



*This season, may you enjoy the message of hope, love, and peace on Earth.
From us all at St. Andrew's, we send best wishes for Advent, Christmas and the New Year*



Welcome to the festive newsletter, which brings news of what's been happening at St. Andrew's, and a warm invitation to join us at some of our services and events. Christmas is an incredibly special time here; the church looks magical in its festive dressing, and our services bring inspiration, joy and a little bit of peace in all the glitter and busyness that surrounds this time of year.

The church remains open all day, welcoming you at any time – to visit – to pray - to worship – to meet with friends and to bring your family and enjoy the lovely space. This wonderful building has inspired over 300 people in October alone to leave prayers and wishes on our Prayer Tree.

COVID SECURE

We continue to ask our visitors to wear a mask in church, helping to keep us all safe.

LOOKING BACK.....

In our October communion service, we said an emotional farewell to Rev'd Alun Glyn-Jones, as he moves back to Twickenham. Alun and Chris his wife have been with us and supported us through 20 years and are hugely missed by us all.

But we have been lucky to welcome Anjali Kanagaratnam, our new Benefice Curate, who has taken several of our services and is now very much part of the life at St. Andrew's. We look forward to celebrating our Christmas services with Anjali.



The last few months have been busy with our usual services, weddings, a pet service and Harvest Festival... and we were delighted to welcome the Royal Corps of Signals to our Remembrance service, where about 100 joined us by the village memorial. This was followed by a church service of readings, hymns and a recollection of the war in Afghanistan. Those present raised over £450 for the Royal British Legion.



LOOKING FORWARD.....

With Advent here, our thoughts are turning to bring light and decoration to the church. In line with our wish to minimise our impact and be as sustainable as possible, we will look truly green! and use locally donated foliage and decorations with a few flower highlights. We have been generously donated a locally grown Christmas tree. If you would like to help with the decoration, around the 6th/ 7th December – please contact one of the numbers below. It's always a lovely moment to spend in the church.

FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 8th December, we will be holding a coffee morning, from 10.30 till midday. It will be a chance for villagers and the wider community to get together, enjoying nibbles (and a glass of something warm and festive). We would be delighted to see you there.

ECO CHURCH SUSTAINABILITY CALENDAR

This is a new initiative, led by Mike Roberts, which helps the church offer leadership and a focus on areas in which we can improve the way we live our lives, and lessen the impact we have on the world around us. The month of January will start the calendar with advice and information about Carbon. It is hoped to have another get together early in the New Year, with a focus on recycling difficult products. Please watch the new website (details below) for up-to-date information on this, which will also be available in the church.

CHURCHYARD

Throughout the long months of lockdown, a lot of work was undertaken to plant the new bank into the lower churchyard, spread wildflower seeds and native daffodils – some to remind us of Alun Glyn-Jones – and numerous new bird, insect and bat boxes have been put up. If you stand and watch, and listen, the churchyard is teeming with wildlife. We hope to see the benefit of the new homes in the years to come.

SERVICES

Please join us for services on the following dates. Our morning services are followed by coffee and refreshments, to give us time to chat and be together.

Sunday 5 th December	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th December	“Drive in” Carol Service, Castle Combe Race Circuit
	Gates open 3.00 pm and Service 4.00pm

**Sunday 19th December 6.00 pm Candlelit Carols
Traditional 7 Lessons and Carols followed by Christmas refreshments.**

Friday 24th December 11.00 pm Christmas Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd January 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th January 11.00 am Family Praise



For any help, support or assistance in getting to church or in any other way, please do contact us:

Sally & Michael Constable	07811465985
Julie Hare	07580537005
Karen Munnings	07973201706
Mike Roberts	07717546070
Nicola Wood	07802880206
Or e-mail St Andrew's Church	standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com

New church website <https://standrewschurchcastlecombe.org/>

Note: We are keen to contact you with news from St Andrew's, but should you not wish to receive these newsletters in the future please tell us by emailing: standrewschurchcc@btinternet.com