



St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

10th December 2017 – The Second Sunday of Advent

Vicar – Rev. Jane Richards

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Welcome to our Worship this morning.

The Collect

**Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen**



Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading – 2 Peter 3. 8 – 15a (Church Bible page 1224)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Gospel Reading – Mark 1. 1 – 8 (Church Bible page 1002)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way’ –

‘a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.””

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: ‘After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the world

and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again,

we may be ready to greet him

with joyful love and firm faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

New Curate

I am delighted to announce that Shirley Pearce will be joining this parish next year as our Curate. Shirley will be licensed as a lay worker on 12th July 2018 and ordained Deacon at Chelmsford Cathedral on 15th September 2018.

I know that you will all join with me in welcoming Shirley, and her husband Doug, when they move to Basildon next summer. **Reverend Jane**

Items for news and prayer to Jackie Stubberfield on 01268 288930 or jmstubber@gmail.com by Thursday afternoon, please.

Next Sunday's readings are – Nine Lessons and Carols, readings to be chosen.

Please pray for ...

Sue and Keith Fisher. Keith is currently in hospital.

Our Messy Christmas on Saturday 16th December.

Fran Hood and Christine Mancais following their confirmation last month.

Roger Phillips, Cyril's son, now home from hospital.

Prayer

If you have a particular need for prayer, please approach a member of the prayer ministry team who will be pleased to help you. If you prefer to write down your prayer request, cards are available in the entrance lobby in St Andrew's and on the welcome table in Holy Cross. Place your completed card in the box: these prayers are offered during daily Morning Prayer. For urgent prayer requests please contact Richard (01268 520688) or David and Marion (01268 523565).

Our Christmas Services

Saturday 16th December

Messy Church Nativity

3.00pm at Fryerns Community Centre

Sunday 17th December

Carols by Candlelight, 6.00pm at St. Andrew's

Christmas Eve

Family Christingle Services

3.00pm and 4.30pm at Holy Cross

Midnight Mass, 11.30pm at Holy Cross

Christmas Day

Family Holy Communion

9.30am at St. Andrew's



St Luke's Christmas Card. There is a large card at the back of St Andrew's which you may want to sign to send wishes to all the congregation. Please leave a donation for St Luke's.

What's on this week

Sunday	10 th	11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
Monday	11 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		1:30pm	Home Group (Joyce and Tom Hancock).
		6:30pm	Youth Club at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Evening Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	12 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Home Group (Cyril Phillips).
		7:45pm	No Home Group (Barbara Bowhill).
		7:30pm	Carols at Hanover Drive.
Wednesday	13 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		7:30pm	Advent course at the Vicarage.
		7:30pm	No Course in Christian Studies at St Andrew's.
Thursday	14 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		12:00noon	Community Lunch at St Andrew's.
Friday	15 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
Saturday	16 th	9:30am	Music Group Practice at St Andrew's.
		3:00pm	Messy Christmas at
			Fryerns Community Centre.
Sunday	17 th	9:30am	Breakfast Church at St Andrew's.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		6:00pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's.

Volunteers needed for Carol singing

At an informal Carol Service at Hanover Drive on Tuesday 12th December at 7:30pm. We are all invited to come and join the residents.



Christingle Making

We will be making the Christingles for the Christmas Eve services at Holy Cross on Saturday 23rd December at 3:00pm. If you would like to help and enjoy some seasonal refreshments (and sweets) please join us.

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