

**Readings or Sunday 31st December
The First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

Readings for Thursday 4th January

1 John 3:7-10 Psalm 98:1, 8-end John 1:35-42

**Readings for Sunday 7th January
The Baptism of Christ**

Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

Readings for Thursday 11th January

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



Monday Prayers – Start Again 8th January

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

Next Quiz is Saturday 27th January

7.30pm in the Church Hall

Teams of up to 6

**Tickets £8; includes ploughman's supper,
homemade cake, soft drink and tea/coffee**

Contact Sue 01473 723957

Keep up to date with all the news on our website at:

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

Also find us on Facebook at:

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



St Andrew's Rushmere

Focus for Weeks

**31st December -
27th January**

Wise Men
Seek Him Still



St Andrew's
Church
Rushmere
a StAR
event

Where can we find a hope that won't disappoint us?

Why not come to our

**Hope Explored Course starting on
Tuesday 9th January 7.30pm
in St Andrew's Church Parish Hall.**

This three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.

The sessions will be on January 9th, 16th and 23rd

Sign up sheet at the back of church,
or via an email sent to alancomfort11@gmail.com

Ways of Giving

We are very blessed to have a most generous congregation who give freely of their time, talents, energy, compassion, hospitality and their financial resources; and to make this giving as easy as possible we have a number of ways:-

1. Standing Orders
2. Inter-bank transfers
3. **Cheques payable to: PCC St Andrew Rushmere.**
4. Pre-numbered weekly brown envelopes
5. Collection plate at each Sunday service
6. Our contactless terminal for debit and credit cards
7. White printed envelopes for 1-off Gift-Aided donations, which need to be signed and dated, and with all the required information
8. The "Donate Now" button on the home page of our website:
<https://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net>
9. Our QR code printed above, scanned by a mobile phone camera and connecting to the Give-a-Little page linked to our website



Gift Aid can also be claimed by our Church, adding 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 have any queries please ask a Warden, or our Treasurer Chris; Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available.

Thank you very much for your continuing generosity to our Church.

Revd Alan

Chris Gibson

The next Focus is **28th January - 24th February**
Please email items to: standrewr@outlook.com
or phone Claire 623419, or 07971 334142
By 9pm Monday 22nd January

New Year Fellowship, Walk, Treasure Hunt and Tea.

Sunday 7th January 3 – 4.30pm

A chance to meet and enjoy one another's company as we begin 2024

You are invited to join us at Dumbarton Hall
(Dumbarton Road)
for a New Year catch up.



There will be a gentle walk on the field for those who are able, a treasure hunt for children, with hot chocolate and light tea.

All are welcome



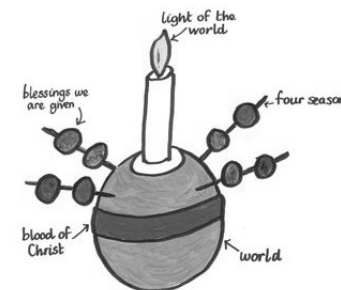
28th January Messy Church Christingle,
3-5pm, at Dumbarton Road

Crafts, food and great fun for all the family

*Free entrance and
all welcome.*

(Children must bring an adult)

For more information email
alancomfort11@gmail.com



Lunch club. We need DRIVERS. Lunch club is an important part of church life but we do need people willing to driver our clients to and from the church hall, once a month, on a Wednesday. We can't offer petrol money, but we can give you a free, delicious meal. Contact Sue 723957 Thank you

Once again a very good response to the **Christmas Appeal** for FIND. THANK YOU to everyone who contributed. I delivered 25 bags of goodies and 38 vouchers from various supermarkets with grateful thanks. Thanks also to the helpers who helped me count the vouchers and packed the car. Delivery entered into the book at depot. Gloria

ST. ANDREW'S MAY FESTIVAL

As part of the forthcoming Festival, we are hosting a **concert by the London Community Gospel Choir at 7.30pm on Saturday 25 May 2024**. This will be a very popular event and members of the congregation have the first opportunity to buy tickets for themselves and their family during January. Admission for adults will be £15 and for under-16s £10.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Hall for you to indicate your interest and tickets will be available for collection on receipt of payment through Open Door (weekdays 10am to noon) or from Graham/Hilary Platts after Sunday morning services until 2 February. Don't miss it!

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

We had a wonderful Christmas party, we were entertained by the Ukulele Group 'What no Cake?' who were as good as ever. We then had a fantastic tea enjoyed by all. We were very pleased to have Rev Alan and Linda Ginn, our Diocesan President as our guests.

We have got our programme for 2024 all organised and hope everyone will enjoy it. We aim to have plenty of Christian content as well as our Service at each meeting.

On January 17th we have a 'Keep Fit' session - gentle chair exercises to help us recover from any Christmas indulgence!

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings.



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.

4th United Service is Sunday 21st January at 6.30pm

at All Saints Church, Kesgrave

Lord Jesus, though we are all different,
call us to follow you together.

Though we are uncertain, guide us.

Though we are afraid, comfort us.

Though we are weak, give us strength.

Though we are unsure, give us faith.

Though we may get lost, lead us home.

Taken from the MU booklet 'Prayers from the heart – talking to God.'

Contributed by June Collins

Reaching the Unreached

last year we raised a grand total of £5,000 throughout 2023 and have received very appreciative letters of thanks direct from India.

We want to thank all our church family for their magnificent support.

Ruth