

# What's On Where

## In the 4 Saints Benefice

17th January 2021

NEWS FROM ST.ANDREWS COUNTTESTHORPE, ST. BARTHOLOMEWS FOSTON,  
ALL SAINTS PEATLING MAGNA, & ST. MARYS WILLOUGHBY WATERLEYS

WEBSITE: [www.standrewscountesthorpe.co.uk](http://www.standrewscountesthorpe.co.uk)

<https://standrewschurch.uk>

FACEBOOK page: St Andrew's church and The Bridge



### This weeks readings

Revelation 5:1-10

John 1:43-end

### Collect for this Week

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SUNDAY SERVICE

A NOTICE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

At 10.30am every Sunday

St Andrew's Church is online live at

<https://standrewschurch.uk>

and on Facebook at St Andrew's Church and The Bridge

Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions, none of the Benefice churches will be open for live services.

Now we are in lockdown again, do not forget we are still here. You can reach us by phone to the office or direct message on facebook. If you just want a chat, some shopping done, a lift to the doctors or the Racecourse for your job just contact us. We will try and help so don't be proud, just ask.

We shall continue to offer online services every Sunday at 10.30am on facebook or on our website.

Keep positive, stay at home and keep safe.

We also have Zoom prayers every Thursday at 7.00pm just ask Jacqui or Anne for joining details.

Following on from the message above here is a message from Alex Norman.

"I invite anyone who needs to get to the Leicester racecourse for a Covid vaccination, and needs transport to contact me for a lift. 01162789665 or 07791316961. "

If anyone else is able to offer this service please email me with your name and phone number and I will publish these next week.

### Can you help?

St Andrews has lost a lot of income due to the corona virus (both giving on Sunday and rents). Alison has set up a just giving page if you would like to donate to the ongoing work in Countesthorpe. (<https://www.justgiving.com/standrewscountesthorpe>)



The Thursday evening time of prayer is still happening in this time of lockdown. Jacqui McAughey and others meet at 7.00pm using Zoom.

If you would like to be sent the link each week please ask Jacqui using the contact details below.

Mobile 07985 322 362 [jacquimcaughey@aol.com](mailto:jacquimcaughey@aol.com)

## FOR THE FOUR SAINTS BENEFICE



### Reflection:

Light shining through the darkness.

The above window in St Andrew's is best viewed in daylight, with the light shining through.

From midnight our streetlights are turned off, but on a clear night you can see the moon and the stars when you look up.

When God sent Jesus, he was like a light shining in the darkness, a glimmer of hope in a troubled world.

We have that small light now, we have hope for a brighter future, the plans God has for us.

We thank you God and praise you.

We thank you God and praise you for the news of our older generation in our villages now receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We give thanks for the volunteers happily driving their friends and neighbours to the vaccination centres.

We give thanks for our church wardens and our PCCs all working together in our benefice to produce our church profile that will attract the person, God has chosen for our new Rector.

We offer our prayers to you God this week:

We pray for the United States of America as they prepare to inaugurate Joe Biden as their new president on Wednesday.

We pray for smoother movement of goods between the United Kingdom and Europe, now we have left the European Union.

We pray for our hospitals as the COVID-19 admissions and deaths continue to rise. We pray they have enough staff and enough equipment to manage the current crisis.

We pray that everyone will continue to obey the lockdown restrictions so that we can all enjoy more freedom sooner.

We pray for local businesses as they find new and different ways of trading. We pray for those on furlough and those who have been made redundant and are now looking for employment. We pray for those working from home and also home schooling their children.

We pray for those living alone and unable to see their families and friends, unable to have a much-needed hug.

We continue to pray for our church members who need our prayers.

Those with ongoing problems, awaiting operations, trying to cope with mental health and for those grieving.

We pray for Roger in hospital and Dawn poorly at home. For Christine at home but still in pain, for Lynn, and for Jim and Gail. We also pray for Michael and Laura, Angela and Les, Matthew and Kerrie and Stephen and Elizabeth.

We pray for Brenda and her family.

We pray for them all, please keep them all safe in the shelter of your loving arms, Dear Lord.

We also pray for friends and relatives in need of our prayers,

We pray for Mark, Jean, Pat, Alison, Bob and Margaret and Colin, Hazel, Pat and Karen and anyone else known to us. We pray too for their family and friends.

We pray for all the residents in Cherrytrees, especially Beryl and Freda, and for Sheila, Gwen, and Jean in other care homes. We pray for all the staff in the care homes and pray they too, get support for their worthwhile jobs.

We pray for those suffering with mental health problems especially young people. We pray for those awaiting scans and operations, those starting treatment and those finishing.

We pray for anyone having to see doctors about results without a friend or loved one by their side.

We pray for those receiving food parcels from our foodbank and we thank God people are still donating money and food so, no one goes without. We give thanks for those donating in our village every week.

We pray for the homeless and those who try to help them.

We pray for the migrants, families with small children, desperate but still coming across the channel in little boats, risking their savings and their lives.

So many in need of prayers, God knows them all by name.

We pray for ourselves, our families, our friends and our neighbours.

We pray for anyone remembering an anniversary this month.

# Thought for the Week

Finally, we pray for those mourning the loss of loved ones.

Thinking of those who sadly died over the last few weeks.

We pray for anyone we know, who has lost friends or loved ones.

Dear God, help us to support them with our prayers,  
please Dear God hold them in your loving arms.

Be with them all and their families now and in the days ahead.

Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers.  
Amen.

If you know anyone, especially in our benefice, who needs our prayers and would like them to be included above (with their permission) please contact Anne on 0116 2772781.

Email [aejelves@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aejelves@yahoo.co.uk)

Or message our Facebook page:

St Andrews Church, Countesthorpe.

If you want to pray with others, join us on Thursday evenings 7.00pm on Zoom.  
(ask for joining details)

## A DIFFERENT HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 11: 17a, 19-20

These are the words of the Lord God: I will give them a different heart and put a new spirit into them; I will take the heart of stone out of their bodies and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will conform to my statutes and keep my laws. They will become my people and I will become their God.

### Reflection

In December 1967, Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital in South Africa. It was an operation that stunned and enthralled the world, for few had believed it could ever be achieved. In those early days, life expectancy for the patient was relatively short; today, this miracle of modern science means a new beginning and a fresh chapter in life for innumerable people.

The words of Ezekiel are figurative rather than literal, yet the transplant they speak of is no less dramatic – if anything, it is more so – for what the prophet is talking about is people being changed not physically but spiritually. Can that really happen? Not according to worldly wisdom. ‘A leopard cannot change its spots,’ we say; ‘Once a thief always a thief.’

It's hard as life goes by not to share such a cynical view of the human psyche.

The people of Ezekiel's day felt much the same, greeting his words with scepticism if not outright scorn. Quite simply, they'd heard it all before. Experience had taught them that they would go on making the same mistakes in the future as they had in the past. Ezekiel, though, believed differently, confident that God had the power to change people deep within. His words, of course, were to find fulfilment in the coming of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, the work of renewal has begun; work that will continue until the day we are united with him in the kingdom of God. Never lose sight of that promise. Never forget what God has done or what he shall do.

(Taken from Old Testament Treasures)

### Prayer

Gracious God

Have mercy on me,

Pardon my weakness

And renew me through your Holy Spirit.

Put a new heart and a right spirit within me.

Take what I can never change,

And, by your grace, make me new.

AMEN.

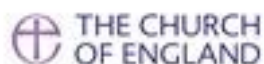


A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily  
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone  
line for you to ring to hear  
comforting hymns, daily prayers  
and reflections.

0800 804 8044



Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS

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### Track and Trace

Please note that each of the churches (& The Bridge) have their own Track and Trace QR code. This is easy to use with a smart phone.

All you need is the NHS Covid app, follow it's instructions and then every time you enter the church buildings (or other places too) just open the app and point it at the code. This then logs where you have been without you needing to sign in.

We need to get used to this as it could well be the new normal for the time being.