

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, 8th December
Second Sunday of Advent

St Peter's Church

Holy Communion

8.00 am

Revd Andrew Dawswell

Morning Prayer (including receiving of toys) 10.30 am

Revd Andrew Dawswell

Romans 13:1-7 (p1142)

Matthew 22:15-22 (p997)

Toy Service

Mr Ryan Davies

Luke 3:1-6 (p77)

Malachi 3:1-4 (p926)

Philippians 1:3-11 (p)

United Holy Communion

6.30 pm

Revd Andrew Dawswell

*O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, 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**

Thank you to all who have brought gifts today. Gifts received in St Andrew's will be passed on to Elizabeth House refuge who work with families experiencing domestic violence and abuse. Gifts received in St Peter's will be passed on to Tri Alpha (Action for Children).

Monday, 9th December

St Andrew's Standing Committee

7.30 pm

Parish Room

Tuesday, 10th December

Morning Prayer	9.00 am – 9.30 am	Parish Room
Little Sparklers	10.00 am – 11.30 am	Parish Room
Christmas Lunch	12.30 pm	St Andrew's Hall
TMNC	7.30 pm – 9.00 pm	Parish Room

Thursday, 12th December

Polling	All Day	Both Church Halls
---------	---------	-------------------

Friday, 13th December

Daleian Singers Concert	7.00 pm	St Andrew's Church
-------------------------	---------	--------------------

Saturday, 14th December

Angel Making	From 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm	Parish Room
--------------	------------------------	-------------

St Andrew's Church

Sunday, 15th December

St Peter's Church

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion	8.00 am
----------------	---------

Revd Andrew Dawswell

All Age Carol Service	10.30 am
-----------------------	----------

Revd Andrew Dawswell

United Evening Service	6.30 pm
------------------------	---------

Jane Machin

Morning Worship
Local Arrangement

Daleians Concert in St Andrew's – Friday, 13th December ... 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.

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 Leaflet for Naomi Savage ... our children and families worker has recently produced a bookmark with several points for thanksgiving and prayer related to her ministry. If you haven't yet got one, please do take one from the back of church.

Carols by Candlelight ... on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30 pm

... those who have served as fire wardens previously (and any who are willing to help in this way for the first time) are asked to come for a briefing at 6.00 pm.

... following the service tea/coffee and mince pies will be served in St Peter's Hall. If you are willing to provide mince pies for this event, please bring them to St Peter's hall between 6.00-6.20 pm on the day. If you are able to both serve and to help clear away, please speak to Helen Collins or Ann Harvey. Thank you.

Season of Invitation ... do consider whether you might invite someone to come with you to one of our special Christmas services, carol services etc. There are copies of an invitation at the back of church which includes details of our Carol service on 22nd December and our Crib Service at 3.30 pm on Christmas Eve.

Churches Together Town Centre Witness ... will take place on Saturday, 21st December, gathering by the Guildhall at 12 noon.

Prayer Initiative 'Say One For Me' ... we are hoping to get together a team of church members for the same morning, assembling initially in St Giles church for a short briefing at 11.15 am. We will again be inviting prayer requests under the banner of 'Say One For Me' - with the promise that any cards filled in will be prayed for later in the morning, the team gathering in St Giles to do so at about 12.40 pm, following the conclusion of the open air service. Please speak to Andrew for more details.

Foodbank are Very Grateful ... for all who donate, and especially to volunteers and donors at recent collection days at Tesco's in Trent Vale and Kidsgrove. As a result, their stocks of food and hygiene products were given a much-needed boost in the run-up to the festive season, when traditionally the charity sees an increase in demand for help. The total donated across both stores during the three-day event weighed in 5094.2 kg - this is equivalent to 12,000 meals. Gifts can also be left at the back of St Andrew's - we are grateful to Simon Wright for passing these donations on to the Foodbank warehouse.

To help inspire your gifts, do take a 'reverse advent calendar' and newsletter from the back of church. Alternatively do you know you can pledge regular financial support to Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank? Through Friends of the Foodbank, donors can give a set amount of money each month to provide emergency food to those in need. Perhaps you could dedicate a donation as a gift to a loved one this Christmas. Call 07935 066980 for details.

St Andrew's Church Christmas Card ... a large card has been made by members of Messy Church, to give church members the opportunity to send greetings to one another and donate to Tearfund as an alternative to sending multiple cards. It is at the back of church.

St Andrew's Keyholders ... the lower rear door mortice lock at St Andrew's has been replaced. The old keys will no longer work and should be handed back please. The new lock now operates with the same key as the front door. If you have only the rear door key, please surrender it to the Church Wardens or Alan Swanborough, and you will be given a replacement. If you have any queries please contact Alan.

Stamps for Charity ... as the Christmas post starts to drop through your letterboxes, please remember to save your stamps. Stamps may be left in the boxes at the back of St Andrew's

Church and are taken to the Oxfam shop in Newcastle. This is not just at Christmas - used stamps can be collected all through the year.

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.

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.

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
Tel: 619594 & Saturday)
e-mail: ja.dawswell@googlemail.com

Minister

Revd John Taylor (Days Off: Friday & Monday)
Tel: 909163
e-mail: jandraylor59@sky.com

Children & Families Worker

Naomi Savage (Day Off: Friday)
Tel 07864 127523
e-mail: naomi.westlands@gmail.com

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