

The Church in the Westlands

**St Andrew's
Anglican Church**



**St Peter's
Methodist Church**

As the Church in the Westlands

we are committed in the power of the Holy Spirit that our worship, service and witness will demonstrate to everyone the love of Jesus Christ

*A very warm welcome to anyone worshipping with us today for the first time.
After the main morning service, in both churches, you are warmly invited to join us for refreshments which are held in St Andrew's Church Hall and St Peter's Room 2.*

St Andrew's Church

Sunday, 1st December

St Peter's Church

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

8.00 am

Revd Andrew Dawswell

Holy Communion

10.30 am

Mr Brian Tattersall

Romans 13:11-end (p1142)

Matthew 24:36-51 (p1000)

Holy Communion

Revd John Taylor

Isaiah 2:1-5 (p671)

Matthew 24:36-45 (p36)

United Christingle Service

4.30 pm

Naomi Savage

Collect

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

A Prayer for the Church

Loving Lord, There are times when you call us to tasks that seem beyond us, responsibilities we would rather avoid. We hear your voice but we don't feel up to the challenge, our natural inclination is to turn away. Yet if you ask anyone to do something, you always give the strength to do it. Give us courage then to respond when you call, knowing that however things may seem, you are always able to transform them in ways beyond our expectations. **Amen**

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| | Monday, 2nd December | |
| “Xcite” After School Club | 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm | St Andrew’s Church Hall |
| Pastoral Team | 11.00 am | Parish Room |
| St Andrew’s Prayer Meeting | 7.30 pm | Parish Room |

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| | Tuesday, 3rd December | |
| Morning Prayer | 9.00 am – 9.30 am | Parish Room |
| Little Sparklers | 10.00 am – 11.30 am | Parish Room |
| TMNC | 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm | Parish Room |

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| | Thursday, 5th December | |
| Holy Communion | 10.00 am | Parish Room |

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| | Saturday, 7th December | |
| Messy Church | 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm | St Peter’s Hall |

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| St Andrew’s Church | Sunday, 8th December | St Peter’s Church |
| | <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> | |

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| Holy Communion | 8.00 am | |
| <i>Revd Andrew Dawswell</i> | | |
| Morning Prayer (including receiving of toys) | 10.30 am | Toy Service |
| <i>Revd Andrew Dawswell</i> | | <i>Mr Ryan Davies</i> |
| United Holy Communion | 6.30 pm | |
| <i>Revd Andrew Dawswell</i> | | |

Christingle Service ... today (Sunday, 1st December) at 4.30 pm, all welcome. There is a warm invitation for singers to join the music group. The practice for this will be at 3.30 pm today.

Election Forum ... Churches Together are again organising an opportunity to put questions to the candidates of the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency on Friday, 6th December, at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm in Newcastle Baptist Church (Stafford Avenue, ST5 3BN) All welcome.

Daleians Concert in St Andrew’s – Fri 13th Dec ... the award winning Daleians are combining with Seabridge School for a 7.00 pm concert. Tickets cost £10 Adults and £5 children, with profits being donated by the Daleians to St Andrew's and Seabridge School. Music will aim to suit all tastes and genres with a sprinkling of Christmas songs from both choirs. Tickets are available from Bob Baker at St Andrew’s and Don Holford at St Peter’s.

Angel Making ... all ages from 8 upwards are invited to help make the angels which we decorate our church with on Saturday, 14th December from 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm in the Parish Room. Help also needed to hang them in church that evening, contact Chris Gill for more details

Carol Singing ...around the local neighbourhood – Monday, 16th December, meeting at 7.30 pm in St Peter’s foyer, concluding with refreshments at the vicarage. All are very welcome.

Singers are Needed ... to join the choir for the Christmas candlelight carol service (22nd December at 6.30 pm). Rehearsals are held in the Parish Room on Thursdays, 7.45 pm to about 8.30 pm, and we sing in parts. All voices are needed; and altos would be particularly appreciated. Why not give it a try? Any enquiries, please contact Olwyn Jones or Geoffrey Walker or just come along to a rehearsal.

Our Toy Services ... are next week, 8th December, 10.30 am.

Gifts given at St Peter's will be passed on to Tri Alpha (Action for Children). Gifts for teenagers would be very welcome. Please see Joe, Val or Marion if you cannot come on that Sunday but would like to contribute a gift.

Gifts given at St Andrew's will be passed on to Elizabeth House refuge who work with families experiencing domestic violence and abuse. They have particularly asked for donations of: women toiletries, sanitary products, toys, gifts suitable for teenagers, small decorations/items for houses to help somebody make their house a home, gloves, hats and scarfs (or donations of money, in an envelope marked 'Arch - Elizabeth House'). Please bring items along to the services at 10.30 am on 8th December, or leave them at the back of St Andrew's in the week beforehand (the building is open Monday-Thursday 9.00 am – 3.00 pm).

Mental Health First Aid Awareness Course. We are offering an introductory course covering ♦ What mental health is and how to challenge stigma ♦ a basic knowledge of some common mental health issues ♦ an introduction to looking after your own mental health and maintaining wellbeing (though obviously this kind of course will not be able to give attention to participants' specific problems), and ♦ confidence to support someone in distress or who may be experiencing a mental health issue. The course will take place in the Parish Room on Saturday, 11th January from 10.00 am - 2.30 pm, including a half hour break for lunch. There will be a mix of presentations, group discussions and workshop activities, delivered by Gary Peake who offers similar training to local companies. Please sign the list at the back of St Andrew's to book your place.

Prayer Chain ... for many years St Andrew's and St Peter's have operated a prayer chain. It is intended for pressing needs (major medical problems or emergency, job interview, bereavement, family crisis etc). The chain aims to communicate promptly with a small group (currently 12) who are committed to pray for the situation. If you would value this kind of prayer support at any point, please do speak to one of the ministers, who are responsible for initiating prayer chain requests.

In addition, the Ecumenical Exec has agreed that we open up the prayer chain to up to 6 extra members. Members of either congregation who are willing to make a commitment to pray for others' needs in this way, and are willing to maintain confidentiality, are encouraged to speak to Andrew or John. From the new year, members of the chain will have the choice of receiving information either by email or telephone.

Identity Course ... *Who is God? Can I make contact with Him? Who are we? What is the purpose of life?* We have run this course several times over the last couple of years and are beginning to think about doing so again. Each week includes a discussion starter on DVD, with opportunity for interaction and questions. Ideal for anyone wanting to know more about the Christian faith, or looking for a refresher course. It also forms the main part of the preparation course for adults who would like to think about being confirmed in a future year. More details from the vicar.

St Andrew's Bible Reading Notes 2020 ... if you would like to continue to subscribe to daily bible reading notes, would you please confirm that with Helen Swanborough. There are some samples of the various notes available at the back of Church, in case you might like to try something different next year or for anyone who would like to try this means of establishing a pattern of daily bible reading for the first time. Helen is happy to answer any queries.

A Time for Silence and Contemplation ... do you find that your life is more Martha than Mary? Is that possibly what stops you getting closer to God? Then join us for a time of quiet

contemplative prayer in the old Circuit Office, Newcastle Methodist Church and experience the use of silence as a way of going deeper with God; as a way of reflecting on your journey and as a way of listening to God. Thursday, 12th December 1.45 pm for a 2.00 pm start. Entrance off Merrial Street.

Methodist Women in Britain - The Disciples of Christ ... a reflective look at the twelve female disciples of Jesus where we ask "Does it matter how we live out our faith?" Led by Karen Barnett on 4th December 2019 at Wolstanton Methodist Church, 10.00 - 10.15am arrival and coffee, 10.15 - 11.15 am The Disciples of Christ. Stalls to browse and a chocolate tombola. All welcome.

God In Love Unites Us ... the Marriage and Relationships Task Group presented a report to the 2019 Methodist Conference with recommendations about various issues to do with relationships in general and marriage in particular. Those recommendations are being submitted to the wider Church for consultation, with a final decision being made at the July 2020 Conference. Four opportunities to engage in the conversation across the District: Monday, 27th January 2020 at 7.30 pm at North Street, Crewe, CW1 4NJ; Thursday, 30th January 2020 at 7.30 pm at West End, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5AW; Saturday, 8th February 2020 at 10.00 am at Frodsham, WA6 6BA and Wednesday, 25th March 2020 at 7.30 pm at Trinity Congleton, CW12 4BA. Additionally Revd Paul Smith and Revd Sam McBratney, nationally renowned speakers, are to lead a specifically Bible Focused event on Wednesday, 29th January 2020 at 7.00 pm at Swan Bank, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 2AA. There is no need to book in advance for these events. These conversations will help provide a wider background to inform the debate at the Spring Synod. Further information available from the District Administrator, Rob Glassonbury; email chester.stoke@btconnect.com or tel: 01270 627774. Connexional materials can be found at www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19

Vicar

Revd Andrew Dawswell (Day Off: Friday Afternoon
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Monday)
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Secretary Michelle Bradbury churchinthewestlands@gmail.com 01782 634389 (Thurs only)
Same contact details (or St Peter's letterbox which is on the wall next to the Pilkington Avenue door) for the next notice sheet (before 9 am on Thursday, please). Rest of week for St Peter's & Circuit Business: northstaffscircuit@hotmail.co.uk 01782 612648.
Church website – www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk