

Coulsdon Cross



**News & Views from St. Andrew's Church
December 2021 and January 2022**



St Andrew's Vision Statement

A joyful, daring, diverse and generous Christian community, setting the world alight with the love of God.

Disclaimers: This magazine is published by St Andrew's' Church, Coulsdon as part of its outreach and mission in the community. All contributions for publication are provided on a voluntary basis and reflect the thoughts and opinions of their authors, which are not necessarily those of the editor or of the PCC. The author or affiliation of all articles submitted should be clearly stated. The Parochial Church Council of St Andrew Coulsdon accepts no responsibility for any goods or services in this magazine.

An article, comment, notices, letters, puzzles, reviews (even of sermons!) recipes, points of view, sales, advertisements and requests for help are welcome – please email Esther estherfoss79@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Every Monday 10 -12 noon Time 2B: Coffee chat and craft in church.

*Every Tuesday 11 -12 noon Tots and Toys in the Church Hall
cancelled due to COVID*

Every Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th Parish Panto 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

~~**Tuesday 14th Dec** Pop in Christmas meal~~ **cancelled due to COVID**

~~**Tuesday 21st Dec** Messy Church~~ **cancelled due to COVID**

Sunday 19th Dec 6 pm Nine Lessons and carols followed by refreshments

Friday 24th December 4 and 5 pm Carols and the Christmas Crib
11 pm 'Midnight' Mass

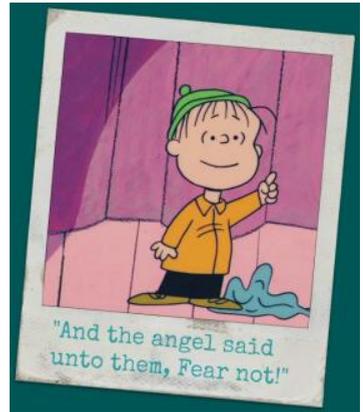
Saturday 25th 9.45 Christmas Day Eucharist

Sunday 26th 9.45 Said Eucharist for St Stephen

Dear Friends,

Do you remember Christmas 1984? Even if you don't you'll surely recall Band Aid's smash hit single, 'Do they know it's Christmas?' I bet you can sing the first line too - "It's Christmas time, there's no need to be afraid." Do you think Sir Bob Geldof got those lyrics from Luke's gospel? This single was released in response to the great suffering caused by famine in Ethiopia. None of us need

reminding about the suffering going on in all parts of the globe at the moment. But I think all of us may need reminding of the words spoken by the angel to those shepherds over 2,000 years ago: "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10)



Great fear and great joy – this juxtaposition might strike us as strange. But the Christmas story *is* strange, though we who are so familiar with it can easily forget. The events surrounding our Lord's birth don't tally up with the peaceful pictures we find on our Christmas cards. We need to go back to the pages of our Bibles to find the 'real deal' which is much darker.

Let's start with our friend St Luke whose gospel is reckoned to have been written around 80-85 AD. Here Jesus arrives 70 miles away from the safety of Nazareth, without help of relatives or friends. His birth was a makeshift affair, with Mary placing him in the animals' feeding trough "because there was no place for them in the inn." The first visitors were those amazed shepherds, rough, ready and probably very smelly, who arrived with a bizarre tale of a heavenly host lighting up the night sky. Chaos and confusion were the order of the day.

How about Matthew's account, composed between 80-90 AD. Here we get terror on a grand scale. Thanks to the Wise Men being anything but,

Horrid Herod was alerted to the new king in town, and ordered the massacre of the innocents, all children aged two and under, to safeguard his throne. Fortunately Joseph was tipped off in a dream, and escaped into Egypt with his family until the coast was clear.

John, the latest of the gospels – dating from 90-100 AD, goes his own way as usual, choosing to set the scene way, way back, “In the beginning.” Yet even here we have a few blots on the landscape, for despite his pre-existence the ‘Word’ was to meet with resistance and hostility: “He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him... and his own people did not accept him.” (John 1:10)

As for Mark – the earliest of the gospels, probably composed some time in the 60’s - his story begins when Jesus is an adult, with his baptism in the Jordan River. Maybe Jesus’ birth was just too scary for a work that begins by referencing the good news.

Yet despite all the fear and the danger and the terror, we know Jesus’ arrival *was* good news. Not because he fixed everything with a wave of a magic wand – we know life isn’t like this. Jesus is good news because his birth and the whole of his life – and death – show us that whatever happens, we are not alone. And however powerful evil, death and destruction may appear, they will never ever have the last word on our lives.

Like the shepherds who left the manger throne “glorifying and praising God”, we too can make a choice. We can stay in a place of darkness – and there are many reasons to justify that. Or we can choose to hear the voice of the angels: “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.” May we make the most life giving choice.

Wishing you and your loved ones the joy and peace of this holy season.

Esther and Jessie the vicarage dog x

Thank you to our Renew Team and all who supported our Sunday brunch in aid of Welcare. Your generosity totalled a wonderful £251.73



Welcare is a charity working with families and children up to the age of 13, in South London and East Surrey. Welcare provides practical help and support to families, empowering them to rebuild their lives and access opportunities to ensure their children have a happy, confident childhood and future. For more information, check out their website: <https://welcare.org/>

We are delighted with our amazing Windows into Christmas art display!

Grateful thanks to all involved in creating such a variety of festive scenes – from the 12 Dogs of Christmas, to 'I saw Three Ships', Frosty the Snowman, the Nutcracker and a sparkly tree complete with lit up cross. The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows have done us proud with their guiding lights, Christmas trees and rainbow star garland. The three kings, Bethlehem town, angels and shepherds on the hillside and the nativity tableau really bring to life the Bible stories in a powerful way. 'In the Bleak Midwinter'



inspired us all to sing at the grand opening on the afternoon of Sunday 28th. We sure felt that frosty wind making moan and were more than ready for our hot Ribena with a wee dram afterwards! The windows will be on display throughout Christmas.

News from Purley Food Hub

Our December list of food and other items most needed for Food Hub clients this month is very much a list of two halves.



The first part features six of our regular 'staples': cartons of long life whole milk, tins of chicken, ham & corned beef, packets of dried potato, tins of peas & carrots, tinned dessert fruit, and tinned or packet custard.

The second part focuses on four Christmas items especially for the children of our clients:

- Christmas treats of chocolates/sweets
- Alternative desserts to Christmas pudding
- Biscuits - sweet or savoury
- Christmas crackers

The idea for splitting the list to prioritise clients' children came after one of our supporters, Number 9 The Nursery in South Croydon, asked for a specific area of donations to concentrate on this Christmas.

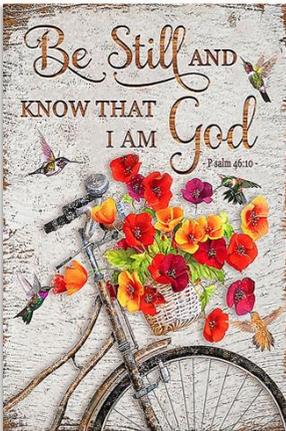
“This time of year can be particularly hard for the children if their family are going through a financially difficult time, and I hope our donors and supporters may consider selecting one of these Christmas items as part of their donation.”

Esther will be taking donations from St Andrew's to the hub on **Monday 13th December** so please make sure you bring your gifts by then. Thank you for your kindness to people in need.

Time 2B at St Andrew's



St. Andrew's Church Coulsdon in partnership with Renew Wellbeing invite you to 'Time 2B' every Monday from 10-12 noon in church.



What is Time2B? The clue is in the name 😊

We offer a simple, quiet space of welcome where it's OK even if we don't feel OK!

We all need to renew our wellbeing, especially when we're going through tough times like now. Renew Wellbeing is a national charity working with churches to set up Wellbeing spaces for anyone in the community to attend, to help with their emotional and mental wellbeing where every person is known by name, and

welcomed, regardless of personal circumstance.

Why not pop along for a cuppa and chat – a chance to pause, slow down, join or share a craft activity, or simply find peace in a prayerful place. Everyone is welcome. For more info contact Esther – estherfoss79@gmail.com, 02036201885

Christmas food quiz

Test your wits and **win a box of Christmas chocs!** Send your entry by email to Esther (estherfoss79@gmail.com) by **Jan 1st** to be in with a chance of winning the prize. All correct entries will be put in a hat where the lucky winners name will be drawn. PS if you're tempted to cheat via google, know that the Lord is watching! 😊 Enjoy!



1. In the poem 'The Night Before Christmas', 'visions of sugar plums' dance in the children's heads. What are sugar plums? A) plums boiled in sugar B) plums coated in spices C) sweets made from dried fruit
2. In northern England, what is Christmas cake often eaten with? A) chips, B) a slice of apple C) cheese
3. Which way do you traditionally stir the Christmas pudding for good luck? A) East to West, B) West to East, C) North to South
4. What is the alcoholic ingredient in a 'Hot Toddy'? A) brandy B) whisky C) rum
5. According to Which? three supermarket brands tie in first place for the best mince pies of 2021. Which are they?
A) Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Ocado B) Asda, Morrisons, Aldi C) Co-op, Iceland and Tesco

6. Fortnum's 'Classic Christmas Fruit Cake is "A deliciously rich concoction of moist fruit with a generous tippie of Brandy... required at all Christmas teatimes." (Weight 900g) How much would you expect to pay? A) £35 B) £45 C) £40

7. What food is mentioned in Andy William's Hit, 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year'?

A) figgy pudding b) marshmallows c) pumpkin pie

8. According to Darren McGrady, a former royal chef who worked for the Queen for 15 years, in addition to cranberry, what kind of sauce is served with the Royal Christmas lunch? A) chestnut gravy B) port gravy C) bread sauce

9. No Christmas dinner is complete without some Brussel sprouts! According to the *Daily Telegraph*, how heavy was the largest single sprout on record? A) 18lb 3oz. B) 14lb 3oz. C) 10lb 3oz.

10. Germans usually don't have their Christmas dinner on the 25th December but on Christmas Eve, which is known as Heiligabend (holy night). This is also the time when Christmas presents are unwrapped, usually after dinner. But what is the most popular Christmas dinner in Germany (According to www.halloessen.de)?

A) Kartoffelsalat mit Würstchen (potato salad with sausage) B) Weihnachtsgans (Christmas goose) C) Ente gefüllt mit Früchten und Zwiebeln (duck stuffed with fruit and onion)



JESSIE'S CHRISTMAS JOKES

Why was the turkey in the pop group? Because he was the only one with drumsticks! 😊

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose! 😊

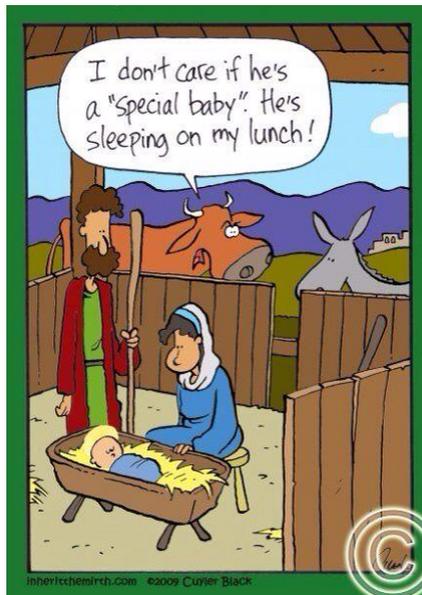
Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer! 😊

How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed! 😊

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis! 😊

How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit? No Brussels! 😊

What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses! 😊

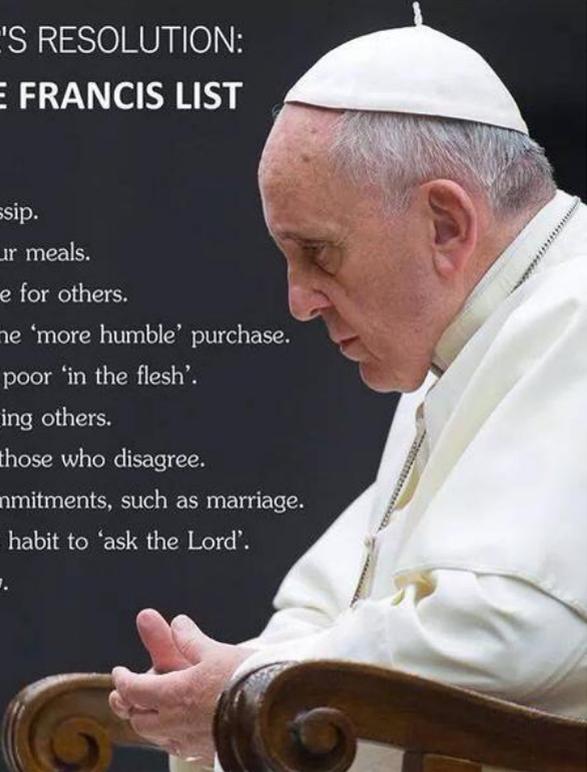


Some Christmas and New Year wisdom

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much." – Henry David Thoreau.

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." – Roy L. Smith



**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:
THE POPE FRANCIS LIST**

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.

Paradome
Credit: rappler/hbcnewsdotcom

A New Year's Prayer



May God make your year a happy one.
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you
 most, and by making you ready to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you and your loved ones for the
 year ahead.

Happy New Year from all at St Andrew's Coulsdon x

A thought as we leave Christmas behind...

When the carols have been stilled

When the star topped tree is taken down

When family and friends are gone home

When we are back to our schedules

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

To welcome the refugee

To heal a broken planet

To feed the hungry

To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear

To share our gifts, to seek justice and peace

For all people, to bring Christ's light into our world.

(Anne Marie Dolan)



USEFUL CONTACTS AT ST ANDREWS

Woodmansterne Road CR5 2DD Website: standrews.coulsdon.net

- Vicar:** Rev'd Esther Foss – 020 3620 1885
(*Day off – Friday*)
E-mail: estherfoss79@gmail.com
- Readers:** Susan Goddard (PTO) 020 8660 5189
Gerry Daley 020 8763 2255
- Churchwardens:** Audra Proctor 07710377966
Sheila Linney 07815 091206
- SPA & Messy Church Co-ordinator** Jenny Atkinson 020 8668 9725
- Treasurer:** John Linney 07754266913
E-mail: jlinney1@aol.com
- Baptisms/Weddings:** standrewsoffice@yahoo.com
- Contact Group Co-ordinator:** Monica Jefford 01737 555996
- Hall Lettings:** hall.lettings@standrews.coulsdon.net,
- Junior Church:** Beth Ten Cate 020 8668 1283
- Parish Canine Rep:** Jessie Foss - 020 3620 1885
(Days off Monday – Sunday. Don't contact unless you have treats. Thank you.)

PARISH MAGAZINE:

Editor: Rev'd Esther Foss (details as above)

**Parish Administrator: Danielle Stobart, Parish Office 020 86762966
(open Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**

E-mail: standrewsoffice@yahoo.com

USUAL SERVICES

- Sunday 9:45 am Parish Eucharist
Wednesday 10.00 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion