

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

9 December 2012

Welcome to St Andrew's.

Today there are two services at 10am—an Informal Eucharist in the Hall and a Sung Eucharist in Church. In Church we welcome the Revd Paul Dominiak as our preacher. Paul is one of the chaplains at Trinity College, our patrons, and he and his family live in Chesterton Hall Crescent.

Coffee and refreshments will be served as usual in the Hall after both services.

Please see the notice inside about sending just one Christmas card to your St Andrew's friends via the tree at the back. From next week there will also be pigeonholes at the back for those who would prefer to send many.

There are posters for our Christmas services at the back of church. Do take one if you have somewhere suitable to display it.

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.

'Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.'
Malachi 3.1

Today, Advent 2

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

During the week

Monday-Friday

8.15am Morning Prayer (9am Tues)

Monday

10.15am Coffee morning (Hall)

Tuesday-Friday, 12-2pm

food4food community café

Tuesday

12.15pm Holy Communion in Church
followed by lunch at the
food4food café
8.00pm House group

Thursday

9.15am Church Mice: for babies,
toddlers and carers (Hall)

Friday

1.30pm Funeral of Christine Newman
4.00pm Vigil & Vespers

Sunday, Advent 3

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Family Service & Nativity Play
11.15am No service
6.30pm Quiet Eucharist

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
- Our church musicians as we approach this busy time for them
- **RIP** Christine Newman, Valerie Brown, Hetty Calladine, Brian Milton

Coming up... this week

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.

The next **Umbrella Group** meeting is Carols and Christmas readings with mince pies and a cup of tea at 1 Leys Road on **Thursday** at 2.00pm.

Christine Newman's funeral will be at St Andrew's on **Friday** at 1.30pm.

Coming up... next Sunday

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.

Coming up... later this month

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!

Please come on **Saturday 22 December** at 10am to help prepare the church for Christmas. Sarah Abrey will be leading a team assembling christingles; the tree will be put up and decorated and there may even be the chance to polish some brass or silver! Refreshments and festive company will help the time to slip by.

Please note that the **Crib Service** and **Christingle Service** are wrapped into one this year—on **Sunday 23 December** at 4pm. There will be a cup of tea afterwards and Christmas crafts for the children.

Looking ahead, please note that there will be no evening service on **Sunday 30 December**.

St Andrew's News & Notices

The Healing Group will not be meeting on Friday 21 December.

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.

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.

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.

Tricia Troughton writes

Wish everyone a Happy Christmas at St Andrew's and support WinterComfort: why not combine your good wishes for everyone at church with a donation to WinterComfort? Here's how: 1. choose one of your cards to write your greeting (saves writing to everyone separately), 2. stick it to the 'tree' at the back of church (everyone can read it), 3. put your donation (eg £1, £5) in a Gift Aid envelope marked 'WinterComfort' into the collection plate (folk in dire straits will benefit). Hopefully everyone will benefit that way! Happy Christmas!

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 Day at St Giles, **Saturday 15 December**, 10 am-4pm. "Towards the Nativity: An Advent Reflection with St Francis" led by Revd Pam Thorn. £18 including lunch, tea and refreshments. Contact C 315000 or office@churchatcastle to register. Website link is <http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/137>

Quiet Days at Lode Chapel continue on the second Saturday of each month.....

Readings for Daily Prayer

Monday	1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 3
Friday	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Saturday	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

Next Sunday's Reading
Luke 3.7-18

12 Jan 'God with us' as an infant
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).

Two 23-year-old Italian girls (friends of Elizabeth, Ursula Sainsbury's daughter) are looking for au-pair jobs for 3-6 months starting as soon as possible. Email:

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