

The Vicar writes...

Most of us—though not all—at St Andrew's will have felt a great sense of disappointment and frustration following the failure of the legislation for women bishops to receive the necessary majority in the House of Laity of the General Synod. Many of us will deeply regret what messages it gives to women in ministry—and to women generally, in and outside the Church.

But all of us will probably be concerned at the impression of the Church this has left on the wider world.

Of course the Church should never simply ape what's going on in wider society—that is the way of 'the salt losing its saltiness'. I am not concerned if the world thinks the Church is too moral—but I am concerned if it thinks that it is unjust.

It sends me back to two parts of Scripture that we have looked at recently.

The first is the book of Jonah—the prophet who stands for the people of God (today that means us) who seem to make more of a mess of everything than the big, bad world (Nineveh) who, if only we got our act together and proclaimed the message faithfully, are willing to listen and respond.

The second is from last week's gospel: 'When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.' And that's true of this situation: the end is still to come. Frustrating though this is for many of us, everyone accepts that the ordination of women bishops will come. In the light of eternity this is but a blip.

We need to crawl out on to the beach and head back for Nineveh...

Nick

Some Contacts at St Andrew's

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There is a list of PCC Members at the back of the church.

If you would like a copy of the notice sheet e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to the Parish Administrator.

A large print version is available at the back of the Church



ST ANDREW'S, CHESTERTON

*A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages*

www.standrews-chesterton.org

2 December 2012

Welcome to St Andrew's as we enter the season of Advent.

Tonight there is a service to mark both the beginning of Advent and our own St Andrew's Day (which was on Friday). Do come and join us for a special celebration of words and music.

Next Sunday at 10am there will be a choice of services: an All-age Eucharist in the Hall and a Sung Eucharist in Church. Our preacher in Church will be the Revd Paul Dominiak, chaplain of Trinity College (our patrons), who lives in the parish.

If you would like to know more about life at St Andrew's, please fill in one of the 'Welcome' cards in the pews and hand it in to one of the clergy.

There is a toilet at the east end of the church: a sidesperson will point you in the right direction.

'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.'

Jeremiah 33.15

Today, Advent 1

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00am All-age Communion
- 3.30pm Sports club
- 6.30pm Music & Readings for Advent and St Andrew's-tide

During the week

Monday-Friday

- 8.15am Morning Prayer (9am Tues)

Monday

- 10.15am Coffee morning (Hall)
- 8.00pm PCC prayers (Hall)*

Tuesday-Friday, 12-2pm

food4food community café

Tuesday

- 12.15pm Holy Communion in Church followed by lunch at the food4food café

Thursday

- 9.15am Church Mice: for babies, toddlers and carers (Hall)
- 6.00pm Christmas tree lighting & Carols (outside Methodist Church)
- 8.00pm Guild of the Servers of the Sanctuary Service

Friday

- 4.00pm Vigil & Vespers
- 7.30pm Hard Questions*

Sunday, Advent 2

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 10.00am Informal Eucharist in Hall
- 6.30pm Evensong

Please pray for:

- Among the sick, housebound or recovering: Alison Hughes, Diana Blackwood Murray, Betty and Gordon Borley, Harry Holroyd, Dorothy Richardson, Benjamin Black, Lyn Carr
- Potential Church involvement in the new school on Green End Road
- Our development project's first stage: the ramp and new inner porch
- The fallout following General Synod's vote on women bishops
- **RIP** Christine Newman, Valerie Brown, Hetty Calladine, Brian Milton

Coming up... this week

The PCC meets for prayer on **Monday** at 8pm in the Hall. We pray for the life and mission of the church at St Andrew's and beyond. All are welcome to join us. We pray for an hour and then Nick invites any who would like to join him for a swift pint at the Green Dragon....

Our weekly Coffee, Cake and Christmas Card sessions continue at the Hall this week, with refreshments from food4food café and Christmas cards, gift tags and wrapping paper from Phoenix Trading. Drop in between 10.30am and 12 noon on **Friday** to see what's on offer.

Hard Questions will be at Helen and Harry Druiff's home, 43, Highfield Avenue, at 7.30 – 10.00pm on **Friday** to discuss "What do we actually believe in?" so come along and participate!

Coming up... later this month

On **16 December** within the 10am family service, there will be the opportunity for younger actors to dress up and participate in a **Nativity play** tableau. If you already have a suitable costume then please come to church wearing it, and if you do not, then you can be issued with one on arrival.

You could even come early! NB no kings please, as we all know they don't arrive till Epiphany. Any questions to Dorothy or Victoria.

Come and sing your favourite carols with members of CSD Brass on **Thursday 20 December** at 6.30pm in the churchyard (indoors if wet). Christmas food & drink will be served. Please bring a lantern if you have one!

St Andrew's News & Notices

Our deanery **baptism and confirmation** is booked for **Monday 15 April 2013**. Would you like to be prepared for baptism/confirmation (and full membership of the Church)? If so, do have a word with Nick.

A reminder that copies of *Chesterton News* are awaiting distribution at the back of church. Would distributors please collect their bundles.

If you are a singer but don't sing in any of the St Andrew's Church choirs, you are very welcome to join the **choir for the Carol Service** (7.30pm on Christmas Eve). If you are interested, please contact Mary Pountain by Sunday 2 December as we need to know how many music copies will be needed. Rehearsals are as follows: Fri 14 Dec 7.30pm - 9pm, Wed 19 Dec 7.30pm-9pm, Fri 21 Dec 6.50pm-9pm, Sun 23 Dec 6pm-9pm, Sat 24 Dec 5.50pm (in Hall) service at 7.30pm in church. Tel C. 311055, email mary.pountain@gmail.com

Many thanks once again to everyone who took part in the St Andrew's Youth Choir concert and Autumn Fayre last weekend. We raised nearly £200 to be split between Brown's Field House Amenities Fund and Blue Smile, as well as monies taken on stalls.

Next April we will be returning to Belsey Bridge, Ditchingham, for another **Parish Weekend**. Leaflets (with booking forms) are available at the back of church. Do

please write the dates in your diaries now and book as soon as possible—don't just file it away!! The dates are 12-14 April 2013.

Please don't forget that we have an ongoing commitment to supply goods to the Cambridge Food Bank. You can bring them to church any week but especially Family Service days (like today) when they will be brought up with the offering. We are looking for someone with a car, who shops at Sainsbury's Coldhams Lane, and could drop goods off now and then. Any offers to Dorothy or Lesley. The shopping list of suitable items includes any of:

- tinned: meat/fish, vegetables, rice/sponge puddings, tomatoes
- longlife fruit juice cartons, UHT/powdered milk
- sugar, tea bags, instant coffee
- soup, pasta sauces, cereals, instant mashed potato, rice/pasta
- jam, biscuits, snack bars.

The next **book group** will take place at 42 Hawthorn Way, 367351, at 8pm on **15 January**. We are reading Julian Barnes's 'The Sense of an Ending', a novella about meditation on ageing, memory and regret.

Other News & Notices

Christmas Readings at Milton Road Library: A popular programme of favourite comic, traditional and sentimental Christmas poems and prose, including readings from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Performed by Geoff Hales Travelling Theatre. **Monday 10 December 7.30pm** at Milton Road Library. Mince pies and mulled wine. Donations £5 to £10 requested to help the Friends of Milton Library support and enrich the library.

Quiet Days at Lode Chapel continue on the second Saturday of each month.....
8 Dec 'Waiting room' Waiting for God
12 Jan 'God with us' as an infant

Readings for Daily Prayer

Monday	Revelation 19
Tuesday	Revelation 20
Wednesday	Revelation 21.1-8
Thursday	Revelation 21.9-21
Friday	Revelation 21.22-22.5
Saturday	Revelation 22.6-end

Next Sunday's Readings
Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6

9 Feb 'God with us' in joy
9 Mar 'God with us' as our servant

The day begins with refreshments at 10am and finishes at 4pm. A simple lunch is provided. Contact Tricia for further details and to book a place (01223 521786 or patricia.troughton@ntlworld.com).

Christmas Services

Tuesday 18 December

7.00pm 'A Garland of Carols'
Christmas concert by the Senior Youth Choir

Thursday 20 December

6.30pm Community Carols in the churchyard; indoors if weather is bad

Sunday 23 December

4.00pm Christingle & Crib Service followed by Christmas crafts in the Hall

Christmas Eve

7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols (not suitable for young children)
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am All-age Communion