

Readings for Sunday 4th January Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Readings for Thursday 8th January

1 John 4:7-10, or 1 John 4:19-54 Psalm 72:1-8,
or Psalm 72:1, 7-end Mark 6:34-44, or Luke 4:14-22

Readings for Sunday 11th January The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end

Readings for Thursday 15th January

1 Samuel 4:1-11 Psalm 44:10-15, 24-25 Mark 1:40-end

Readings for Sunday 18th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

Readings for Thursday 22nd January

1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7 Psalm 56:1-2, 8-end Mark 3:7-12

Readings for Sunday 25th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany – The Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1-22 Galatians 1:11-16a Matthew 19:27-end

Readings for Thursday 29th January

2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-end Psalm 132:1-5, 11-15 Mark 4:21-25



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



St Andrew's Rushmere Focus for Weeks 4th - 31st January



Burns Night Supper with Quiz Saturday 24th January at 7pm

A sign-up sheet will be available to register your interest.

Tickets will be available from the Social Panel members.



Why not join our next Explorers Course ...

- A chance to refresh or rediscover your faith?
- To ask the questions that make believing in God and Jesus hard for you?
- To explore how 'knowing God' can have a positive impact on you?
- To explore a 'faith' rhythm to your life?

*Three Wednesday evenings on January 14th, 21st & 28th.
at the vicarage or vestry, TBC.*

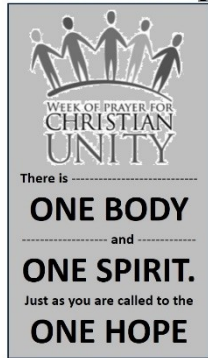
*To book a place contact Alan telephone: 07545 761 516
or email: alancomfort11@gmail.com*

The next Focus is 1st - 28th February
Please email items to: standrewr@proton.me
or phone, or text Claire on 07971 334142
By 9pm Friday 23rd January

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

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

North East Ipswich Churches Joint Service



Sunday
18th January
6.30pm
at St Andrew's Church

Joint Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Report: the **FIND Mission and Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday 29th November 2025. Maureen, the founder of FIND, who is now stepping aside from active involvement, gave an interesting talk followed by small group prayers for it's work, volunteers and the families they support. Families in Need has been running for 35 years with thousands of people helped, including families and refugees. Often it is the third generation that is currently being helped.

Many churches, food banks and other organisations coordinate with FIND to help people feed and care for themselves, their families and children, letting people share their problems within the framework of Christian love. FIND continue to need the help and support from churches like us, especially volunteers and resources, to continue this necessary work in our local community.

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.

Messy Christingle
Saturday 24th January
from 4-5.30pm
in Dumbarton Hall
Christingle Crafts, food and great fun for all the family! Free entrance!
All welcome!

Although some of you may already be aware, I wanted to put into writing our thanks to Penny Braybrooke for her committed and thoughtful work as our Youth & Families Worker over the past six years. Penny has contributed much to the life of St. Andrew's, helping us to strengthen our Wednesday night youth club and Open The Book schools team in particular.

Penny showed a wonderful eye for detail and always worked tirelessly, often in the background. It was a difficult decision for the PCC as Penny's contract came to an end and a decision was taken not to renew. We are incredibly thankful to Penny for helping us to get to where we are, and now praying for the next part of what God has in store for us particularly with families and young people.

Rachel Daniels will be taking the lead with the Youth Club and Open The Book on a temporary basis until the PCC decides the next steps. It was Penny's wish that big public thank you's would not be made, which has been difficult because we wanted to say thank you in this way. Thank you Penny and praying for your next steps in Jesus. Rev. Alan



For Our Lunch Club

Well, another year has passed and another year our lunch club cooks, helpers and drivers have entertained us, so a really big thank you to all of you for your much appreciated efforts.

Once again we had to say good bye to some of our members, but it's great to welcome our new members. As usual we had our normal break in August but once again Sue came up with her eclectic mix of four very entertaining Wednesdays, so thanks Sue.

As I have now had to give up driving I rely on our drivers to get me to the lunch club and home again, and it's only now that I realise what a great job they do, because without them there wouldn't be a lunch club. Happy new year everyone. Derek C

Coffee Morning 21st February from 10.00am in the Church Hall

Enjoy refreshments, including delicious home-made scones.
Raffle and Bring & Buy Stall.



Thank you

Jill and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sent us Christmas cards recently. If you have not received a card from us please accept our thank you and know we have read and praised God for every kind message offered.

I would also like to thank everyone who has served God and our church over the Christmas period. The church was so beautifully decorated, people welcomed, and everyone kept safe to hear the wonder of the good news of Jesus coming. A truly special place for us all to be. Alan & Jill



Green Tips for January

Green Tip 4th January

New Year resolutions include getting fitter? Then try to walk, or cycle more and reduce the mileage you drive in your car. The less you drive the less CO2 you put into the atmosphere and also fewer pollutants emitted. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive!



Green Tip 11th January

This year might be the time to consider moving to an electric, or hybrid vehicle, depending on your needs. Most of our journeys are less than 30 miles, so even with a plug-in hybrid you should be able to do most of your journeys using electricity.



Full electric vehicles are ideal for slightly longer commutes. Your carbon saving will only be significant if you have signed up to a renewable energy tariff!

Green Tip 18th January

We so easily forget to switch off appliances when we have finished using them. The computer stays on all day, the CD finishes and we leave the player on.

Yet, simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo and computer when you are not using them will save you thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Do not just leave on stand-by!

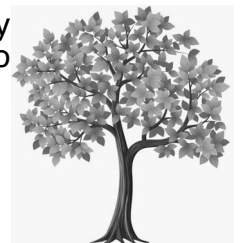


Green Tip 25th January

Spring is not that far off. Think about planting a tree or two, either at home, or in the community. This is a good time to plant trees and bushes.

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. What is more, it will provide a mini-ecosystem for all sorts of wildlife in the years to come.

We have just been donated a Hornbeam by Gipping Press, which has been planted to replace a tree in the churchyard.



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

Morning Prayer

O God, Lord of all good life,
Help me to use today well.

Help me to use today:

To know you a little better;

To do my work a little more diligently;

To serve my fellow men a little more lovingly;

To make myself, by your help a little more
like Jesus.

Help me make today a day of progress in my life,
And to become a little more like what
you want me to be.

This I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

William Barclay
'More Prayers for the Common Man'
(Harper Collins)

Mothers' Union

We had a wonderful Christmas party in December; a great end to the year's programme.

On January 21st we have Anji Dawkins coming to update us about Mothers' Union and life in Kagera, Tanzania, which is the Link Diocese for St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

Advance Notice. On February 18th we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our MU branch re-opening. We would love for anyone who is able to come and join us to hear stories of the last 10 years and see how we have grown over the years. Of course there will be an MU tea.

Finally, on March 25th, (Lady Day) we are joining Mothers' Union throughout the Diocese at Ipswich Minster to celebrate 150 years since Mary Sumner began the MU, which now has 4,000 members worldwide! More details next month.



They set out; and there,
ahead of them, went the star
that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped
over the place where
the child was.

Matthew 2.9