

**Readings for Sunday 31st March
Easter Day**

Exodus 14:10-31 Acts 10:34-43 Romans 6:3-11 Mark 16:1-8

Readings for Thursday 4th April

Acts 3:11-end Psalm 8 Luke 24:35-48

**Readings for Sunday 7th April
The Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-31

Readings for Thursday 11th April

Acts 5:27-33 Psalm 34:1, 15-end John 3:31-end

**Readings for Sunday 14th April
The Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

Readings for Thursday 18th April

Acts 8:26-end Psalm 66:7-8, 14-end John 6:44-51

**Readings for Sunday 21st April
The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

Readings for Thursday 25th April

Acts 15:35-end Psalm 119:9-16 Mark 13:5-13



St Andrew's Rushmere

**Focus for Weeks
31st March - 27th April**



**Join us for an Easter Treat on Monday 1st April,
between 2-4pm
in the Old End of the Church**



There will be tea/coffee and cake
We look forward to seeing you all at the church,

Informal Worship Time

**Sunday 21st April 3pm – 4.30pm
at Dumbarton Hall**

Worship with a more contemporary flavour, overhead screen
and time to enjoy being in God's presence.

All welcome with a relaxed children's table for families
with tea and cake to follow.

Want to know more? Speak to Revd Alan 01473 270976,
or Jim Ainslie 01473 720618



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



**Our next Messy Church is on Sunday
28th April 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

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

Annual Meetings

This year's **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** and **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place in the church hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th April 2024.

This is an important part of church life; an opportunity to review the past year, look forward to St Andrew's mission in the coming year, ask about matters concerning the church and elect Churchwardens and members of the PCC. If you are interested in standing for one of these roles and would like to find out what is involved, please talk to Revd Alan, or a Warden; (Teresa Rose, David Chaplin and Ruth Silburn).

You will need to be on the Electoral Roll of the parish if you wish to stand for office, or vote at the meetings. Please speak to Gill Ainslie to check that you are on the ER.

It would be helpful if you could notify the PCC Secretary (Hilary Platts) of any item you would like to be discussed in order to help in the planning of the Agenda. The Minutes of last year's meeting, Annual Report and other papers will be made available online, but please speak to a Churchwarden if you would like printed copies.

A gentleman who would like to remain anonymous would like to thank three ladies and a male cyclist who stopped to ask if he was OK, as he sat outside the church on the morning of Saturday 9th March. Their kindness is much appreciated.

Rushmere St Andrew's Spring 2024 Concerts

This year's programme of Sunday afternoon Spring Concerts at St Andrew's church Rushmere will be held in support of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the only organisation dedicated wholly to safeguarding Suffolk's wildlife and countryside.

Once again, there is no charge for admission to these concerts and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event. This Spring's programme is:

- **7th April: Michael Broadway (Pianola Recital)**
Recently retired as Curator of the organ at the Royal Albert Hall, Michael will bring his pianola, link it to our baby grand piano and perform a programme of classical works in his unique style. Track him down at <http://www.pianola-part.freeuk.com/michael.htm> and look him up on YouTube!
- **14th April Daniel Law & Chris Slatter (Cello & Piano)**
Daniel makes a very welcome return to St Andrew's, this time with Chris to present a programme of cello and piano duets. Daniel is well known to us as a highly accomplished pianist; Chris is founder and manager of the Scintillo String Quartet based in Woodbridge.
- **21st April The Accidentals (Popular Vocal Group)**
A welcome return by this six-piece female vocal harmony group from Sudbury with it's repertoire of popular music from the 1940s up to the present. We can expect a lively and enjoyable performance.
- **28th April Maurizio Baudino & Dario Vannini (Guitars)**
Rushmere is delighted to present Maurizio and Dario from Italy as part of their short concert tour in England this year. They have performed independently and together in many parts of Europe. For a taster, you can listen to Maurizio on YouTube.

All concerts begin at 3.00pm and we look forward to welcoming you to any, or all of them.

Sunday afternoon concert teas

The Sunday afternoon concerts begin the week after Easter. As always I need help with making cakes and serving teas (to say nothing of washing up afterwards). If you can help, especially in the first two weeks when I shall be away, please sign up on the sheet in the hall.

Mary

Defibrillator

If you have not already seen it, our defibrillator is in place, and ready for use on the outside of the church hall. We are very grateful to the Lunch Club who gave us a generous donation towards the costs.

The defibrillator is registered on The Circuit which means it is available for anyone in the community and church to use in an emergency, and is registered with the emergency services. It also has paediatric pads for use with children under the age of eight.

Eco News Update

We are doing our best to achieve Gold Status, although we have been pipped to the post of first church in the Diocese by Mendham, well done to them.

A working group are now meeting on a regular basis to review our progress on Towards Net Zero Carbon. We are offering a collection point in the church hall lobby, for used postage stamps, plastic milk bottle tops, biro pens and ink cartridges for recycling.

There is also a magazine rack with a selection of donated magazines for everyone to help themselves to, take home and read and enjoy.

Community Concert on 4th May: Hope for Creation

Graham and Hilary would appreciate any help providing refreshments for the concert on Saturday 4 May. Nothing elaborate! Perhaps a cake or the offer of help serving tea/coffee to our audience for an hour afterwards. Thanks.

A huge THANK YOU for your support in buying the REAL EASTER EGGS for your families and friends AND a special THANK YOU to those who purchased 20 eggs as gifts for FIND. A letter of thanks has been received from FIND.

Please pray for all the recipients that they will be blessed by the contents-----the delicious chocolate AND the Easter story.

HAPPY EASTER Margaret



St Andrew's Mothers Union

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17th April, 2.30pm in the Church Hall as usual. We have the pleasure of Jim Ainslie coming to tell us about the work of TWAM, (Tools with a Mission). I am sure it will be a great afternoon and as always we welcome anyone who would like to join us for the afternoon.

ADVANCE NOTICE – our May meeting is on Wednesday 15th May and will be a special meeting as part of the May Festival at St Andrew's. Dr Jill Comfort is going to lead our worship and then tell us all about her work with children in London. The title of her talk is 'A-May-zing Love'. We shall meet in the church and then move to the Hall for a 'Festival Tea' – no-one does teas quite like St Andrew's MU!

We would love it if all members were able to invite a friend to come and join us and we hope that other members of the congregation – male and female will also come and join us for a very special afternoon.

It is time for the Electoral Roll to be updated before the APCM in April.

If you are already on it you need take no action. If you wish to be on it there are forms at the old end of church. Please complete and hand to Gill Ainslie. If you are unsure have a word with Gill. Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to vote at the APCM.

Many thanks



Join us for a Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 27th April 8.30 – 10.00am

Enjoy breakfast together, in the Vestry

All Welcome



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



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 – Free Event

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.

Revd Alan, Ministry Team & PCC.

The next Focus is **28th April - 1st June**
Please email items to: standrewr@outlook.com
or phone Claire 01473 623419, or 07971 334142
By 9pm Monday 22nd April

Chair Exercise Group

Plans for the 'Gentle Chair Exercise Group' have now moved on. We plan to have 5 sessions; starting on Wednesday April 10th, then May 8th and 22nd and June 12th and 26th. The session will start at 2.30pm in the Church Hall and will last ¾ hour, followed by tea and biscuits. The cost will be determined by the number of participants, but will be a maximum of £4 a session, payable on the day.

Jade Cummings, who will lead the exercises needs to have a Health Declaration form completed by each participant, if possible before the first session. These have been distributed to all the people who have already signed up, but we would like some more people to join in. There is a sign up sheet in church.

If the group is successful we will have more sessions starting in September.

Any queries please contact Tricia Tyler on 07951817543, or tylertricia@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you there and getting fitter together.

Words on Love by Mother Theresa

*"Spread love everywhere you go;
first of all in your own house. Give love to your
children; to your wife or husband;
to a next door neighbour...*

*Let no-one ever come to you without leaving
feeling better and happier.*

*Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness
in your face, kindness in your eyes,
kindness in your smile,
kindness in your warm greeting."*