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ST ANDREW'S IN THE GRANGE

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

GREETINGS FROM THE MANSE

We live in a world that does not like to wait. We are used to getting what we want, when we want it. But Advent invites us into a different rhythm. It asks us to slow down, to be still, and to wait.

Before the joy of Christmas came centuries of silence. God's people waited in the dark, holding onto promises they could not yet see. There were no quick answers, no easy signs. Just faith, and hope, and the slow passing of time.

That kind of waiting is hard. It takes trust. It asks us to believe that God is still working, even when we cannot see it.

Each week of Advent, we light another candle. The light grows slowly. It reminds us that God's timing is not rushed, but it is sure. He comes quietly, gently, into the waiting.

This season, let us not skip ahead. Let us sit in the stillness and watch for the light. Let us be people who wait with hope, even in the dark.

For Christ is coming. And He always comes.

In His time. In His way.

And when He does, everything changes.

Blessings, Justin



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER:

- 2nd COMMUNION
- 9th EARLY COMMUNION, REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
- 30th ADVENT 1, ST ANDREW'S DAY, WEE SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY ACCESS CELEBRATION SERVICE

DECEMBER:

- 6th BEREAVEMENT SERVICE
- 7th ADVENT 2 COMMUNION
- 11th COMMUNITY CAROLS
- 14th ADVENT 3 EARLY COMMUNION SCRATCH NATIVITY
- 21th ADVENT 4 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- 24th 4 PM CHRISTINGLE SERVICE, 9 PM WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
- 25th ONLINE CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
- 28th SUNDAY SERVICE



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ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE

We are delighted to share that our Accessibility Project is now complete. The new ramp and lift are fully installed and already transforming how people can access and enjoy our church.

This has been a huge step forward for inclusion at St Andrew's in the Grange, but we still need your help to finish paying for it. The work is done, yet we are still raising funds to cover the final costs. Every contribution, large or small, will help ensure this vital improvement is fully funded and continues to serve our community for years to come.

To mark this milestone, we will be holding a Celebration Service on Sunday 30 November, giving thanks for everyone who made this possible and dedicating the completed works.

Thank you for your generosity, your patience, and your commitment to making our church a place where everyone can belong.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: 21 DECEMBER

Our Christmas Lunch will be held at the Cotils on Sunday, 21 December, after the service. We would love as many people as possible to join us for this festive occasion.

To book your place, please speak to Ethel or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. If anyone is struggling financially, please have a quiet word with Justin, and we can plan to help.

NEW SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

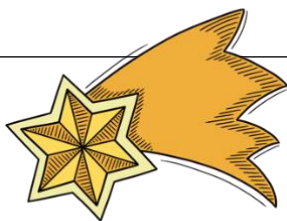
Thank you to Robert Sinclair for his faithful service as our Safeguarding Coordinator. We are grateful for his care, diligence, and many hours behind the scenes keeping our church family safe.

We also welcome Dr Alan Boyle as he takes up this role. Please keep Alan in your prayers as he begins, and contact him or the church office with any safeguarding queries.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Our Christmas Day service will be available **online** this year. You can watch it on our YouTube page or through our church website.

Join us from home as we celebrate the joy of Christmas together.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 9 NOVEMBER

Our Remembrance Sunday service will take place on Sunday, 9 November, beginning slightly later than usual at 10:50 am to include the Act of Remembrance am.

After the service, there will be no teas or coffees, as we will make our way together to lay a wreath at the grave of Sam MacDonald, whose resting place is near the Odeon car park.

This is an important moment for us as a church family to remember those who gave their lives in service.

All are welcome to join us for this meaningful act of remembrance.

REQUEST FOR LEGO AND DUPLO

We're building something exciting—literally! Our church is looking for donations of LEGO and DUPLO bricks for upcoming children's activities and community events. They don't need to be complete sets; loose pieces are more than welcome. Whether it's a small bag of bricks or a big box of colourful creativity, every donation will help us create a fun and welcoming space for kids (and kids at heart!) to explore, imagine, and build together.

If you have LEGO or DUPLO you no longer use, please drop it off at the church on Sunday.

SCRATCH NATIVITY: 14 DECEMBER

Our Scratch Nativity will take place on Sunday 14 December, and everyone is invited to join in the fun. A "scratch nativity" means there are no rehearsals, no lines to learn, and no pressure, just turn up on the day and take part!

We will provide simple costumes and props, and there will be parts for everyone, young and old alike. Whether you come as an angel, shepherd, wise person, or enthusiastic onlooker, it promises to be a joyful and light-hearted celebration of the Christmas story.

Bring family and friends, and come ready to laugh, sing, and share in the wonder of Christmas together.

CAROL SINGING

Our Christmas singing slot has been confirmed in front of Boots on Wednesday 11th December at 5.30pm. We hope you'll come along to join in the festive cheer and support us as we share some Christmas spirit in town.