

**Connect**

*January 2021*

*St Andrew's*  
**Community  
Newsletter**

## **Greetings from Celia Fox (Lay Reader)**

Welcome to our first Connect Newsletter for 2021! After an unforgettable 2020, and a very different Christmas celebration for most of us, we've now entered 2021. Jackie has reminded us of the poem 'The Gate of the Year' by Minnie Louise Haskins. The first part was quoted by George VI in his 1939 Christmas speech (as I'm sure you know, not remember!) and 'if I've read it correctly it's quite pertinent to now'.

## **What's on This Month**

### **Church Services**

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

9:15-10:00 am Morning Prayer

10:30-11:15am All Age

#### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

11:00am Morning Prayer

#### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

9:15-10:00 am Holy Communion

10:30-11:15am Informal Service

#### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

7:30-9:00pm PPC Meeting via Zoom

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

11:00am Holy Communion

#### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

11:00am Morning Prayer

#### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

11:00am Holy Communion

. . . continued.

**'God Knows'**

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

*And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East*

Wise words, as we too look into ongoing uncertainty, albeit with the prospect of effective vaccines going forward. We look for light and clarity, but sometimes it's God's hand that carries and guides us through the darkest times, towards the dawning light.

I remember when we were called out in the early hours to be with my dying father. As we travelled through East Devon to his Care Home, I was struck, that even then, there was light beginning to dawn over the hills in front. Words came to mind: 'we are travelling towards the light.' They carried me through the next difficult hours of his peaceful home-coming, surrounded by tangible love & light.

*'For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.'* (Ps36:9)

I'm ending this with another poem, to take us into the New Year. With my prayer that 2021 for you it will be blessed with His light, His love and overflowing hope!

. . . continued.

### **'LOVE REACHES'**

*Love reaches into darkest corners, fills  
The minute with its message: 'All is well'.  
It's always full, is overflowing, spills  
In empty places more than we can tell.  
Love's always treasure hunting, seeks  
The gold within to help its glory shine.  
Love's never distant, silent, always speaks  
Encouragement, puts sparkle in like wine.  
There's nothing that love cannot touch, nowhere  
It can't get to, no heart it cannot heal  
To know behind the cloud the blue is there,  
Sun shining with a warmth that we can feel.  
A heart, a stable- love can't stay away,  
So any moment could be Christmas Day. 12.2020*

## **Prayer Chain**

If you have any prayer needs or requests, please do not hesitate to contact the prayer chain on [prayer@standrewscullompton.com](mailto:prayer@standrewscullompton.com) or the Church Office on 01884 33249.

# Circle us Lord

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Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world

Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle us with the light of your presence

*'You hem me in...*

*behind and before'*

- Psalm 139:5

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our families with the light of your presence



Circle us, Lord

Circle this nation with Advent love and hope

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message

Create a willingness to understand and respond

Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle our nation with the light of your presence

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

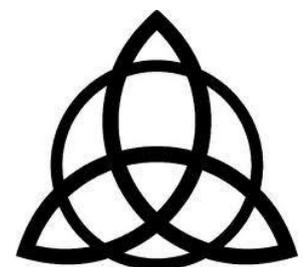
Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is torture and oppression bring release

(Silent prayer)

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

Circle this world with the light of your presence



\* Above extract taken from Faith and Worship

[https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Christmas.htm#gsc.tab=0](https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Christmas.htm#gsc.tab=0)

# Good News

🕊 Looking forward to a new year of hope, happiness and health.  
God bless everyone

If you have any items you would like included in future editions of the 'Good news' section, please do get in touch with us.

Contact details: [jonathanr@standrewscullompton.com](mailto:jonathanr@standrewscullompton.com) or the Church Office on 01884 33249 and leave a message for Jonathan.

# Your Opinion:

We have endeavoured to 'Connect' to as many people unable to come to church at the moment as possible, circulation is based on age only. We would like to trim the list down a little to save a few trees. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy that is absolutely fine.

If you are coming into church do you need a copy?

If you are able to get online would you prefer we sent it via email?

Have we missed anyone out, is there anyone unable to come into church who would like to received a copy, please nominate.

Please contact: [jonathanr@standrewscullompton.com](mailto:jonathanr@standrewscullompton.com)

## Answers to last week's crossword:

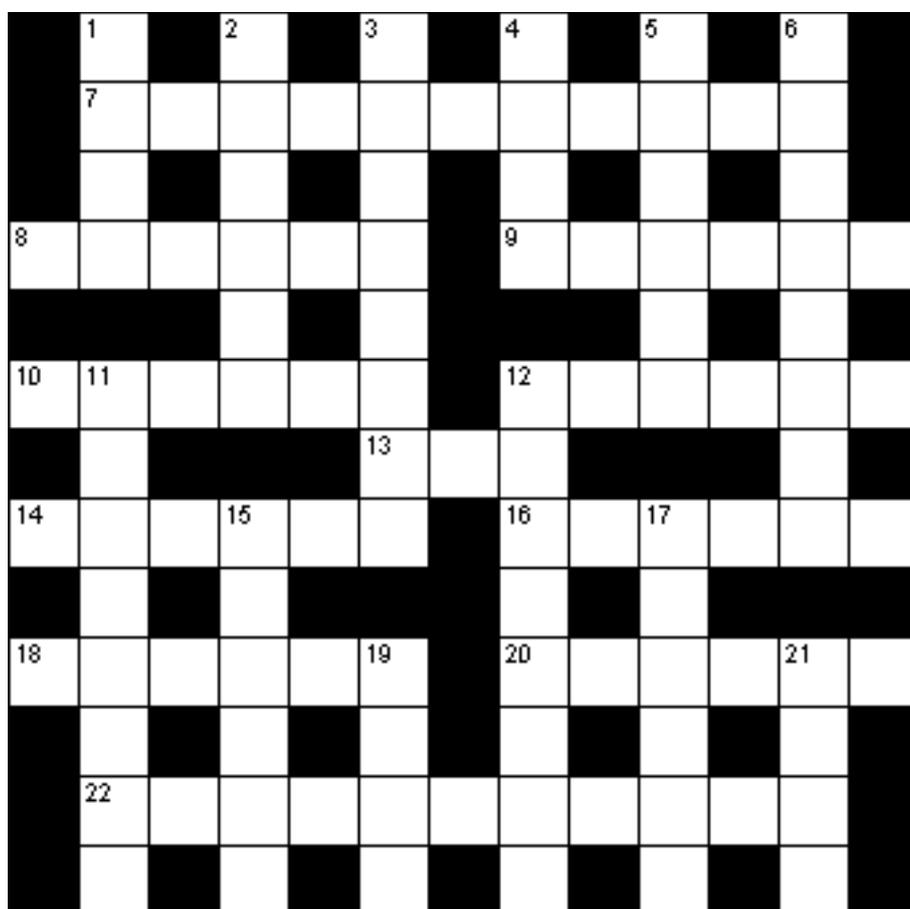
### Across

7. Playwrights    8. Strain    9. Glider    10. Studio    12. Agenda  
13. Nib    14. Hotdog    16. Arcade    18. Invert    20. Twenty  
22. Expenditure

### Down

1. Spot    2. Hazard    3. Swansong    4. King    5. Thrive  
6. Ascended    11. Trounced    12. Abattoir    15. Dieppe    17. Cherub  
19. Tiny    21. Trek

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

- 7 Clever (11)
- 8 Gas used in balloons (6)
- 9 Romantic song (6)
- 10 Room divider (6)
- 12 Hit (6)
- 13 Make a dove-like sound (3)
- 14 Gambling establishment (6)
- 16 Sparse (6)
- 18 Thin slice (6)
- 20 Cad (6)
- 22 Lack of respect (11)

## Down

- 1 Bicycle (4)
- 2 Walk with long steps (6)
- 3 Spanish music (8)
- 4 Arm or leg (4)
- 5 Underground room (6)
- 6 Assailant (8)
- 11 Padre (8)
- 12 Broad-brimmed Mexican hat (8)
- 15 Turn upside down (6)
- 17 Pay heed (6)
- 19 Wander (5)
- 21 Regular (4)