

The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

www.standrewschurchguernsey.org



Newsletter for Advent 3, 14 December 2025



The Rector writes ...

More than 200 **angels** which have been made by people at St Andrew's church were taken to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital last Monday, and given to staff and patients.

Linda Le Vasseur, the Hospital Chaplain (pictured with Judy Barker at the handover) wrote, 'I just wanted to say that the angels flew out of their hiding places within less than half an hour. My thanks to you and your team. One of the angels went with a very sick baby to Southampton General Hospital in a Medivac.'

I add my thanks for this wonderful initiative to show our concern and support for the wider community in Guernsey.

Another highpoint of the week was welcoming the children from **Blanchelande College** junior

school to St Andrew's church for their Christingle service on Wednesday. Since the closure of St Andrew's Primary School, in the summer before I moved to Guernsey, we have had little opportunity to work with local schools. The emerging links with Blanchelande College are, therefore, a great joy.

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I am delighted to welcome **the Revd Mark Charmley**, Rector of St Saviour and Torteval, to St Andrew's church on Sunday morning, to preside and preach at the 10 am service. I will be at St Saviour's church on Sunday morning. With the current shortage of clergy, on top of some colleagues being indisposed, the only way that I can easily visit other churches in the deanery is by an exchange with colleagues.

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Information about our Christmas services is printed below. We need volunteers to read at the **Carol service** next Sunday evening. There's a sign up list in church.

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And many thanks to all the volunteers who have decorated the **Christmas tree** and prepared the candles in church for the Christmas services, especially Jeremy Witham, Sharon Harvey, Alex Horsbrugh-Porter and John Campbell.

This week

Sunday 14 December

Advent 3

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Holy Communion
11.15 am	Choir practice

Thursday 18 December	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sunday 21 December	Advent 4	
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.30 pm	Carol service



Holy Communion, and laying on of hands and prayers for healing on

Wednesday at 10.30 am at the **Monnaie Chapel**. The Monnaie Chapel is a remarkable place – accessed off the Rue du Monnaie (halfway up the road, on the left, when approaching from Les Poidevins).

Christmas services at St Andrew's church

Sunday 21 December	4.30 pm	Carol service
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Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

4.00 pm	Crib service
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9.00 pm	Midnight Mass - the first Communion of Christmas
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Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day)

10.00 am	Holy Communion - the Eucharist for Christmas Day
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Sunday 28 December	10.00 am	Holy Communion
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There is no service at 8 am on Sunday 28 December

Around the island ...

There are posters in church for several events, including concerts by the **Guernsey Choral and Orchestral Society** at St James on Friday and Saturday evenings. Several people from St Andrew's church will be singing or playing in the concerts.

Prayers for the week

A prayer for the week:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray

- for all who work to ensure our safety when we travel by air or sea to and from Guernsey;
- for police officers and support staff;
- for the people of Alderney, as they mark the 80th anniversary of Homecoming on Monday;
- for those who live amidst the continuing fighting in Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Ukraine and other troubled places in the world, and for peace and reconciliation in Gaza and the West Bank.

We pray

- in the **Guernsey churches prayer cycle**, for Capelles Methodist church, and for ministers and clergy and their families as they manage the joys and challenges of Advent;

- for all who live in the **parish of St Andrew** and for our church community, and for our constables and douzeniers;
- for those for whom our prayers have been requested:
 - Dennis Parton, Mike O'Hara, David Harvey, Godfray Guilbert;
 - church members: Cathy Belcher, Audrey Gollop, Stella Machon;
 - friends and family: Emma, Jean Walsh, Stina Holmes, Elisa, Pauline, George Maiden, Georgina, David, Fletch O'Hara, and Chris and Diane Lesbirel.



Finally ...

I am in Alderney on Monday, for the 80th anniversary of Homecoming. Weather permitting, of course!

With my prayers and best wishes,

Tim

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Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at your first coming sent your messenger
 to prepare your way before you:
 grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
 may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
 that at your second coming to judge the world
 we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
 for you are alive and reign with the Father
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Hymns and liturgy at 10 am

1	45	O come, O come, Emmanuel	Tune: Veni Emmanuel
2	34	Earth was waiting, spent and restless	Tune: Picardy
3	57	Ye servants of the Lord	Tune: Narenza
4	826	Ye holy angels bright	Tune: Darwell's 148th
Creed	1 (Said)		
Sanctus, etc	Sung (usual setting)		

Readings

Old Testament reading: the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 35 verses 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
 and rejoice with joy and singing.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
‘Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel: Matthew 11 verses 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”’



Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

