

St. Andrew's Church Corbridge

Advent and Christmas



Services and Events
2023

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are full of light and hope.

In Advent we prepare our hearts to celebrate afresh the great and mighty wonder of the birth of Jesus the Son of God at Christmas. But as the year comes towards its close, we also remember that this same Jesus will come again as universal Lord of all when at last God's kingdom comes and his will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

As the days grow shorter, we pray that God will give us light, remembering the one who came as Light of the world, and as we seek to bring the light of hope in a dark and uneasy world.

We pray that the services and events in this booklet will help you to prepare well, that amidst all the shopping, parties and preparations, we may stop and be still, and allow God to speak to our hearts with a message of love and truth.

The Advent Wreath



In St Andrew's, our Advent worship is centred around the Advent wreath. This lovely tradition came to us from Hamburg in Germany in the 19th century when a Lutheran pastor, who founded an orphanage, lit daily candles to form a crown of light to teach the children about the love of God coming into the world. Today, it is customary to light candles on each of the four Sundays in Advent and a fifth candle on Christmas Day. The evergreen foliage reminds us of the eternal life Jesus came to bring, and that his light is coming to our dark world.

Services and Events

Advent Sunday 3rd December

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Halton
- 10.00am Parish Communion
- 3.00pm Community Carol Singing among the Christmas Trees
- 4.00pm Charlotte Straker Tree Lighting Service

Monday 4th December

- 5.00pm Community Carol Singing among the Christmas Trees

Wednesday 6th December

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Address and Compline (Night Prayer)
– a quiet reflective service
The Great Advent 'O' Antiphons
Theme: O Wisdom, O Adonai

The great Advent 'O' Antiphons are traditionally used in the lead-up to Christmas. Each one reflects on one of the titles of Christ from the Old Testament. We know them best as the well-loved hymn ' O Come, O Come Emmanuel'.

Advent 2 Sunday 10th December

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

3.00pm Messy Church

6.00pm Advent Procession - a wonderfully atmospheric service. We begin in complete darkness and gradually fill St. Andrew's with the light of hope.

Monday 11th December

2.00pm Advent Service led by Women's Fellowship.
in the Corbridge Community Hub. All are welcome.

Wednesday 13th December

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Address and Compline – a quiet reflective service
The Great Advent 'O' Antiphons
Theme: O Root of Jesse, O Key of David

Saturday 16th December

3.30pm **Church Christmas Party** – to which all are invited.
Further information may be found on the website or church noticeboard. The draw of the Grand Draw will be made during the afternoon.

Advent 3 Sunday 17th December

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.

As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Amen.

10.00am Parish Communion

4.00pm River at Christmas - our informal gathering for all ages beginning with refreshments.

6.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 20th December

10.00am Holy Communion

1.30pm **Church clean & decoration.** Please drop in if you are available to help. All cleaning materials will be provided. Coffee and mince pies too!

7.30pm Address and Compline – a quiet reflective service

The Great Advent 'O' Antiphons

Theme: O King of Nations, O Emmanuel, O Morning Star.

Thursday 21st December

7.00pm Carols for All in the Churchyard: Come and sing popular carols in the open air with Brass ensemble. (45 mins) This will be held inside St. Andrew's if wet.

Advent 4 Sunday 24th December

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
Blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news:
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.

10.00am Parish Communion with hymns

Christmas Eve

2.00pm Crib Service: An opportunity for families to participate in the wonderful Christmas Story portrayed through the crib characters in the wooden stable.

6.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols, with candlelight

11.00pm Midnight Communion – our atmospheric Midnight Mass as we welcome Christmas Day

Christmas Day 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion

9.00am Holy Communion at Halton

10.00am All Age Family Communion – a joyful Christmas morning service for all.



for all the family

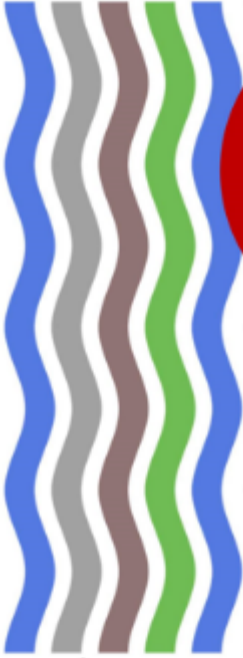
at St Andrew's
Church,
Market Place, Corbridge

**Sunday 10th December
3-5pm**



**GETTING READY FOR
CHRISTMAS**

With a Bible Story, **Activities, Crafts,**
Games, Celebration and a light snack



AN INFORMAL
AFTERNOON
GATHERING
FOR
EVERYONE

**Sunday 17th December.
In church, starting with
refreshments at 4pm.**

River
at
St Andrew's
Church
Corbridge



River
at
Christmas



Daily reflections booklet

Follow The Star: Join in the Song will consist of 12 reflections.

For each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January), there will be offers a short reading from the Bible, a reflection challenging you to see the Christmas story afresh, an invitation to wonder what this Christmas means in your own life, and a prayer to help you treasure this story in your heart.

This year's theme – **Follow the Star: Join the Song** – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

"The shepherds were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise." And before long they were singing, too ... Centuries later, singing is still central to how many of us celebrate Christmas.

"We invite you this Christmas to follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song and come into the presence of Jesus Christ."

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell



Additional Information

Home Communion for Christmas

If you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive communion over the Christmas period please let a member of the Ministry Team know.

Food Bank

Please don't forget the last day that the **FOODBANK** can receive Christmassy goods for distribution before Christmas is **Saturday 10th December**. Other goods should then be brought to church after Christmas. Thanks.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

Please help us to make St. Andrew's and Halton look magnificent for Christmas. Would you be willing to give a donation in memory of a loved one? If so, we will print their name (s) in our Christmas Day service leaflet and remember them in prayers. Please ensure that you use one of the special flower donation envelopes available at the back of church and ensure that your donation is handed in by 20th December. Thank you.

**Further information about Church Events can be found
on:**

Church website: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

Twitter: @CorbridgeChurc1

Facebook page: @Corbridge Church

Regular Mid-week Worship and Groups

Morning and Evening Prayer

Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.50am and Evening Prayer at 4.15pm, Monday to Saturday (Please check the weekly pew leaflet for any variations). Everyone is welcome to join us.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday at 10.00am.

Contact details

Please do contact us we would love to talk to you.

Vicar: Canon David J Kennedy

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Associate Priests

Revd Phil Smith philsmith@fastmail.com

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The Revd Sam Lohead will return to ministry in St. Andrew's in January following his placement at Newcastle Cathedral.