



St Andrew's Westlands

LINK

Feb 2025

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Vicar: Andrew Dawswell 01782 619594



Welcoming the
whole community



Discovering
God's love



Following
Jesus' teaching

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

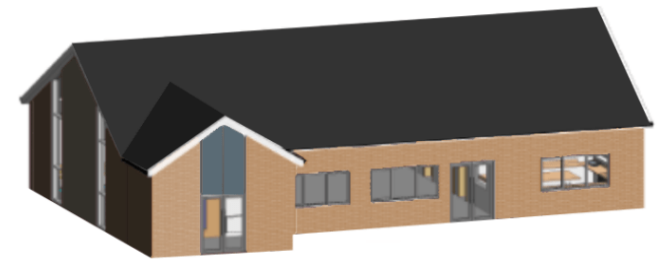
Are any of these you? If so, come along for a "taster" session... you can stay or leave as you prefer. Access from car park to rear of St Andrews, Pilkington Ave ST5 3RE

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

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

C.S. Lewis, academic & author, Chronicles of Narnia

St. Andrew's New Hall



Our builders are making good progress, and the hall is scheduled to be open around June. There will be some availability for hiring by locally based groups and activities. We are still in the process of deciding hourly rates and any restrictions relating to both one-off and regular bookings. However it would be a help to our church council if any who might be interested in regular hiring were to express a preliminary interest to: mrchrisgill2@gmail.com
01782 625924

IDENTITY

Who is God? Who are we?

In the New Testament section of the Bible in St John's Gospel we find help in clearing up the confusion about who we are and who God is. We are soon to start a 7 week course focused on this., Each session revealing more about the identity and mission of Jesus and showing why he is the key to life and the one who can throw light on our big questions. Nothing is assumed, we will explore together, anything can be asked. We would love you to join us. For more details email Irene at hardacrej@aol.com or ring the vicarage on 01782 619594

This Month's Message

Every few years the media run a story about somebody claiming to have startling new information to add to the established understanding of Jesus, or even overturn it. Usually it turns out to be a very speculative interpretation of documents that were written far later than the gospels themselves.

However in the bible itself, there's one important episode that isn't generally included in most retellings of the nativity. It describes the visit of Mary, Joseph and Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to perform the expected purifications. As we are told that it happened 40 days after Jesus' birth, it may even have taken place before the visit of the wise men.

In the temple they encounter two faithful older believers. Simeon was a man who had been waiting for this moment all his life. Taking their baby in his arms, he re-iterates Jesus' significance in bringing salvation to the world. But adding too that he will be a 'light of revelation' - and not just to his own nation but to all people, everywhere.

Though the narrative does not make clear how many heard Simeon's actual words, we are told that a widow called Anna was present as well. And she shared the good news of Jesus' coming with all who were open to hear it.

Our world can at times feel like a very gloomy place, metaphorically speaking. But Christians around the world continue to rejoice in the good news of Jesus' coming that has now been passed on to us—bringing light and hope.

Andrew Dawswell

Sunday Services

Each week at 8.30, 10.45am and 6.30pm

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 church afterwards.

At 10.45am we also offer Sunday Club groups for 3-10's & 10-15'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 (9 Feb & 9 Mar and Mothering Sunday on 30 Mar) we remain together in church for a 45 minute service.

Craft and chat

Bring along any knitting, crochet or other craft work you enjoy, or just join in the chat. You will be very welcome. £1 donation is appreciated.

It will be taking place in the Parish Room, directly accessible from the rear car park, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm on 3 Feb, 3 Mar, 7 Apr— i.e. generally on the first Monday of the month, although this is usually adjusted to avoid bank holidays



Regular activities...



for 0-3's and their parents or carers, with Bible stories, toys and a

chance to chat over refreshments. From 10-11am on Tuesday mornings in school term time. Meeting in St Andrew's parish room (round the back of the church.) Free

Xcite After School Club for Years 5,6 & 7
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 8th Feb & 8th March
2.30-4.00pm in St Andrew's Parish Room

For more details on the above activities, visit churchinthewestlands.org.uk, or just turn up!

Also...

Afternoon Tea 3.00pm in St Andrew's Hall
on Tuesdays 11th Feb, 11th March
£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 generally on the 3rd Friday between 10.30-12noon (i.e. 21st Feb, 21st Mar)