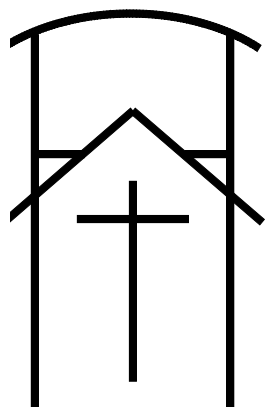


# Church in the Westlands

April 2021



# LINK

## ST ANDREW'S

Anglican Church

Rev. Andrew Dawswell

Tel:- 01782 619594

[www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk](http://www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk)



## Online Worship

Since last March we have been producing a weekly online worship service. As many will no doubt still feel hesitant about joining us, we envisage continuing this for quite a while.

[www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk](http://www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk)

or via our Youtube channel

## ...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

## St Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church Council has sadly decided to close; with a burst pipe in the cold weather causing extensive water damage too. However many in the community will no doubt share a sense of gratitude for several generations of worship and ministry that took place at St Peter's and for being able to use their extensive facilities for such a wide range of community activities. St Andrew's will greatly miss the partnership too.

The minister, John Taylor remains available, and continues to be responsible for St Luke's, Severn Drive; his tel. is 01782 909163

Details of the other local Methodist churches, and a weekly online service are available at:  
[northstaffordshiremethodists.org.uk](http://northstaffordshiremethodists.org.uk)

## Tearfund & Christian Aid



Although COVID presents huge challenges to the UK we are aware that it raises even bigger issues in less developed parts of the world. Regrettably it looks unlikely that the local church's usual Spring fundraising activities for both of these organisations will be able to go ahead. However, we'd encourage friends who would normally support these efforts to consider visiting the website of an overseas aid organisation, with a view to finding out more; and, if possible, making a donation.

## Easter Message

As Lockdown3 stretches into its 3rd month & beyond, inevitably, most of us are feeling that we want to get our life back. And there is some kind of parallel between the coming of Spring, the hoped for easing of lockdown... and the Christian message of the resurrection of Christ, and the new life that can come through him.

I don't want to belittle how great it will be as and when we are again able to enjoy the variety and freedoms of pre-Covid life. But it will of course still be a life with all of the old problems, challenges and frustrations. Whereas the resurrection of Jesus, both for himself and his followers, is not simply a return to how life would have been if Jesus had never died.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus,

Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Christians down the ages have discovered there's a completely new quality to the new life that we can share in through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We rejoice in the bible's picture that, through Christ we can indeed know what it is to be 'born again'.

That doesn't mean that we will escape life's problems and challenges; but rather we will be able to see life with new eyes, and with our Saviour and Lord by our side through it all.

Andrew Dawswell

## Online worship for Holy Week & Good Friday

**Monday** (29th) 7.30pm Riding Lights' Virtual Passion Play 'Breaking day'

**Tuesday** (30th) 7.45pm Bible study

**Wednesday** (31st) 7.30pm Devotional service, with a sermon from John Taylor

**Thursday** (1st) 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion– zoom broadcast from the church.

**Good Friday (2nd)**

10.00am United service, live-streamed from Newcastle Baptist Church

12-3pm: Our usual devotional hour will be posted on our website beforehand– although the church will also be open between 12-3pm for private prayer

If you are able to download the video service to a suitable device, you would be welcome to come into the building for some of this period to listen to the service on headphones.

7.30pm Compline for Good Friday

Most of the above will be accessible via Zoom. Please contact the vicar if you would like the access codes. We'd love for you to join us, and we envisage this kind of online ministry continuing through April & May at least.

## Children & Families

Our Sunday Club for 3-11's is aiming to re-start on Easter Sunday in St Andrews Hall from 11.00-11.45 each week. More details from Naomi on 07864 127523 or [naomi.westlands@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.westlands@gmail.com) or on our facebook page for Families at Church in the Westlands. **Also treasure hunt & sparklers**



## Worship in St Andrew's church building – due to re-start on Easter Sunday

### 9 am service

*We are encouraging people to see this service as primarily for those who are: COVID-vulnerable; but not generally in contact with many other people; and with quite a bit of protection by having been vaccinated (ie 3 weeks or more after 1st jab). Numbers are also limited to 35*

### 11.00am service

*On Easter Sunday this will be held outside, in order to allow greater numbers safely. From 11<sup>th</sup> April onwards we are aiming to hold the service inside. This will nonetheless hold 55 people whilst still allowing 2m distancing between households and good safety levels .*

Masks will be required for all services unless you are exempt: More details will be available on [www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk](http://www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk) From 29<sup>th</sup> March this will include links to book (which is currently required), or alternatively you can ring Margaret on (01782) 612009