

From our Vicar.....

The supermarket shelves are starting to overflow with an abundance of treats to entice us to celebrate this Christmas. But for the Christian there is always reason to celebrate the abundance of God's goodness, and this last month has been no different. It was a joy to see our building packed with 500 people on Remembrance Sunday, sharing not only in an event that draws together our community in thankfulness, but gives us chance to proclaim the life-giving news of reconciliation in Jesus.



We've also seen an abundant outpouring of generosity through our Gift Day, through which God has already provided over £41,000 to enable this coming year to be a year of 'Church Celebration, Community Engagement, and Confident Evangelism' as we mark the 800th anniversary of our building. Thank you to all those who have shared with us in that joy.

Paul speaks of Christians as 'those who receive God's abundant provision of grace' (Romans 5:17). As we celebrate let's be thankful for 'the one man Jesus Christ' who makes this possible. *David Whitehouse*

Bright Lights

From a parent's perspective it was great to have this event to bring our children to. Sometimes they feel as though they are alone in what they are being taught at home, but coming along to this event helped them to see that many other families also do not celebrate Halloween, but rather celebrate Jesus who brings light. *Jen Park*

The bright lights party was a fantastic opportunity for local children to spend time with their friends playing games, doing crafts, decorating biscuits and making chocolate apples, whilst also having the opportunity to hear about Jesus as the Light of the World. This gave the children a message of hope in the season of Halloween where it is more common to celebrate evil.

The turn out was excellent, with 35 children and a number of parents attending and getting involved. It was really encouraging seeing so many children at the bright lights party and how engaged they were with the activities, leaders and hearing the good news. As leaders it was a good opportunity to get to know the kids, not all from church, as well as serving alongside other members of the church family. *Alex & Helen Hayes*

Just when you thought you were too old for children's work and the days of running around being silly had gone; along comes Katy who won't take no for an answer but encourages you to think again! You can do the bright lights party! We have a great team, so on you go! It is so good that the church puts something on that is good and bright, the opposite of what the world sees in Halloween.

35 children came along - there were games, crafts, party food, chocolate apples, lots of balloons and a fantastic gospel talk. To see children sat quietly listening to Beth as she told them about Jesus being the light of the world was great. Fun was had by all!

Great team effort! Thanks Katy for giving us the opportunity to serve in this way! *Sue Howles*

Dates For Your Diary - Please Pray For All These Events / Activities



Do come along to these events & invite people to come with you.



21st
NOV

7.30pm | In Church
Ladies Christmas Craft Night

Come & make crafts for Christmas, with festive refreshments & a short talk about the meaning of Christmas. £3 per person.



30th
NOV

3 - 6pm | In Church
Festive Stalls

Christmas décor & gifts on sale.
All welcome, free entry.



3rd
DEC

7.45m | In Church
Hush Before The Rush

Ladies' Traditional Christmas Service - join us for a quiet evening of songs, readings and reflections on the real meaning of Christmas.



14th
DEC

10am - 12.30pm | In Church Hall
Saturday BLAST

Free family event - crafts, games, lunch & a short talk. Come along and bring friends!



Come to meet new people & get to know the church family better.



4th
DEC

8pm | In Church
Church Family Prayer

Join us for a time of prayer. This month Gabriel Kijjambu will be joining us and giving us an update of his work in Uganda.



14th
DEC

8.30am | Leyland Lion, Hough Lane
Men's Breakfast

Men of St Andrew's will meet from 8.30am (no sign-up required) cooked breakfast & filter coffee available for under £5.

Invitations for all our Christmas services and events are available at the back of church. Please be thinking and praying about who you can invite to come along and celebrate Christmas with us this year.

Join Our Christmas Community Choir

Do you ever find that Christmas has gone, and you'd wanted to sing more carols? Do you have a hankering for flickering candles and the choir singing, raising the roof with trumpets blowing? Well this year we have the perfect opportunity for you! Come and join our newly formed St Andrew's Community Choir as we prepare to sing for the Carols by Candlelight services on 21st and 22nd Dec and an outdoor Carols by the Cross event on the 12th Dec. It's open to all with no auditions - no pressure. All we need from you is an open heart, an open mouth and a willingness to make some noise! Bring along your non-church friends to join us, ask your neighbours, grab people in the street! Christmas is such a good opportunity to tell people about the good news of Jesus and what better way than to do it whilst having a fun time meeting new people and making music together – however rustic that music may turn out to be! Rehearsals times are on Wednesdays; November 27th 7-9pm, Dec 4th 7-8pm, Dec 11th 7-9pm in the church hall. I'd love to see you there. **Josh Ellicott**