

**Readings for Sunday 30th November
St Andrew's Day**

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-end Matthew 24:36-44

Readings for Thursday 4th December

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

**Readings for Sunday 7th December
The Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

Readings for Thursday 11th December

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

**Readings for Sunday 14th December
The Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Readings for Thursday 18th December

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-end Matthew 1:18-24

**Readings for Sunday 21st December
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-end

Readings for 24th December – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14

Readings for 25th December – Christmas Day

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

**Readings for Sunday 28th December
The First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-end Matthew 2:13-end



**St Andrew's Rushmere
Focus for Weeks
30th November - 4th
January**



Christmas at St Andrew's

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm

A delightful evening for all, singing greatly loved carols and listening to the story leading up to the birth of Jesus, with choir, music group and organ



**Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24th
December**

Crib Service at 4.00pm

For children and all the family
Join in the story of the birth of Jesus,
with much loved carols - very child friendly.



**Christmas Eve – 24th December
Midnight Holy Communion Service
at 11.30pm**

**Christmas Day 25th December
at 10.00am**

Family Holy Communion



**Joint Service
Sunday 7th December
6.30pm at St Michael's Church
Martlesham Heath**



All welcome – join in this worshipping community of local churches
Co-hosted by St Andrew's Rushmere and Martlesham Benefice
Guest speaker: Archdeacon Samantha



Sunday Afternoon Autumn Concerts

The Sunday afternoon concerts planning team is delighted to report that this year's Autumn events raised a total of £2,500 for St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. It is the largest amount we have ever been able to donate to a charity and testament to the high regard in which the Hospice is held as well as to the generosity of so many people within and beyond our community. We send our grateful thanks and very best wishes to all who have supported the concerts this year.

Regards Graham

Thanks to all those who helped in the kitchen at the Sunday concerts - your support is very much appreciated by organisers and audience alike!



4pm - 5.30pm
Messy Church
in Dumbarton Hall,



Saturday 13th December 2025
an Advent & Christmas special !!!

Saturday 24th January 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**



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

8.30am to 10am Saturday 24th January

Mission and Prayer Breakfast



will focus on the work of **Open Doors** – a Christian charity working, often under threat, to support persecuted Christians in a growing number of countries around the world. Join us for breakfast followed by a talk about their courageous work, and if you wish, stay for Open Doors focused prayers.

Mission & Giving Panel.

FIND – Charity for November and December Christmas Appeal



It is time again when we support our local charity at Christmas. It will follow the same format as before, collect a label from the Christmas tree, purchase your donation and bring it to church, if possible in a festive bag before the last collection day.



Maureen has requested supermarket vouchers to the value of £10 upwards, with accompanying receipts.

Shops: Sainsbury, Aldi, Tesco, M&S, Primark, or any toy stores. Other acceptable gifts are tubs, or tins of biscuits, chocolates, sweets and cakes.

Reaching the Unreached Sale 21st/22nd November **RTU**

A huge thanks to all who helped set up, helped on either, or both days, came and supported in any way, or donated goods.

We are so grateful to you all for the time and effort put in to make this yet another success. We raised over ----- over the two days.

There are copies of the latest RTU newsletter in the church hall lobby, which details how monies raised are being used in Kalliputti. Please take one and you can see how our fundraising helps with their projects.

Thank you; from Ruth and the RTU team.

The **October Mission & Prayer Breakfast** focused on the charity RTU, who this year are celebrating the centenary of the birth of their founder Brother James.



This is a charity St Andrew's congregation have supported for well over 30 years and we thank Ruth for giving an illustrated talk on their current projects and ongoing work; providing housing for families and children's villages with foster parents based in hostels.

They have recently raised enough money to build, equip, and staff a new medical clinic with nurses and physiotherapists, physio equipment, a laboratory, and pharmacy. This serves the local community as well as those in RTU houses and hostels. They continue to focus on education; schools for children, adult training such as tailoring courses for local women. Along with all this their kitchens distribute meals to the needy of the community.

Prayers were offered for the Pushpari Health Clinic which opened in 2025 and treats children and the sick from all castes. Also, for the efficient diagnoses and treatment for those in the poorest rural areas.

We prayed for the women who had completed an RTU tailoring course enabling them to support their families and for women who are the victims of domestic violence.

Prayers for Father Antony and all the staff at Kalliputti, for their teaching work and administrative work. For the proposed new Housing Programme and for the funding, resources, and labour to build these houses and provide water for them and for the continued support of the congregation at St Andrew's church.

The **November Prayer Breakfast** was on the 29th focusing on the amazing work of FIND (Families In Need-Ipswich) – report next issue – FIND is our Charity of the Month for December, see other item in this *Focus*.

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

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

Ways of Giving

We are very blessed to have a most generous congregation who give freely of their time, talents, energy, compassion, hospitality; and also their financial giving – for ease of which we have many ways:-



- 1) Standing Orders.
- 2) Inter-bank transfers.
- 3) Collection plate at each Sunday service.
- 4) Pre-numbered weekly brown envelopes.
- 5) Contactless terminals for debit & credit cards.
- 6) Cheques (payable to: **PCC St Andrew Rushmere**).
- 7) White pre-printed envelopes for 1-off Gift-aided donations, which need to be signed & dated, and with all the required information.
- 8) The "DONATE NOW" button on the Home page of our website
<https://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net>
- 9) Our QR code printed above, scanned by a mobile phone camera and connecting to the Give-a-Little page linked to our website.
- 10) Donations via CAF Bank or Stewardship Organisation accounts.

Gift Aid can also be claimed by our Church, adding 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 have any queries please ask a Warden, or our Treasurer Chris - Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available from him.

Thank you so much for your continuing generosity to our Church.

Rev'd. Alan

Chris Gibson

The next Focus is **4th - 31st January**
Please email items to: standrewr@proton.me
or phone, or text Claire on 07971 334142
By 9pm Monday 29th December

Big Green Challenge – December (from Richard Stainer, Environment Advisor)

Climate change is having a devastating effect on Africa according to the UN. “Extreme weather and exacerbating hunger, insecurity and displacement.” United Nations.

This Christmas could you consider giving a gift to an aid agency, or to Kagera (gift form on the Diocesan website), to ensure more families have enough to eat this coming year?

Green Tip 7th December

Try to avoid buying plastic ‘tat’ for stocking fillers. Your family will appreciate more sustainable gifts such as ethically sourced chocolate bars (particularly if they are Fairtrade). If you have time, they would also appreciate any edible gifts you can make yourself.

Green Tip 14th December

As you prepare for the big day, keep an eye open for eco-friendly crackers, or indeed make your own from loo rolls and wrapping paper. You can also buy ready-made ones that you can fill with small zero waste gifts. People appreciate the thought behind each gift and plastic toys are not added to the plastic waste problem

Green Tip 21st December

Remember the reason for the season. Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ’s love at Christmas. Invite someone who’d otherwise be on their own to join you on Christmas Day. It’s also a way of reducing energy consumption as they’ll share your heating and cooking!

Green Tip 28th December

The celebrations are over, but you may find yourself still knee deep in wrapping paper, cards and food. Wrapping paper can easily be recycled but, of course it can also be reused if you were careful when you unwrapped your gifts. The front of cards can make great gift tags for next year.

You may have a great deal of uneaten food so think carefully about how you can use it over the next few days to cut down on food waste. Do you have neighbours or family who might appreciate something made from your leftovers? Do you have any tinned or dried goods that could go to the foodbank?

St Andrew's Mothers' Union



At our meeting in November we joined in the Diocesan MU's work in our local Suffolk Prisons by making Christmas cards to be given to all the prisoners. For some; it will be the only Christmas card they receive.

Two members of another branch came with everything we needed. They took a lovely service for us before we began. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, with plenty of time to chat while making the cards. We also learned more about the work that MU do within prisons.

Our December meeting is on **Wednesday 17th December**. We shall have our Christmas party and sing our favourite carols. One piece of advice, don't eat too much lunch before you come! Next year is the 10th anniversary of Rushmere MU restarting and also the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the MU, so watch this space for news of special activities and celebrations. The Diocesan MU has a target, to aim to have 150 new members join the MU. Perhaps you would like to be one of the 150 and join our lovely group?! Any queries please contact Tricia Tyler -tylertricia@gmail.com or 07951817543

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We would like to send a huge ‘Thank You’ to everyone who contributed items for the Shoeboxes and also to all who came to fill the boxes and get them ready to go.

We were able to send 50 boxes which will bring great pleasure to 50 children somewhere in the world! As always St Andrew's congregation were very generous.

Fire-walk Challenge!

Many of you will know that Maureen Ling took part in the Fire-walk Challenge in aid of St Elizabeth's Hospice.

Maureen would like to thank everyone who supported and sponsored her. She was able to take £317 to the Hospice and also had her photo taken with a giant cheque! Watch this space for her next challenge!

