



# St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

Registered Charity 1201526

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

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## The Collect

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**Old Testament Reading – 2 Samuel 7. 1-14a**

**New Testament Reading – Ephesians 2. 11-22**

**Gospel Reading – Mark 6. 30 - 34, 53 - 56**

## Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.  
Amen.

## Intercessions for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July from Richard Sanders

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more than ready to hear us when we pray. Yet our prayers sometime seem only prompted by our selfish need. Yet, when we do, you always give us more than we desire or deserve, showing patience and forgiveness. Pour down upon us the abundance of your grace; forgive us through the power of the Holy Spirit; and in union with Jesus Christ, let us pray in this intercession to the Father. O God the creator and preserver of all, we pray humbly for our needs today and for people and situations in every kind of want. Make your ways known on earth, your saving health among us when we are too afraid to trust in you and for the times when your gifts are taken for granted. But we know all is possible through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son and our Lord. Amen.

We pray for your church. We give thanks for our bishops and all clergy and especially for Rev Tim and Rev Trudy. We pray too, for Rev Karen, for Nikki, Philip and Brenda. May they all continue to know the encouragement of the Holy Spirit and we give thanks for their leadership in this parish. We pray for you, this congregation, for church members who offer the gifts of their service enabling each of us to worship here today. Particularly today we give thanks for those who clean, for flower arrangers, child workers, tea makers, music providers, welcomers and sacristans. We give thanks for others serving on the PCC, pastoral workers, committee members, Church Wardens, Restore and Messy church... and so many more. Truly the body of Christ serving as one.  
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for your world in its pain and troubles. The world is living with the threat of world war. Despotic leaders and vitriolic politics dominate our news. There is no thought for sympathy and a disregard for human need. We pray for the fear of the helpless and families who live with the terror of persecution or death. We pray for the refugees who take incredible risks to flee from terror and deprivation. Many have no choice. We must give thanks to God that we are not refugees today. We must also give thanks to God for our homes, the food on our table, for our freedom and protection to believe and worship our God. We give thanks that we have a place in this world.  
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

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We pray for those we love and all in need who suffer in body mind or spirit. Lift those we love who are ill or in pain We pray for our families especially where there is disharmony or separation. Pray silently now for those we love in pain or sickness; -- for their healing and restoration. We pray for children in deprived situations. Help us to nurture our young people and pray especially for all children in our church today. We pray for our friends and our neighbours and pray for the peace of God to enter their lives. We pray for those who are hungry and poor; for the those who struggle to feed their family; for the unpaid bills and the despair of eviction. May we be a friend in their crisis.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Finally, Lord we know we are weak and when things get tough, we can fall away. We pray for those times of doubt and the times of failure when we have walked alone. May we be reminded it is only in your footsteps we should be walking and not trusting in our own strength and step. May we continue to feed on the bread of life you offer to us and pray that it is in you we should always place our trust.

Merciful father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

### **Prayer**

If you have a particular need for prayer, please contact David or Marion Marshall on 01268 523565 or Rev. Karen White or Rev. Trudy Arnold using the contact details on the first page of this News Sheet.



A word cloud featuring the following words: healing, peace, hope, reconciliation, forgiveness, joy, quiet, and church. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with 'healing' and 'peace' at the top, 'reconciliation' in the middle, 'forgiveness' and 'joy' at the bottom left, and 'quiet' and 'church' at the bottom right. The words are in various shades of green and brown.

## Living in Love and faith – Some background

The Bishops of the Church of England introduced the book 'Living in Love and Faith', published in 2020 with the following words:

*“We, the Bishops of the Church of England, invite you to join us in using this book and its accompanying resources to learn together about how the Christian understanding of God relates to questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.*



*These are questions that touch all of us deeply. They are about our lives and the loves that sustain them. They are about experiences and convictions that bring both joy and pain. And so this invitation is about learning together as human beings, each one of us created in the image of God and equally precious in God's sight.*

*This book has come about because there is disagreement within the people of God, including among us, the Bishops of the Church of England. There are disagreements about same-sex relationships and the Christian understanding of marriage as the Church of England has received it. There are also disagreements about pastoral practice in relation to gender identity, sexuality and relationships more generally. The roots of these disagreements relate to Scripture, doctrine, ethics and the nature of the Church, including the Church of England.*

*Accepting the invitation to join us - with all our differences - is about embarking on a venture of learning and discovery. Our prayer is that as all of us, the people of God, take time to listen and learn together, our love for one another will be deepened and our faith in Jesus Christ strengthened so that his joy will be made complete in us.”*

Over the last 4 years there have been many discussions in small groups, parishes, social media and at General Synod. We'll try and describe some of these discussions and the proposals that have emerged in future News Sheets.

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## **Summary of Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The PCC met at Holy Cross on the evening of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The PCC noted written reports on finance, children and families work and safeguarding.

Mark Stubberfield gave an update on the future of the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre in Basildon – see separate item in this newsheet.

Following consultation with the Parish Architect, the chosen contractor has been approached to finalize the details of the work required on the inside of Holy Cross. It is hoped that work will start in late September, after the Holy Cross weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September. The church will be closed for about 7 weeks. Discussions have begun on what needs to be moved out of the church and holding services at St Andrew's.

The next meeting of the PCC will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at St Andrew's. If you want to raise any issue with the PCC, please speak to Rev Tim, Rev Trudy, the Churchwardens (Anna Graham, Frances Graham or David Marshall) or one of your PCC members (Anne Liddell, Brenda Smedley, Emma Lamb, Marion Marshall, Phil Horscroft, Mark Stubberfield or Vera Tomlinson).

### **Deanery Website**

Basildon Deanery (a grouping of all the Church of England churches in Basildon, Billericay and Wickford) has a new website – do give it a visit and have a look. It's at <https://basildondeanery.co.uk/>.

### **Open Church at Holy Cross Church.**

Open Church at Holy Cross Church throughout the school summer holidays. Beginning Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. 10:30am – 12:30pm. Light refreshments available and small crafts for the children. All are welcome.

## **Re:Store June 2024 Update**

In June we made up **72** parcels for our regular deliveries and collections plus some families were able to take advantage of our Community Cupboard on Thursday mornings. During June we received **320** items donated by yourselves, St Martin's and St Gabriel's congregations.

Many thanks to all who contribute so regularly.

**Items currently needed include: UHT milk, cereal, sugar, pasta/rice, tinned fruit and vegetables, biscuits and household items such as washing powder, washing up liquid, toilet rolls and sanitary towels (no tampons please). We always need strong plastic carrier bags.**

**There has been a decline in donations recently, so if you find it difficult to shop and bring items to church you might consider donating cash labelled for Re:Store and we will do the shopping for you. We also need more people to join the team to pick up from Nandos and Tescos; if you have a car and think you can help, please speak to one of the team.**

***Thank you – The Re:Store Team***

## **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre**

For the last 10 years St Andrew's with Holy Cross has been the lead church for the Basildon CAP debt centre. The Debt Centre started in our parish with John Shaw as the first debt centre manager, and last year Rachael Phillips became the latest part-time debt centre manager.

Over those 10 years over 100 individuals and families in Basildon have been helped to get debt-free, with over £1.7M of debt cleared.

For the last 6 months we have been exploring the best way for the debt centre to continue to flourish. As a lead church we have both a financial and a resource commitment to CAP which we are not going to be able to maintain into the future. After prayer and discussion, it has agreed that the Basildon centre will be combined with the neighbouring Brentwood centre, where Rachael is also the debt centre manager. This will give Rachael the ability to better allocate her time to clients and also will give the combined centre more opportunities to apply for grant funding.

The plan is for churches in Basildon, including our parish and the United Reformed Church in Honeypot Lane (Rachael's church) and Churches Together in Basildon to be 'partner' churches in the joint centre.

As a partner church we will continue to make a financial contribution to CAP, support the centre in prayer and by being a resource for 'befrienders' (who help Rachael in building friendship with the clients) for CAP clients local to us. Please speak to Mark Stubberfield if you'd like to know a bit more about the great work that CAP does.

## **Holy Cross Restoration Appeal**

We continue with the appeal for the work at Holy Cross. Up to the end of **June** we had raised **£22,254** towards the work required inside the building. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this. Thanks especially to all those who worked so hard at the Summer Fayre where **£540** was raised to be shared between the Buildings fund and the Holy Cross fund, and to the landlord, staff and customers at the **Jolly Friar** pub who contributed **£248** through some collecting tins.

Great news on grants! We have received **£2,650** from the Benefact Trust (associated with the Ecclesiastical Insurance group) and granted **£5,000** from the Friends of Essex Churches. We had already received a grant of **£3,000** from the **FSJ charity**. We still need to do a bit more fundraising but we have started conversations with the architect and contractors with a view to the work starting in the Autumn.

Fundraising events planned so far:

**Holy Cross Open Day – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Concert by Andrew Liddell and friends @ St Andrew's  
– Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

**We're hoping to have another quiz in October  
and a 'curry night' in November. Details to follow.**

**Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November.**

The Holy Cross Open day will have a Church Mouse theme, and include Flower displays. More details to follow soon!

If you would like to help in any way in a fundraising event – or have other ideas for fundraising activities, please do speak to any of the ***churchwardens, Rev Trudy or Rev Karen, or the Treasurer, Mark.***

## **Holy Cross Restoration - loose change jars!**

Thank you for the jars of loose change that have already been returned! They will continue to be available for the foreseeable future, so please continue to place your loose change in them. We are so very grateful. If you have any of these small jars do, please bring them in - they are proving very popular and we are running out of them. When full, simply return to David, Frances, Mark or Rev Trudy. Every size coin fits and even folded notes! Every little helps. So far you have contributed over **£366** with your jars and other collections of small change! Thank you.

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

Next Sunday's readings are – 2 Samuel 11. 1-15; Ephesians 3. 14-21; John 6. 1 - 21

### **What's on this week!**

Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's and on-line.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		3:00pm	<b>Music at Holy Cross followed by...</b>
		4:00pm	<b>Evensong at Holy Cross.</b>
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7:45pm	Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2:00pm	<b>No</b> Cake and Fellowship at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Home Group (Barbara Bowhill).
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion Service at Holy Cross.
		10:30am	<b>Open Church at Holy Cross.</b>
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St Andrew's Café at St Andrew's.
		10:30am	Café Community Lunch at St Andrew's.
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	<b>No</b> Joyful Noise at St Andrew's.
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's and on-line.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

### **St Andrew's Café – A Community Hub**

The next Community Lunch date is 25<sup>th</sup> July.

The Community Lunch team are taking a well-earned rest for the summer. The first Community Lunch following the summer break will be on the Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Cake and Fellowship.**

We have opened "*Cake and Fellowship*"

at St Andrew's on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 2:00pm until 4:00pm.

*Christine and Barbara.*

Collect and Post communion Prayer - The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects (1997, 1998, 1999) © The Archbishops' Council 2000

The News Sheet is available on-line at [www.standrewholycross.org](http://www.standrewholycross.org)



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