

Diary for this week 22nd – 27th December

Mon 3.00pm Learner Bell Ringers practice
Tues 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's
Weds **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4.00pm Crib Service
9.00pm Christmas Night Communion at St Bridget's
11.00pm Midnight Eucharist
Thurs **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00am Christmas Family Communion
Fri
Sat 2.00pm Wedding of Sam & Felicity

Next Sunday: 28th December (1st Sunday of Christmas)

11.00am Holy Communion St Andrew's

Giving to St Andrew's or St Bridget's

To support our churches the easiest way is through bank transfer to Backwell PCC: sort code 60-14-49 account No. 41004027 (alternatively, try the contactless station); to Backwell PCC Missions & Charities: Sort code 60-14-49; Account no. 41004035; quoting "Sisters"; to St Bridget's to Chelvey PCC: Sort Code 60-14-49 account No. 05021715.

Thank you to all who donated to the Sisters' Christmas Appeal. The donations were delivered to Bristol last week and will be very gratefully received by those in need during the week before Christmas.

Revd Sam's wedding

Sam & Felicity are getting married at St Andrew's on Saturday 27th December at 2.00pm. All are warmly welcomed to come to the ceremony and help them celebrate; there will be bubbles and nibbles in Church House after the service.

Office & Rector's Holidays

The Benefice Office will be closed for holiday from 12.30pm on Tuesday 23rd December until 9.30am on Tuesday 6th January. During this time please contact the Ministry Team with any pastoral matters, or the churchwardens with any urgent practical matters. Revd Sam will also be on leave following Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve until Sunday 12th January.

Join our mailing list If you would like to receive this sheet and other news from the Benefice by email every week, you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/ja90d2> or scan the QR code.



Welcome to The Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley 21st December 2025 4th Sunday of Advent



Welcome to our services today

9.15am	Holy Communion	St Bridget's
	<i>Hymns: 31, 64, 58, 32</i>	
9.30am	Café Church	St Andrew's
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Andrew's
	<i>Hymns: NEH 9, 33, 10, SP 18, NEH 11</i>	
5.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Andrew's

Coffee will be served after the 11.00am service. We will be streaming the 11.00am service on our YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/live/6wHmH4-EiO0>

Services and prayer during the week

Morning Prayer (CW) Mon to Fri 8am	St Andrew's
Evening Prayer (BCP) Sun to Thurs 5pm	St Andrew's

General Information...

St Andrew's and St Bridget's with St Nicholas'

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>

<http://www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/>

Rector Revd Sam Norton

revsamnorton@gmail.com / 07771 349319

Usual day off: Friday

<http://www.youtube.com/@Elizaphanian>

Ministry Team

Revd Canon Peter Bailey 01275 790611

Revd Joan Rowe 01275 463214

Mr David George 07532202786

Churchwardens

Backwell: Mr Andy Pitcher 07837281158

Mrs Cherry Leake 01275 462365 / 07708883075

Chelvey: Mr Roger Watson 01275 462821

Mrs Sue Bougourd 01275 853879

Administrator: Benefice office - 01275 463469

Office open **Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30**

admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Children's worker: Timi Booy *currently on maternity leave- please contact Revd Sam or the Office*

Please submit any notices for the weekly sheet by 9.30am on Thursdays.

Collect and Readings...

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings for this week...

Philippians 4.4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

John 1.19-28 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

For your prayers this week...

In the Anglican Communion: We pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi

Zambia: We pray for our link church of St Andrew's, Ndola North, and for Bishop Emmanuel Chikoya following his appointment as Bishop of Central Diocese.

In this Diocese: Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the Deanery: We pray for the Parish of Wraxall with Failand & Trendlewood, & for Revd Morey Andrews

Oct/Nov/Dec charity: The Sisters of the Church

December Prayer Cycle: Robinson Way, Robinson Close, Kellways, Rushmoor Lane, Rushmoor Grove

Church Groups: During December we pray for our children's choir, for their leader Alison and all those who help with the group

December Baptism Anniversaries: Grace, Lily

Backwell Junior School: We pray for our Pupil Chaplains, all Year classes, their teachers and classroom assistants together with the other schools in Backwell.

Those who are sick or in need: Becky Jones, Jess Wong, Ed Hewitt, Grace Myahalaleel, Mike & Carol, Julian Barnett, Margaret Dagger, Zakery Nanji, Jackie, Victoria P, Jenifer Dyer

Those who we keep in our prayers: Sue Ashman, Maureen Barnett, Vicky Dunscombe, Jenny Webb, Lucy Goodland

Those who have died: Paul Macleavy, John Prior

Anniversary of death: Graham Bowerman, Derek Guy

Christmas Services & Events

Saturday 20th December

10.30am Carols outside Spar, Rodney Road

Sunday 21st December

9.15am	Holy Communion	St Bridget's
9.30am	Café Church	St Andrew's
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Andrew's
5.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	St Andrew's

Christmas Eve – 24th December

4.00pm	Crib Service	St Andrew's
9.00pm	Christmas Night Communion	St Bridget's
11.00pm	Midnight Eucharist	St Andrew's

Christmas Day – 25th December

10.00am	Christmas Family Communion	St Andrew's
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Sunday 28th December

11.00am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's
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Christmas Card Exchange is now available in the Link for you to exchange Christmas Cards with people who are likely to be in church. Please note that this is an exchange and not a delivery service so please do check to see if there are any cards for you – and make sure that those you leave have been collected.