



Tuesday 24th November 2020

Dear all,

In recent weeks we have started to see more signs of people preparing for Christmas. There are Christmas lights on houses, we know of people who have their trees up (including some of you 😊), Christmas adverts are on the TV, food is in the shops and this week we're expecting the government to set out what the rules will be around coronavirus and Christmas.



We keep hearing people saying "Christmas will not be the same this year", but I want to disagree. Christmas is always the same, it is the way we celebrate Christmas that will be different. Now, you might call me pedantic but I feel the difference is crucial. Every year we get to remember that God decided to become man, to become a baby, to be God with us, with the ultimate aim of rescuing humanity from the brokenness of ourselves and our world. This year is no different. We get to celebrate the hope that we have in Jesus,

the hope that Jesus came to rescue us and that he will come again and when that happens "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4). Yes, our celebration of Christmas will be different, but the real reason is as important as ever.

This Sunday, is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means the 'beginning of an event'. It is the beginning of our preparation of the celebration for Jesus' birth. This year, you could argue we will have more time on our hands, as will many people in our communities. So how are you going to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year? Can I encourage you to spend time with Jesus as we prepare to celebrate His birth? I really believe that people are more open to the real meaning of Christmas, this year more than ever. Be praying that God will show you where He is working and who you can tell the wonder of the Christmas story to.

With our love, James & Zara





As we lead into Advent and prepare for Christmas, there's quite a lot going on and lots to include in this newsletter – keep reading until the end!

Thursday 26th November

Day of prayer and fasting

**MORNING PRAYER 8:30AM
LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

**CHURCH OPEN 9AM-12PM
FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

**PRAYER MEETING 7PM &
COMMUNION 8PM ON ZOOM**

**INVITATION TO FAST
8PM WED - 8PM THU**

Every Thursday during lockdown 2.0

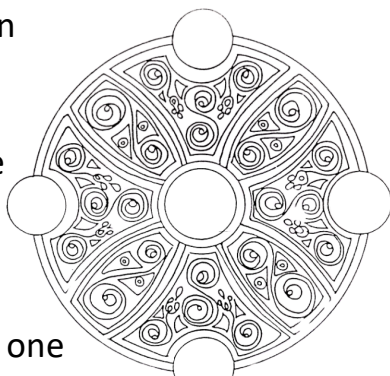
We are continuing our **Thursdays of prayer and fasting** into December – with the Church being open in the morning for three hours – do pop in if you're around. Contact us for the Zoom code.

Sunday 29th November – first Sunday of Advent

Following our usual 10:30am service on Facebook, join us for **coffee time on Zoom** at 11:45am. Contact us for the Zoom code.



Please find attached to this letter a **DIY Advent Wreath** which you can print and colour in at home – please let me know if you'd like one sent to you. It has been designed to be used with tea light candles, you can light one candle for each of the four Sundays in Advent plus the fifth on Christmas eve or Christmas day. As per instructions, please take care with lit candles – or use battery powered tea lights instead. There will be some spare copies and candles available in Church on Thursday.



Rob and Pam along with Nicola and Nathan are leading us in a **night of worship** and prayer on Sunday evening on Zoom at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to join us! Contact us for the Zoom code.

Thursday 3rd December

ST ANDREW'S SNEYD GREEN

Worship & Prayer

online worship night

SUNDAY 29TH NOV
8.00PM - 9.00PM
LIVE ON ZOOM

A CALL TO PRAYER

An opportunity to join with Christians from across North Staffordshire to pray together for our communities, Church & nation

Thursday 3 December - 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Zoom : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5844886699>
Meeting ID: 584 488 6699

*"Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, LORD,
and grant us your salvation."*

(Psalm 85 vv6-7)

Organised by Saltbox and City Vision Ministries with help and support from other North Staffs Christian leaders



Our day of prayer and fasting on Thursday 3rd December will once again end with a city-wide Zoom prayer meeting at 7pm. Our united prayer meeting a few weeks ago was a great encouragement to many, do join us if you can. The code for this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5844886699> Meeting ID: 584 488 6699 (no password).

We are resuming our **Food Parcels Project** for Christmas and are looking for donations of food before 15th December. Gifts of non-perishable food and Christmas treats can be dropped off at the vicarage or at Church on Thursdays (9-12) or Sundays from 6th Dec (9am).



CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS



Sunday 6th December – second Sunday of Advent

Following the recent announcement from the Prime Minister, we are delighted to say that we will be starting 9am Communion services back in Church for Sundays 6th, 13th and 20th December.



St Andrew's Sneyd Green

Christmas Tree Memorial Service



A simple opportunity to remember those we miss at Christmas - come and place a star decoration on our tree in front of church in memory of your loved one. All welcome.

Sunday 6th December 3pm

Stars provided, sadly we cannot provide refreshments this year.



At 3pm on Sunday 6th December, we will be holding our annual Christmas Tree Memorial Service where we invite people to hang a star decoration in memory of those we're going to miss this Christmas. These may be people who have died or simply those we are unable to see this year.

If you are able to join us on 6th December, you would be most welcome to hang a star on the tree however you are also invited to collect and send a star to the vicarage and we will hang it for you. Stars will be available in Church which is open on Thursdays or at the service itself. If you would like one delivered,

please let us know. The tree will be up for the duration of December so if you miss the service on the 6th, stars can be added at any time. As in previous years, you are welcome to take your star home on Christmas eve. Please do spread the word, everyone is welcome.

And Finally!

In partnership with the local primary schools, we are running a Christmas card competition which is open to anyone in primary school, the deadline is 4th December!

The winning designs will be printed and sent to older folk in our community who may be lonely this Christmas.

Christmas Nativity Card Competition

St. Andrew's Church would like to send some welcome cheer to the older generation in our community who are lonely this Christmas. We were wondering if you could design a Nativity card for us?



Closing date: Friday 4th December

Send cards to St Andrew's Church Vicarage, OR email: sarah@standrewssneydgreen.com

We miss you all and are praying for you, please do be in touch,

James and Zara
Vicarage: 01782 363531
Mobile: 07579 795328

james@standrewssneydgreen.com

Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 10:30am: Morning Worship ONLINE

Thursday 8:30am: Morning Prayer ONLINE

Thursday 7pm: Prayer meeting

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewssg

YouTube: [St Andrew's Sneyd Green](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewsSneydGreen)

Website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com

FROM 6th DEC:

Sunday 9am: Holy Communion IN CHURCH

