook and YouTube!

### Concert teas

As usual I am looking for people who could make a cake for the Spring Afternoon Concerts or help on the day. I shall be away on both 30th March and 13th April, so I would be particularly grateful for tea-makers and washer-uppers on those days.

There is a list in the hall. If you can help please add your name to it. The perks are a very enjoyable concert and the special fellowship that always occurs in our kitchen!

“He comes in the form of the beggar,  
of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes,  
asking for help.  
He confronts you in every person that you meet.  
As long as there are people,  
Christ will walk the earth as your neighbour.  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer