



St Andrew's Westlands

LINK

Autumn 2024

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Vicar: Andrew Dawswell 01782 619594



Welcoming the
whole community



Discovering
God's love



Following
Jesus' teaching

Faith in the Future: a new St Andrew's Hall

Our existing church hall is due to be demolished over the next few weeks, to enable the construction of a new church hall in the same location to begin at around the end of October. More details are available on our website.



Sunday services, weekday activities, funerals etc. will be continuing largely as normal during the period of building, and if all goes well the new hall will be available for us to use around June 2025.

Coming up soon...

Saturday 12th October, 7-9 pm — Fish and Chip supper and Beetle Drive, at the Whitfield Community Centre

Sunday 20th October 4.00pm— Memorial Service giving thanks for those we have loved & lost

Sunday 10th November 10.45am— Remembrance Sunday service

Saturday 16th November —We will be joining in with the national TearFund Big Quiz Night, to support their work in seeking to end poverty across the world.

Sunday Services

8.30 am We begin each Sunday with a traditional service. This includes prayer, and hearing God's word in the bible read and explained. Though there aren't any hymns, this means that the service is relatively short (30-40 minutes).

10.45am Our main service offers a warm welcome to all - *with provision for children and young people each week too, details inside.* Again God's word is at the centre, but there's plenty of music too, including a lively worship band on most 2nd & 4th Sundays. As each 10.45 service concludes, there's the opportunity to stay on afterwards for refreshments.

6.30 pm We're one of the few local churches to still hold a weekly Sunday evening service. It generally follows a fairly traditional pattern, although on the 2nd Sunday of each month it's Café church, which includes time for fellowship and discussion of the scriptures together.

Each week, one of our services includes Holy Communion—generally as part of our 8.30 service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays; at 10.45 on the 3rd & 5th Sundays; and at 6.30 on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Harvest Sunday

We will be celebrating God's provision on Sunday services on 13th October.

Do join us if you can.



A very warm welcome to all our activities and services

Autumn Message

Churches across the world celebrate Harvest festivals to remind us that the world we live in is not only stunningly beautiful, but very productive too. It yields more than enough food, if only we shared it out more fairly, to feed the planet's 8.2 billion people.

In one of his most poignant parables, Jesus compared God's provision to that of an agricultural landlord who had invested in setting up a well-equipped vineyard. He installed tenants—who were able to benefit hugely from what their landlord had provided—but who refused to pay the rent that was due.

The parable's main point is to describe the tenants ill-treatment not only of Lord's servants, but ultimately of his Son. You can read the full story, with its accompanying warnings, in chapter 12 of Marks gospel.

But even in the initial set-up of this important little story, there's a very significant message. For I'm aware that many, perhaps most, people in the UK today, believe in God... yet regard any idea that He expects our worship and obedience as something of an anachronism.

Of course human endeavour has been responsible for a good deal of shaping and honing our world. However the parable reminds us that ultimately planet earth, with all its potential, has been provided for us by an amazingly generous God. And that his demands on us are no more unreasonable... than that of a landlord simply expecting what is his due.

Andrew Dawswell



Each Sunday at 10.45 there are activities for 3-11's to enjoy and help them understand the Christian faith.

Most weeks we run a Sunday Club, which takes place in our church hall after participating in the beginning of our main church service; although we will all be remaining in church for All Age Services on 13th Oct & 8th Dec. We're also restarting a Sunday morning group for Yr 6+, Sunday Squad

Other activities for children and families

Xcite Club—For school years 5 to 7. Includes Wii games, table football, snacks, discussions about life and faith, cooking and crafts. Mondays in term time 4-5pm in St. Andrew's Parish Room, directly accessible from the rear car park.

Little Sparklers Toddler Group—Tuesdays in term-time at 10-11am in St Andrew's Parish Room. A friendly and fun space for babies, toddlers (0-3 year olds) and their parents, grandparents or carers. Designed for any who have a little one at home and would appreciate a warm place to meet others for encouragement and a listening ear

Messy Church— bring your children. 2.30-4.00pm on Saturday Oct 5th and Nov 9th. Our annual Christingle service is also coming up soon— 4.30pm on Sun 1st Dec.

Contact the vicar for more details—or see our facebook page for Families at Church in the Westlands.

Craft and Chat

Come along and join our monthly Craft and Chat Group on the first Monday of each month, 2 pm to 3.30 pm. Social time with a cuppa and biscuits; bring whatever craft you enjoy such as knitting, crochet or embroidery, or just bring yourself! All in St Andrew's Parish Room . For more details, contact Margaret on 01782 612009.

Afternoon Tea

All are welcome to come and join us for our monthly Tuesday afternoon tea, the next dates are: 15th Oct & 12th Nov

3.30pm in St Andrew's Parish Room Cost £4 -pay on the day. Special diets can be catered for if you let us know in advance.

Please book by contacting Glenys on mrsghenysgill@gmail.com 01782 625924.

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 (20th Sept, 18th Oct, 15th Nov, 20th Dec)

Renew Westlands Café

Every Wednesday in the Parish Room, drop in anytime between 1.30-4.00pm. Especially for any who are • a bit lonely and want a chat • anxious but would value a safe place. Including a cuppa and the option of crafts, jigsaws, games etc.