

**Readings or Sunday 28th January
The fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Revelation 12:1-5a Mark 1:21-28

Readings for Thursday 1st February

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 Psalm 145:1-5 Mark 6:7-13

**Readings for Sunday 4th February
The Second Sunday before Lent**

Colossians 1:15-20 John 1:1-14

Readings for Thursday 8th February

1 Kings 11:4-13 Psalm 106:3, 35-41 Mark 7:24-30

**Readings for Sunday 11th February
The Sunday next before Lent**

2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Thursday 15th February

Deuteronomy 30:15-end Psalm 1 Luke 9:22-25

Readings for Sunday 18th February

The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-end Mark 1:9-15

Readings for Thursday 22nd February

Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 138 Matthew 7:7-12



Monday Prayers

A time of coming together to pray for the church and parish from 4.30 – 5pm every Monday in church.

All are welcome.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful' Col 4:2

The next Focus is **25th February - 30th March**
Please email items to: standrewr@outlook.com
or phone Claire 01473 623419, or 07971 334142
By 9pm Monday 19th February



St Andrew's Rushmere

**Focus for Weeks
28th January - 24th February**



**We are pleased to announce
our first 'informal worship' time at Dumbarton Hall
on Sunday 18th February 3 - 4.30pm.**

The worship will be led by a group from our church with a more contemporary flavour, overhead screen, and time to enjoy being in God's presence.

All are welcome with a relaxed children's table for families.

The usual tea and cake will follow.

To find out more speak to Rev Alan 01473 270976
or Jim Ainslie 01473 720618

Coffee morning February 24th

In the Church Hall 10am – 11.30am

Drop in for refreshments, a bring and buy stall and raffle.

Meet up with friends old and new.



Growing in Depth.

The next half-day reflection will be on the theme;
'Living our faith: reflections on Corinth'.

It will take place on **Saturday 17th February
from 10am to 1pm in the Church Hall.**

The study will be followed by a soup and roll lunch.
A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Church Hall.

The Children's Society

It took a long time this year but I finally emptied all the boxes, the final total sent to The Children's Society was £664. I pay in as soon as I have counted a number of boxes so that they have the money as soon as possible.

This year some people did not want their boxes emptied, others did not want them returned-as we all use so much less cash these days we do not have loose change to put in the boxes. However we still raised a good total and the money is greatly appreciated by the Children's Society and put to very good use for their work with young people.

They have a very good website childrenssociety.org.uk which explains the work they do with children who are suffering abuse, exploitation and neglect and they campaign for social change to improve the lives of all children. It is a real eye opener to read some of the stories of the children they help and support-a very far cry from the situation of most of the children we know. If anyone else would like to have a collection box or give a donation please let me know. Do look up the website and learn more about the work they do.

Tricia Tyler (07951817543)



**Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 25th
February 3-5pm at Dumbarton Hall.**

Do pray for the committed team of helpers from St. Andrew's, and particularly the sizeable number of families we are reaching. For their interest in God to grow.

*Free entrance and all welcome.
(Children must bring an adult)*

For more information email alancomfort11@gmail.com

Another year passes and our kindly lunch club ladies, helpers and drivers entertain us every Wednesday, thank you. Once again they have dispelled the old saying "there is no such thing as a free lunch" by serving up a delicious Christmas lunch free of charge.

An added bonus is having our friendly vicar Alan joining us which is much appreciated by all.

Thanks again and Happy New Year. Derek C.

Dear friends and colleagues

The official **Ipswich Vigil for Ukraine** will take place at St Mary at the Elms Church, IP1 2EF, on the second anniversary of the commencement of the more recent conflict in Ukraine - **Friday 23 and Saturday 24 February 2024.**

Please see <https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/ukrainian-refugee-support/> for a little more detail of this two-day event. You are very welcome to drop in (during either day) or attend the Civic Vigils (at 6.00pm on both evenings).

I would be very grateful if you would help us publicise this event - through your press, newsletters, social media groups, noticeboards etc - by forwarding or displaying the attached fliers.

I am happy to respond to any questions, comments or suggestions as we continue to prepare for what I believe will be a highly significant civic event.

Thank you so much for your support.

Best wishes

Alan Cutting (Together for Ipswich Ukraine Response lead)

www.cuttingacross.com ahcutting@yahoo.co.uk

07834 693144



St Andrew's Mothers Union

Our meeting in **February is on Wednesday 21st at 2.30pm.** We shall have our AGM (don't be put off by that - we are past masters at keeping it short and to the point!). We also hope to enrol at least 1 new member during our service which is always a good thing to do.

Then we are going to enjoy singing some of our favourite hymns - members have been asked to submit their 3 favourite hymns and we shall have a lovely selection. Then of course we shall enjoy copious cups of tea and some cake! As always we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

St. Andrew's May Festival

During the month of May we as a church are hosting a variety of events to celebrate what we do at St. Andrew's, and to welcome our community to join us.



Let me whet your appetite with a couple of the events; if you like football we have our **Festival Breakfast**, a cooked breakfast at The Scout Hut, Dumbarton Road on **Saturday 11th May** with **guest speaker and former Cambridge United footballer Graham Daniels**.

On the same day we have our **Festival Dinner at Church with Harpist Rachel Bartels**, beautiful food, and an after dinner speaker.

Then on 25th May we are thrilled to announce the nationally known and universally loved **London Community Gospel Choir** will be performing at St. Andrew's Church. LCGC will lift every heart with their beautiful voices and energy, and we want those living in and around our parish to have priority in getting tickets. (tickets are selling fast so don't miss out).

Watch out for more details of all the Festival events for families, young people, those who love walking, a daily opportunity to visit the church, light lunches..... We are so excited and look forward to offering many different events to invite those around us.

Tickets are now available for the above events-don't miss out!

Festival Breakfast Saturday 11th May 9am-11am - £5

Festival Dinner Saturday 11th May 7pm - £15

Festival LCGC Concert Saturday 25th May 7.30pm – Adult £15, Child £10

Either reserve your tickets by emailing the dedicated festival email: star2024@gmx.co.uk and you'll be sent details of how to pay.

Or reserve and pay (cash, or cheque made payable to 'PCC St Andrew Rushmere') by dropping into church on weekdays between 10am-12noon, or Sundays after service between 11am-12noon.

Alan, Ministry Team & PCC.

Lunch Club. We still need DRIVERS. Lunch club is an important part of church life. We need people willing to drive our clients to and from the church hall once a month on Wednesday. A free delicious meal included.

Contact Sue 01473 723957 Thank you

Day-time Lent Course

Beginning Monday 19th February 2024 in St Andrew's Church

'The Mystery of Everything'

This year's Lent Course is based around the Film about The Theory of Everything, about the life and work of Stephen Hawking.

In the first session on 19th February we will watch the film. There will then be five further Monday Sessions:

- The experience of wonder
- The enigma of weakness
- The complexity of relationships
- The encounter with frailty
- The hope beyond brokenness



As last year, each session will start at 12.45pm with a bowl of soup and a roll, we will watch a short extract from the film, look at linked bible passages, and have times of discussion, meditation and prayer.

We will use the book by Hilary Brand which provides reading material coupled to the course. I will have some copies available but the book is available on Amazon.

For further details speak to Chris Yule Tel 310992
or email chris.yule2@tiscali.co.uk

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer (which used to be called the Womens' World Day of Prayer) is always on the **1st Friday of March which this year is March 1st - St David's Day**.

It is an ecumenical occasion, we rotate around the different churches. This year the Methodist Church is the host, the service will be held at Landseer Road Methodist Church where there are good car parking facilities.

The service this year has been written by the women of Palestine and the theme is '*I beg you, bear with one another in love*'. Given the tragic events in Palestine at the present time it is a poignant title.

We do hope that many of you will be able to come and join in on March 1st. If anyone needs a lift to the service please let Marion or Tricia know and we will arrange it. There will be posters in church with all the details nearer the time.

"Go green for Lent." The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living?

Explore some of these changes at: arochoa.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/

Reaching the Unreached

We would like to thank all of our supporters of the sale held in November, last year for raising the magnificent sum of more than £3,500, which brought our total to just over £5,000 for 2023. This will be used to help with the building of a new health clinic in Kalliputti.

Jigsaw Puzzle and Book Sale

Our first fund raiser in 2024 will be a jigsaw puzzle and book sale, as part of a coffee morning in aid of RTU to be held on **Saturday 9th March from 10.00 am to 12 noon** in the church hall.



Please let your friends know about this, especially if they are keen puzzlers or book worms, to come and support us. Thank you.



Ways of Giving

We are very blessed to have a most generous congregation who give freely of themselves and also their financial resources. For this we are extremely grateful and we have many different 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 the giver, 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 Treasurer; Chris, who can supply Standing Order and Gift Aid forms if required.

Thank you very much for your continuing generosity to our Church

Revd Alan

Chris Gibson

EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR.....so PLEASE order your **REAL EASTER EGGS** during **February**.

As previously the lovely Meaningful Chocolate Company are producing their Real Easter Eggs----i.e. the only Easter Egg you can buy sharing the Easter story!

There are new designs for 2024 and a new 24 page Easter story activity booklet. The variety of eggs AND the prices remain the same as last year. The Original £4.50, Dark £5.50, Fun Pack £5, The Special £9.99

Please see the poster and order form in the Hall for details. If you would like to donate an egg/s to FIND please put an F by the number.

Margaret M.



February Charity of the Month

This month we are celebrating and supporting through prayer and giving Tools with a Mission (**TWAM**).

They are a local Christian charity which makes a global impact by refurbishing UK donated tools, making these up into trade specific tool kits, and providing these to individuals and families enabling them to earn a living and support themselves.

Their team of dedicated volunteers and supporters work mainly with partners in Africa transforming thousands of lives every year.

Please support this amazing charity through your prayers and giving. This giving opportunity will be launched on Sunday 4th February running through to 25th February, giving envelopes and gift aid forms are available in church.

Many thanks, the PCC Parochial Giving Panel.

Rushmere Parish Council – Launch Party – Enchanted Tree Trail Saturday 10th February at 6pm

At Tower Hall 5 Broadlands Way, IP4 5SU

<https://rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net/event-holder/>

For the latest news visit our website at:

<http://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net/>

Find us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/standrew.rushmere>