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**February 2026
Newsletter**





'Resurrection Journey' - a Lent Course

This Lent, as we discern our communal way, we also walk in a wilderness of difficult times and uncertain futures. Yet at the same time we walk towards and alongside the light and joy of Jesus's resurrection, the one who accompanies us even when we do not know it, and who opens up the Word until our hearts burn with joy and purpose.

Simon will be leading a Lent Course on Monday evenings at St Andrew's. It will commence on **Monday 23rd February**.

More details will follow - we do hope you can join us.



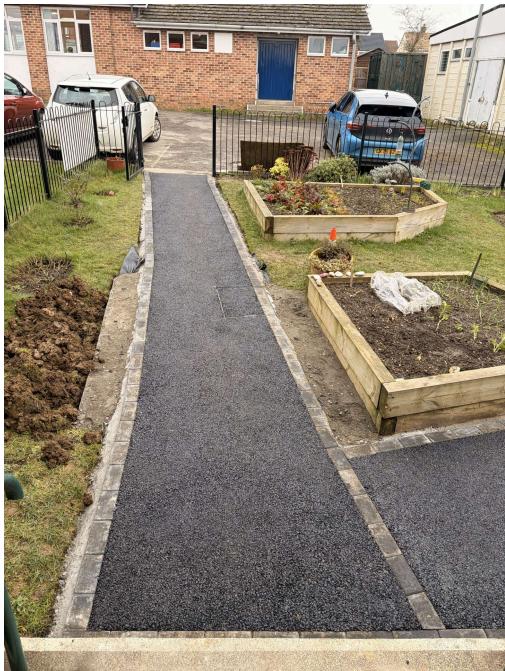
You may remember that for some time St Andrew's has been sponsoring a child in India through the Good Shepherd education programme of the charity DFN UK. This makes an enormous difference to the lives of the children concerned.

We have been sponsoring a girl called Riddhima. Unfortunately, Riddhima has left the school because her family have made the decision to move her to a government school closer to their home. Parents often make difficult choices to support their families especially if employment is unreliable and it is necessary for them to move area to seek other work.

We feel grateful that Riddhima has received good quality education in an environment where everyone is respected regardless of race, belief, caste or background, and that she will continue to attend school nearer to home.

We are now going to be sponsoring Filza Farhin who is 9 years old and has been attending the school since 2022. We know that Filza likes singing. Her father serves as a soldier in the Indian Army. They are a family of 4 and the family struggles to meet their basic needs. They live in a small house.

DFN UK will give us regular updates on Filza's progress and we will pass these on to you.



Community Garden

You will see that the work has been done to make the Community Garden accessible to all. The path has been levelled and widened and we are very pleased with the result.



Essex Women's Conference 2026 - Saturday 14th March

Last year, several of us attended the Essex Women's Conference 2025 in Danbury. It was an inspiring and uplifting day and we are excited to

attend again this year.

It would be wonderful if even more of our church attended too, so please do think about coming. If you would like to ask anything about it, please speak with Anne or Linda.

We are all booking individually, and the tickets can be purchased from this link:

<https://danburymission.churchsuite.com/events/rnjfowls>

Tickets sell out, so we recommend booking as early as possible.

This is the information from Danbury Mission:

Danbury Mission are excited to host our 13th annual Women's Conference on Saturday 14 March.

Our speaker will be Rachel Jones

Title - Restored

Rachel is the author of Is This It? A Brief Theology of Periods (Yes, Really), The Quiet Time Kickstart, and several books in the Five Things to Pray series. She serves as an editor at The Good Book Company, studies theology at Oak Hill College, and is a member of King's Church Chessington in South West London. She loves teaching the Bible, and in both her writing and speaking, aims to help people see who God is through the pages of Scripture.

The event will commence at 9.45am, doors open at 9.15am.

Please bring a packed lunch to enjoy together.

10 of those will be providing a bookstall.

We do hope you will be able to join us.

Cost £12.50



Wow didn't we do well!!

Many thanks to all those that contributed at our Christingle service and through the home collection boxes, helping to raise a total of £352. When the Gift Aid has been claimed this total will rise to over £400.

These funds will help The Children's Society to continue their support for young people, their families and carers and run training sessions for professionals working with children at risk.

To give you some idea of the work undertaken by the Society:

- in 2024/25 the Society supported 57,652 young people across the country through one-to-one sessions, group work, events and more
- supported 8,037 young people in early support hubs *Time for Young People* and *Pause services*
- Worked with more than 15,800 professionals, enabling them to better support children and young people at risk of abuse and harm or struggling with low wellbeing
- Ran 77 services for children, young people and their families focusing on providing early support and responding to risk.

Even as we are becoming a cashless society, we often end up with the odd 1p, 2p or 5p coins, never knowing what to do with them. If you had a home collection box these odd coins could become very useful ~ as the advert says "every little helps".

If you would like a box, I would be happy to supply you with one. Just ask.

Thanking you again for your support

Pauline M ~ St Andrew's Children Society Representative



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Fundraising for St Andrew's

Do you shop online? If so, you can support St Andrew's at the same time.

Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site and it has been established since 2005.

Thousands of retailers will give us a free donation when you shop with them – at no extra cost to you – including Sainsburys, Argos, Amazon, Marks and Spencer and John Lewis.

So far we have raised £1,159.72 for St Andrew's just by making our normal purchases.

To get started, register with Easyfundraising using this link

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewschurchchelmsford/?q=st%20andrews%20church,%20chel&cat=cause->

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If you would like more information, please let us know.



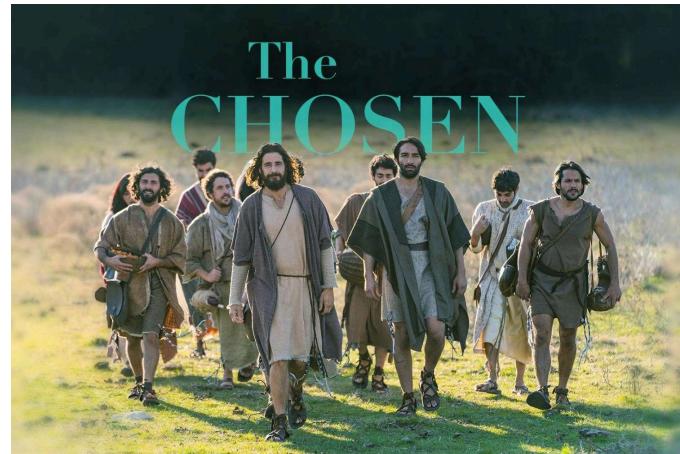
February Eco tip

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation.

Find out more and sign up at

<https://climateshield.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>



The Chosen at St Andrew's - Mark your calendars!

Everyone is welcome - please bring a friend!

We meet every Monday and alternate between watching the programme together and then meeting to talk about the programme.

Please feel free to come to all or just some of the sessions.

Roundtable discussions (Fortnightly at 7.15 pm)

2nd February, 16th February

Screenings (Fortnightly at 7.15 pm)

9th February, 23rd February

Monthly Events



Please join us on **1st February**

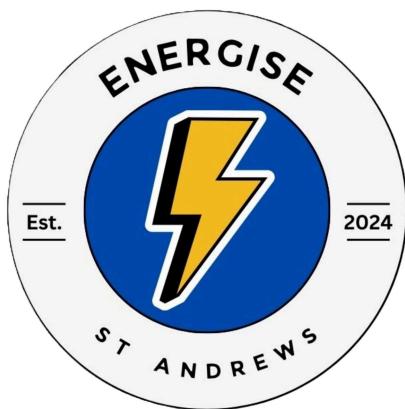
Messy Church takes place on the first Sunday of every month at 4.00 pm.

Don't forget - Messy Church is for people of ALL AGES so come and join us!

The Place will be on **15th**

February, gathering from **6:30pm**.

The Place is our contemporary worship evening. It's less structured than a normal morning service and often follows different themes. At the heart of the Place is a desire to create space to encounter God through different ways of worship. It takes place on the 3rd Sunday of every month.



This month, Energise will be on **8th February and 22nd February**.

Energise is for school age children and young people.

This term we will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Weekly Events



MORNING PRAYER

Thursday Mornings
9:30am



HOLY COMMUNION

Thursday Mornings
10:00am



OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Thursday Mornings
8:30am-11:30am

A friendly place to chat, relax and enjoy time together, with a space for pre-school children to play as well!

There is great coffee and tea with homemade cakes, soup and toast at our cafe.

There are plenty of friendly people to chat to so why not come and join us for coffee?



Little Fishes takes place in the Church Hall on Fridays **in term time**, between 9.45 and 11.45 a.m.

It is for children 0-5 years old with their parents and carers. There is indoor play, craft activities and song time and everyone is welcome.

Services and events in February

Sunday 1st February - 10.00 am Communion Together

4.00 pm Messy Church

Thursday 5th February - 9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th February - 10.00 am Holy Communion with Energise

Thursday 12th February - 9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th February - 10.00 am Worship Together

6.30 pm The Place

Thursday 19th February - 9.30 Morning Prayer

10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd February - 10.00 am Service of the Word with Energise

Thursday 26th February - 9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Holy Communion



And so we pray

THANKSGIVING

Lord, in all phases of our life, we give thanks for your steadfast and unchanging love, which sustains and directs us. We gratefully receive our daily bread, the food of love and life and your spirit which relieves the thirst of body and soul. May our hearts be lifted to you in thanks and praise, as we encounter the beauty of your creation, that reflects your love.

FOR THE CHURCH

May your Church and all Christian people honour one another in love. Pour Your love and mercy on us as we deal with doubts and misgivings and strengthen our resolve to choose the right path with you. Open the minds of all, to the message of salvation.

FOR ST ANDREWS

Loving God, we feel your presence in St Andrew's and pray for it to strengthen us and draw us closer to you and each other. We pray for the members of St Andrews PCC as they prepare to meet and discuss issues relating to the running of St Andrews. Let your guiding presence be in all their endeavours.

FOR THE WORLD

For the Farmers whose crops are failing due to climate change and the Worldwide Droughts and Floods that weaken the efforts of the communities to support themselves. For all refugees who are suffering loss of home and separation from their families and loved ones.

FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

Lord, we remember the homeless living in our City Centre and the CHESS team who are working to ease their situation. Help us listen and respond to those who call for help. Give us the grace of hospitality so our homes are places of welcome.

FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

We ask for your comfort to be with those suffering in mind or body. Grant compassionate hearts and minds to those who know and care for them.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

We pray for the souls of the babies that never had a chance to breathe, and the families devastated at the loss. We commend to you the souls of those who have recently died and ask you to give them rest and peace in perfect union with Christ

FOR LENT

As we enter Lent, we ask you to remind us of what is important and what is not. Be with us as we travel through Lent, and help us prepare for Easter, so that we have the strength to resist temptation and be renewed ready for the joy of your resurrection.

If you have any thoughts or news to share, do let us know.

WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

St Andrews

St Andrew's Church, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford, CM1 2DT, Chelmsford
United Kingdom

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