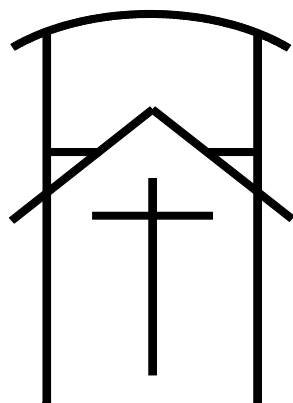


Church in the Westlands

December 2021



LINK

ST ANDREW'S

Anglican Church

Rev'd Andrew Dawswell

Tel:- 619594



www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Christmas Services



All Age Carol Service

Sun Dec 12th 10.30 am

Open Air Christmas Service

Sat Dec 18th 12 noon Newcastle Guildhall

Carol Service

Sun Dec 19th 6.30 pm

Crib Service

Christmas Eve 3.30 pm

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Services

10.30 am All Age Service followed by Holy Communion

Boxing Day Service

Sun Dec 26th 10:30 am



School Christmas Carol Services

A warm welcome to all schools holding their services in St Andrew's this year

Mon Dec 13th	Seabridge School
Tues Dec 14 th	Westlands School
Wed Dec 15 th	Seabridge School
Thur Dec 16 th	Langdale Scghool
Fri Dec 17 th	Langdale School



December Message



God with us – the visited planet

If we were in any doubt about the significance of planet earth to the human race, it was highlighted last month both by the COP26 conference, and by the visit of a gigantic globe art installation to Keele University Chapel. There may be around 700,000,000,000,000,000,000 other planets in the universe, but our earth appears to be only one within reach that can support human life in any numbers!

Christians believe that the earth has another particular significance - in being the 'Visited planet'. For the Christmas story is not just about the arrival of new human ruler in humble circumstances; but about the maker of the universe taking human form on planet earth. One of the bible verses telling of the birth of Jesus that highlights this comes in Matthew's gospel which explains that

'All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).'

It's possible that the pandemic will again bring restrictions on how we can celebrate the family side of Christmas, and even on our church worship. But they still won't be able to stop us celebrating the good news of God coming to our world in Jesus – and of his continuing presence, in a spiritual way, with all who follow him.

Andrew Dawswell

Crib Service

Christmas Eve at 3.30pm



All children are invited to take part in the Christmas story. Come dressed as your favourite nativity character or borrow a costume when you arrive! Bring a handmade decorated bell and you can hang it on our Christmas tree.



Toy Gift Service

Please bring your unwanted toys- in good condition- to our 10.30am gift service on Dec 9th.

They will be given to support local children with the glow refuge in Newcastle.

Faith in the Future

Westlands Church and Community Hub

Our planning to hold a fundraising auction has now started in earnest – it is scheduled for Sat 7th May 2022, in our old hall. Donations of valuables and talents will be very welcome nearer the time – further details will appear in future editions of Link.

In addition to the very generous giving by individuals, we are getting some positive outcomes from the grant applications we have made and are grateful to Allchurches Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundations for their offers - to help turn our vision for up-to date church and community facilities into reality.

Sunday Services

There's a warm invitation to join us for services.

No booking is required. All ages are welcome.

9.00am service

As numbers are generally rather smaller for this service, it's very easy for us to have over 2m spacing between households, and we ask those who are able to wear masks. In addition, our very airy building means that, for more COVID vulnerable people, the infection risk is able to be kept extremely low.

10.30am service (& 6.30 Carols on Dec 19th)

We enjoy singing together; although it's still possible to have a bit of space between households, if desired.

10.30 services include 3-10's activities, and refreshments are served in the hall afterwards.

6.30 pm service

Over the winter this will almost always take place in our 'parish room' below the church, directly accessible from our rear car park. Though we will be distanced, it's not as big a space as the church and so mask-wearing is expected (unless exempt).

Online Worship

Since March 2020 we have been producing a weekly online service. While we are continuing with this, it also gives an opportunity for people to get a bit of a preview of our worship - before hopefully deciding to join us in-person. Either way, you are very welcome to give us a try. www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

or via our Youtube channel

or via a phone line on (01782) 454883.