



St Andrew's Westlands LINK

Christmas 2024

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Vicar: Andrew Dawswell 01782 619594



Welcoming the
whole community



Discovering
God's love



Following
Jesus' teaching

Christingle Service



Sun Dec 1st 4.30pm
All are welcome to our annual
candle-lit service which is ideal for
children—to enable us to begin
celebrating the coming of Jesus as
The Light of the World.



Christmas Services

All Age Carol Service

Sun Dec 15^h 10.45 am

Candlelit Carol Service,

with players from Newcastle under Lyme

Community Orchestra

Sun Dec 22th 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service 3.30 pm

Midnight Communion 11.30 pm

Christmas Day

All Age Service 10.45 am

followed by option of Holy Communion

*We are also offering a warm
welcome to Seabridge,
Coppice, Friarswood, Langdale
& Westlands schools for their
Christmas Services.*



Christmas Message

Looking through cartoons on 'Christmas creep' I found one featuring a lady on a stepladder being rebuked by a passer-by—for leaving it till March to take down her festive decorations. 'You've got it all wrong' she replied, 'I'm getting them up early for next Christmas'. Another cartoon focused on what some see as a different kind of seasonal creep. With a man complaining to his wife 'Have you noticed how religion tries to creep into Christmas every single year.'

Even as a vicar I'm not sure I've any objection to those who enjoy a largely secular Christmas. Connecting up with family and friends, time off work to unwind, and enjoying many of the season's entirely secular traditions together are all of real value in themselves.



God with us

And the story of Christ's coming that started it all off? To some, I'm aware, it's a just charming concoction, the ultimate tale of riches-to-rags-to-riches. Fair enough—but there are still millions of people in the world for whom it all means a great deal more than that. Whose conviction is that Jesus' coming into the world not only made a difference 2000 years ago. But that his presence transforms our lives today. Not just during festive season, however short or long that might stretch out to be. But every single day, of every single year.

Andrew Dawswell

Sunday Services

Each week at 8.30, 10.45am and 6.30pm

At 10.45 am this includes Sunday Club for 3-10's and often Sunday Squad for 10-15's too.

Activities, Games, Quizzes and Bible Stories to help young people 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 (15 Dec & 12 Jan) we remain together in church for a 45 minute service.

Toy service

Please bring your nearly new toys to our 10.45 service on Dec 8th. Toiletries welcome too—all to be given to support local families linked to the Glow refuge in Newcastle.

Crib service



Christmas Eve 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 star and you can hang it on our Christmas tree.



We are very grateful to our neighbours at Newcastle-under-Lyme Islamic Centre (the former St Peter's building) for providing a publicly available defibrillator. Our church council had been planning something similar outside our new hall, but have agreed instead to share the future running costs for Nulic's device just over the road from us.

Book Club



A new group for or all who enjoy reading, discussing and sharing books. Meets on Thurs 12th Dec and then monthly at 10.30-12 in the parish room. More details from karengall@hotmail.com or via vicar.

Other groups meeting in St Andrew's parish room (directly accessible car park at rear of church) include...

Afternoon Tea 3.30pm on Tues 10th Dec & 14th Jan. 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. Monthly on 3rd Fridays 10.30am-12 (20th Dec, 17th Jan...)

Renew Westlands Café

Every Wednesday (except 25th Dec & 1 Jan) Drop in anytime between 1.30-4.00. 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, jigsaw, games...

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 till 10th Dec, then restarting on 7th Jan.

Xcite After School Club For Years 6, 7 & 8 With games, crafts, cooking, quizzes, Bible stories, chats, chill time, refreshments, and fun! Term-time Mondays 4-5pm

Messy church For Children and Parents Monthly on Saturdays 2.30-4pm (7th Dec, 11th Jan, 8th Feb...)