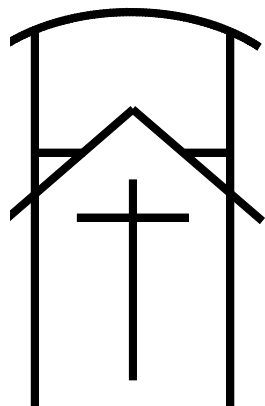


Church in the Westlands

Christmas & New Year



LINK

ST PETER'S

Methodist Church

Rev. John Taylor

Tel:- 909163

ST ANDREW'S

Anglican Church

Rev. Andrew Dawswell

Tel:- 619594

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk



Online Worship

Since March we have been producing a weekly online worship service. As many are still not able to join us, we envisage continuing this for quite a while

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

A weekly online service produced by the Methodist Circuit is also available at:
northstaffordshiremethodists.org.uk

...or via a phone line

Our main service can also be heard anytime from Sunday to the following Thursday for the cost of a local telephone call. All you need to do is ring (01782) 454883. After an introduction confirming that you're through to Church in the Westlands, there's then a 30 second silence before the recording starts playing.

There's also a free national Church of England phone line giving a variety of options each day for worship, prayer and reflection:
0800 804 8044



Comfort and Joy

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth;
burst into song, you mountains! For
the LORD comforts his people and will have
compassion on his afflicted ones. *Isaiah 49:13*

Christmas Message

Though we are very encouraged by the news of the success of vaccine trials, the next few months are unlikely to be easy for any of us; and especially for those who live alone or have difficulties with their mental or physical health. Even if limited family gatherings are allowed at Christmas, many will feel it wise to make even more modest plans. In Dr Seuss' children's tale, The Grinch only stole the presents – meaning that the fun and community of Christmas was scarcely affected. But this year the virus will take at least some of that away from us – and it will be sorely missed by the majority.

Christian believers will inevitably share that loss, and our 2020 church Christmas celebrations will have to be on a more limited scale too. But the truths we celebrate each year remain unaffected. The Good News of the Lord's coming into our world 2000 years ago gives us the real **comfort** that, despite our many shortcomings, God has not abandoned us.

More than that, the news of Jesus' coming remains a cause of great **joy**, because of the salvation that he brings. Luke's gospel records the angel's message to the shepherds:

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Amidst these difficult times, we hope and pray that many in the Westlands will discover something of the comfort and the joy that Christ's coming to our world brings.

Andrew Dawswell

Worship in St Peter's

10.30 service each Sunday, no booking needed

Worship in St Andrew's

9.00 service *aimed to be as safe as we can make it, with max 35 present, and initially priority for over 70's and others who are COVID-vulnerable*

11.00 service *with greater numbers permitted, but still allowing 2 metres between households.*

United Christmas Services (in St Andrew's)

Sun 20th Dec 4.00pm - Carol Service

This is in place of St Andrew's 11am service & will include Sunday Club for 3-11's in the Hall.

The carols will be pre-recorded.

Christmas Eve

3.30 pm - All Age Service

11.30 pm Communion

Christmas Day

10 am - All Age service

With optional Communion afterwards

More details, including how to book (which is currently required for St Andrew's) are available on www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk or by ringing Margaret (01782) 612009

We can't sing in Church yet, but we can still connect with God and His word in many other ways, and including music & prayers.

Please also visit our website beforehand to check that these services are happening

Children & Families



Our Sunday Club for 3-11's is meeting in St Andrews Hall from 11.00-11.45 each Sunday. More details from Naomi Savage, our Children and Families' worker, on 07864 127523 or naomi.westlands@gmail.com or on our facebook page for Families at Church in the Westlands.

Prayer

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of hope, a time of expectation. We wait patiently to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ some 2000 years ago. We also wait patiently for the fulfilment of His promise that He will come again. We wait and we watch for no one knows when that will be. We prepare ourselves and say..."Maranatha...Come Lord Jesus come.

Gracious God, We praise you for this season of Advent, this time of rejoicing and celebration, praise and worship, exulting in your goodness. We praise you for your coming in Jesus Christ, bringing in a new Kingdom and anticipating a time of peace and justice, when the poor will have plenty, the hungry fed and the lowly lifted up. We praise you that you want us to be part of that, not just to share in it but also to play our part in bring it to pass.

Open our eyes to the breadth of your love, the wonder of your mercy and the vastness of your goodness... through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

John Taylor