Regular events

In the new hall:

Messy church… for Children and Parents together
Sats 5th Dec, 9th Jan & 6th Feb 2.30-4.00pm

Craft and Chat… 2-3.30pm on Mondays 7th Dec, 4th Jan and 1st Feb. Details - Margaret on 01782 612009.

Xcite… for Yrs 5,6 & 7. Wii games, table football, snacks, discussions about life and faith, cooking and crafts. Term-time Mondays 4-5pm in the parish room . For more info. contact 07969 287237 or mrchrisgill2@gmail.com

Afternoon tea… 3.00pm on Tuesdays, re-starting 12th Jan, 9th Feb … £5.00 - book via mrsglenysgill@gmail.com or 07749 896532. Special diets can be catered for if notice given.

Renew Westlands Café… Every Wednesday (except for Dec 30th). Drop in anytime between 1.30-4.00. Especially for any who are: a bit lonely and want a chat; or anxious but would value a safe place. Including a cuppa and the option of crafts, jigsaw, games etc.

In the parish room, accessible from rear car park:

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 during school term-time.

Forget me not Café… For all who are bereaved, a chance to meet with others in a similar position. Generally on 3rd Fridays between 10.30-12noon (20th Nov, 18th Dec, 15th Jan…)

Book Club… 10.30 -12 Last Thursday in the month (moving forard to 17th for Dec)

All Welcome

Christingle Service



Sun Nov 29th

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.

The event begins at 4.00 pm in our hall — each family making their own Christingles, before going over to church for the service.

Christmas Services

All Age Carol Service
Sun Dec 13th 10.45 am

Candlelit Carol Service
Sun Dec 20th 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 .

Pilkington Avenue ST5 3RE

www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk

Vicar: Andrew Dawswell 01782 619594

St Andrew's Westlands

LINK



Follow that star

"Follow that car!" — was the oft-repeated cry in many old movies , shouted by a detective or character trying to chase someone. The bible's account of the first nativity speaks of the wise men following, not a car but rather a star that eventually led them to the newborn Christ in Bethlehem.

There continues to be speculation as to whether that celestial light can be identified with any independently recorded astronomical event. Last year, a planetary scientist at NASA wrote an article in the journal of the British Astronomical Association. It proposed that a comet on a near-collision course to earth could explain how, from the perspective of our planet, the 'star' appeared to become stationary for a period above where the child lay.

Whatever the explanation, the magi's travelling represented a real commitment to what was for them clearly a genuine spiritual quest. And that has often been seen to encourage people today to pursue a similar search: for truth and for faith. As our Lord himself subsequently encouraged his listeners:

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. *Matthew 7:7*

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.

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 (13 Dec & 10 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 6th. 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.



Welcome to Rebekah

After quite a long period looking for someone suitable, we were very pleased to welcome Rebekah Wisbey as our full-time children & families worker in September.



Rebekah writes:

I was born in Oxfordshire and spent my childhood attending the local Baptist Church. From when I can remember I always enjoyed looking after children. I was baptised around aged 16 and my faith really became my own when I gained more independence at university. That time also enabled me to get involved with a local church and all its children's ministry opportunities. I am excited to be a part of St Andrews and to be working alongside your wonderful Children and Families.

Christmas Wreath-Making

Sat 28th Nov 2–4 pm. Led by Emma Williams of Field Floristry, Market Drayton who will show us how to make a beautiful door wreath. £40 all materials provided, with drinks & homemade cakes included.

Booking by 24th Nov essential:
07749 896532 mrsglenysgill@gmail.com