



St Andrew's Westlands LINK

Feb 2024

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Vicar: Andrew Dawswell 01782 619594



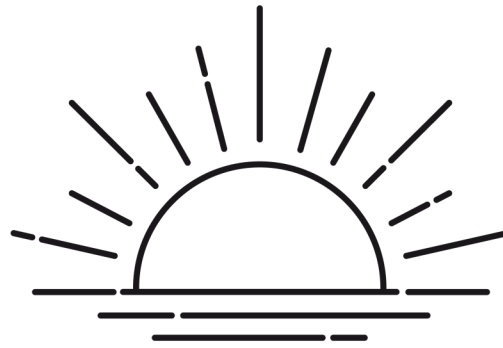
Welcoming the
whole community



Discovering
God's love



Following
Jesus' teaching



HOPE | EXPLORED

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by. Six hundred years before Jesus was born, a prophecy was made about him, that he would be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". The gospel of Luke, which is an account of Jesus's life, explains how these prophecies came true, and that this is great news for all people.

All over the world millions of people find hope and help in knowing Jesus Christ. 'Hope Explored' is a three-session course about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that examines his extraordinary claims. St Andrew's are aiming to begin this 3-session course over the next few weeks. It will include short videos looking at key parts of Luke's gospel and time for discussion christianityexplored.org/courses/hope-explored/ gives more details.

Hope Explored is an introductory course to the Christian Faith that shows how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won't disappoint us. Please get touch with us if you would like to know more.

Renew Westlands Café

What is it?

- a weekly (51 weeks a year) opportunity
- a friendly meeting place
- café for a cuppa
- a safe warm place
- meets each Wednesday, 1.30pm to 4.00pm
- informal drop-in (feel free to come and go)

Who is it for?

Any Adults in the Community who:

- Would enjoy a chat/company
- Might like to do or share a craft
- Would like to get out of the house
- May want to have the opportunity of an optional prayer time

Are any of these you? If so, come along for a "taster" session... you can stay or leave as you prefer. Access from car park to rear of St Andrews, Pilkington Ave ST5 3RE

A Shared Space where it's OK not to be okay



Members of the welcoming team

This Month's Message

As you may have noticed, St Andrew's publicity is now using a new set of words and images. Our last link leaflet focused on the first component of these — and we were indeed delighted to welcome many extra people joining us for worship over Christmas, a number coming for the first time. Next month's 'Link' edition will focus on the way that the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday enable us to discover God's love for every single one of us.



Following Jesus' teaching

... Which leaves the final component of the words we've chosen, *following Jesus teaching*. Sadly, our human selfishness and sin is the cause of many of our world's most profound problems. From everyday tensions between family or neighbours; to war between nations; and everything in between. Jesus, we believe, taught a far better way. I am constantly amazed by the power and relevance of his words, 2000 years after they were first spoken. And though none of us are able to perfectly live up to Jesus' teaching, or his example, nonetheless we believe that it serves as something to set our sights upon. Taking encouragement from Jesus's own promise, too: 'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.' *Matthew 7:24*

Andrew Dawswell

Sunday Services

Each week at 8.30, 10.45am and 6.30pm

At 10.45am this includes Sunday Club for 3-11's Activities, Games, Quizzes and Bible Stories to help children learn about the Christian faith. This meets initially at 10.45 in church, to enable children to join in with the first few minutes of our worship. On All Age Sundays (11 Feb & 10 Mar) we remain together in church for a 45 minute service .

A very warm welcome, especially for any considering joining us for the first time. After the 10.45am service, there's the opportunity to stay on for refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

A new St. Andrew's Hall



We are pleased to be able to report that a large proportion of the funding is now in place for a new building to replace our current hall. In addition, planning permission has now been granted. It will take several months to fulfil some of the associated conditions, but we are very hopeful of being able to begin work before the end of the year, and maybe even starting on site this summer.

More details are available on our website.

Regular activities...

Little Sparklers for 0-3's and their parents or carers, with Bible stories, toys and a chance to chat. From 10-11am on Tuesday mornings in school term time, Meeting in St Andrew's parish room (round the back of the church.)

Xcite After School Club for Years 5,6, 7 & 8 With games, crafts, cooking, quizzes, Bible stories, chats, chill time, refreshments, and fun! Mondays 4-5pm in the Parish Room during term-time

Messy church for Children and Parents together On Saturdays 3th Feb & 2nd March 2.30-4.00pm in St Andrew's Hall

For more details on the above activities, contact our Children and Families' Worker Naomi on 07864 127523, or just turn up!

Also...

Afternoon Tea 3.00pm in St Andrew's Hall on Tuesdays 13th Feb, 12th March & 9th April £4—book by contacting Glenys on 01782 625924 mrsghenysgill@gmail.com Special diets can be catered for if you let us know in advance.

Forget me not Café

For all who are bereaved, whether recently or some time ago. An opportunity to meet with others in a similar position over coffee, tea and biscuits,. We meet in our parish room—directly accessible from the rear car park. The café operates each month on a Friday between 10.30-12noon (23rd Feb, 22nd March, 19th April)