

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, 5th January
Second Sunday of Christmas

St Peter's Church

Holy Communion
Revd Andrew Dawswell

8.00 am

10.30 am

United Covenant Service
Revds Andrew Dawswell & John Taylor
Deuteronomy 29:10-15 (p200)
John 15:1-10 (p138)

6.30 pm

Café Church – Wise men
Revd Andrew Dawswell

Collect

*Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
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

Monday, 6th January

Bereavement Care Team
Prayer Meeting

11.00 am
7.30pm

7 Roe Lane
Parish Room

Tuesday, 7th January

Morning Prayer
Little Sparklers

9.00 am – 9.30 am
10.00 am – 11.30 am

St Andrew's Church
Parish Room

Wednesday, 8th January

Youth & Children's Leaders Meeting 7.30 pm Parish Room

Thursday 9th January

Worship Committee 7.45 pm

Saturday, 11th January

Mental Health First Aid Awareness Course (now fully booked) 10.30 am – 2.30 pm Parish Room

Messy Church 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm St Andrew's Church Hall

St Andrew's Church

Sunday, 12th January

St Peter's Church

Baptism of Christ

Holy Communion 8.00 am
Revd Andrew Dawswell

All Age Worship 10.30 am
Revd Andrew Dawswell

Morning Worship
Mrs Margaret Holmes

United Holy Communion & Prayers for Healing 6.30 pm
Revd Andrew Dawswell

Time Out ... will be taking place in St Peter's alongside the 10.30 united service there.

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.

Afternoon Tea ... you are invited to our next Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, 14th January, in St Andrew's Church Hall, from **3.00 pm to 4.30 pm (please note the change of time)**. Enjoy the company of your friends and make some new ones. A light afternoon tea will be served. The cost will be £3.00. All welcome. If you would like to come, please contact Jenny.

Games Afternoon ... Sunday, 19th January, 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm in the Parish Room with Board Games, Wii Games, nibbles and good company. All welcome.

St Andrew's New Hall Update ... we are continuing to work with BDP (Building Design Partnership) on the plans. Although the architect we had been dealing with Graeme Renton has now retired, his supervisor, Architect Director Svetlana Solomona, came to meet us last week and is now taking direct control of the project. BDP anticipate making a planning application on our behalf at the end of January. Please do pray for their staff who are working on this for us, and for a successful outcome. An increasingly large majority of the PCC are convinced that the provision of updated and attractive facilities will be a valuable asset to our mission, to the welcome we are able to give people, and in enabling us to serve our local community by offering a great space for local groups to use.

Our new architect has advised us to invite opinions on our proposals from all members of the local community, and there will be a drop in session on the evening Monday, 13th January in

the Parish Room. Updated display boards have been produced for this - do have a look at them - and the same material is now available on churchinthewestlands.org.uk/buildings/

Lichfield Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship ... John Dunnett of CPAS will be speaking on 'Looking forwards with hope' on Saturday, 1st February at St John's, Stafford, ST16 3RP - 9.30 am refreshments for 10.00 am - 12.30 pm meeting. All welcome, lifts should be available if needed - please sign the list at the back of St Andrews.

Considering Mental Health Issues ... on Wednesday, 29th January the Deanery Synod meeting is dedicated to this subject. The speaker is Chris Munday from Crossways Community, a Christian charity providing homes and support for those with poor mental health. 7.00 pm prompt - 9.20 pm at St George's Church Centre. All welcome.

Stoke Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Centre ... some local Christians are beginning to investigate the feasibility of starting a local centre, to offer support to those who are pregnant, including alternatives to abortion. An evening of Information and Prayer is being held on Monday, 27th January, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm at Christ Church Cobridge, Emery Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 2JN, with Judy McGibbon, National Director of Pregnancy Centres Network. More details from Nikki Tomkins e-mail: simonandnikkitomkins@gmail.com

Stoke & Newcastle Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre ...

Please give thanks for

- An ex-offender who has been through the process and has been released from previous debt.
- Rob, our dedicated debt centre manager.

Please pray for

- A returning CAP client who has had addiction issues and recent treatment. Pray that they might commit and continue engaging with CAP.
- A client who was tragically a victim of a serious recent accident whilst engaging with CAP. Please pray for them and their befriender(s) supporting them at this difficult time. Also, that they may continue to engage with CAP to find release from their debt issues.
- A couple currently engaging with CAP who are facing imminent eviction, one of whom is experiencing complicated health issues.
- Another couple, one of whom is experiencing significant mental and physical health challenges. Wisdom to resolve working circumstances that make it difficult for their partner to provide care and may be making the debt problems worse.
- An ex-offender with addiction problems in unsuitable accommodation. Ability to provide the necessary paperwork for CAP to proceed with providing help with debt issues. Better living circumstances would be beneficial.
- Please pray too for the future of the centre. The committee feel that it will only be feasible to continue beyond the summer if we find an additional volunteer able to offer at least 2 days a week. (Do speak to Andrew if you want to know more about what this might involve)

Dating the Life of Jesus Through Astronomy ... on Wednesday, 8th January at 7.00 pm Dr Rick Marshall will be speaking at the Potteries Theological Society in Keele University Room CM0.12 (Moser Building, opposite from chapel). All welcome.

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. 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. Or perhaps you could dedicate a donation as a gift to a loved one. Call 07935 066980 for details.

Our New MP... Lichfield's bishops are encouraging church members to write a short note to their new MP, saying that they will be praying for them. You can send it to: Aaron Bell MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Stamps for Charity ... please remember to save your stamps as these are collected all through the year. Stamps may be left in the boxes at the back of St Andrew's Church and are taken to the Oxfam shop in Newcastle.

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

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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