



*“In the November woods exists a true silence. Stop and treasure the peace, reflect in the quiet and be still”.*



The woods above the village are clothed in gold as the beech trees put on their final display. In the low light of autumn, it is a magical place to be.

Welcome to our latest 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 suitably dressed, and our services bring inspiration, joy and a little bit of peace in all the glitter and busyness that surrounds this time of year.

#### LOOKING BACK.....

Since sending the last newsletter, we have celebrated the Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee....and united the Nation in the mourning of her death in September. The joy of our village celebrations turned to sorrow, and visitors joined residents in special services to mark her passing. The Book of Condolence was quickly filled with thoughtful and heartfelt tributes and memories of the Queen, and the display in tribute to her has been much visited throughout the year.

Further commemorations took place on Remembrance Sunday. A beautifully blue and still autumn day saw a large crowd gathered by the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, laying of wreaths and service inside – which was dedicated to the Falklands Conflict and the military service and dedication of the Queen.

There was a retiring collection in aid of  
The Royal British Legion



#### Community Activities



It is important for our community to get together, and we are holding regular coffee mornings in St. Andrew's, welcoming villagers, local friends and visitors for coffee, cake and chat. This month's event saw a HUGE!! cake selection and folk lingered for a couple of hours, catching up and making new connections.



There will be a **festive coffee morning on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – details at the end.



### Eco Church

The Bybrook Sustainability Calendar, led by Mike Roberts, has offered thought-provoking ideas and advice throughout this year on ways in which we can minimise our impact on the world. This month, he looks at the excesses of Christmas spending and wasted gifts, and ways in which we might make our shrinking wallets do more good. Details can be found on the St. Andrew's website (details below).

We continue to look at everything we do in the church and its' grounds, with a view to reducing our footprint. We are pleased to note that while our electricity bills are climbing, our usage has plummeted with the change to high-level LED lighting; the new lights provide a much brighter glow and greatly reduce our usage.



### Supporting for Others

Month by month we have all been affected by the distressing events unfolding across the world – particularly, the hideous war in Ukraine and the floods in Pakistan, which have devastated vast swathes of the country. Far away as we may be, our community and visitors from across the world, have donated towards our appeals- and we have been able to send over £2000 to Ukraine, and another £1500 to other charities working in important areas. We are so grateful for all this vital support.



### SERVICES & EVENTS

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 4<sup>th</sup> December**                      **11.00 am Holy Communion**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am to 12.30 am** Festive coffee and cake in the beautiful surroundings of St Andrew's, decorated for Christmas and with a few pop-up stalls to browse.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**                      **6.00 pm Candlelit Carols**  
**Traditional 7 Lessons and Carols followed by festive refreshments.**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**                      **11.00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion**  
A very special service and a moment of peace to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January                      11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January                      11.00 am Family Praise



***"A Christmas Greeting" from all of us at St. Andrew's.***

***We would like to send blessings to you, your families and friends this coming Christmas, and also extend these wishes for a peaceful, happy and healthy 2023.***