

Diary for this week 16th – 21st December

Mon	3.30pm	Learner Bell Ringers practice
Tues	9.00am	Morning Prayer at St Bridget's
	1.00pm	The Meeting Point Christmas Lunch in The Parish Hall
	2.15pm	Backwell Junior School Carol Service
Weds	9.30am	Bible study on Zoom
	11.30am	Funeral of Gerald Wilcox followed by wake in Church House
	3.30pm	Children's Choir in Church House
	6.45pm	Bell Ringers practice
	7.00pm	Bridge Club in Church House
Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer for the Vacancy on Zoom
Fri	6.40pm	Choir Practice
Sat	11.00am	Carols outside Spar

There is also Morning Prayer on Zoom Mon and Thurs each week – see email or contact the office for the link.

Next Sunday: 22nd December (4th Sunday of Advent)

10.45am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's
6.30pm	Carol Service	St Andrew's

Giving to St Andrew's or St Bridget's To support our churches the easiest way is through bank transfer to Backwell PCC: sort code 60-14-49 account No. 41004027 (alternatively, try the contactless station); to Backwell PCC Missions & Charities: Sort code 60-14-49; Account no. 41004035; quoting "Sisters"; to St Bridget's to Chelvey PCC: Sort Code 60-14-49 account No. 05021715.

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

10.45am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's
6.30pm	Carol Service	St Andrew's

Christmas Eve – 24th December

4.00pm	Crib Service	St Andrew's
9.00pm	Christmas Night Communion	St Bridget's

Christmas Day – 25th December

10.00am	Christmas Family Communion	St Andrew's
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Sunday 29th December

10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Andrew's
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Welcome to The Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley 15th December 2024 3rd Sunday of Advent



Welcome to our services today

10.45am	Informal Worship with Communion	Church House
3.00pm	Chelvey Carol Service	St Bridget's
4.00pm	Christingle Service	St Andrew's

Coffee will be served during the 10.45am service. There will be no live-streamed service this week.

Services and prayer during the week

Morning Prayer 9am Mon & Thurs on Zoom; also Tues at St Bridget's in person.

General Information...

St Andrew's and St Bridget's with St Nicholas'

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>
<http://www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/>

Rector

Vacancy – contact the Benefice Office (details below)

Ministry Team

Rev'd Canon Peter Bailey 01275 790611
Rev'd Joan Rowe 01275 463214
Mr Martin Canning 01275 790309
Mr David George 07532202786

Churchwardens

Backwell: Mr Andy Pitcher 07837281158
Mrs Cherry Leake 01275 462365 / 07708883075
Chelvey: Mr Roger Watson 01275 462821
Mrs Sue Bougourd 01275 853879

Administrator: Benefice office - 01275 463469

Office open **Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30**
admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Children's worker: Timi Booy – 07540 058609
Working days: Mon, Tues and Weds
childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Please submit any notices for the weekly sheet by 9.30am on Thursdays.

Office holiday The office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 20th December until 9.30am on Tuesday 7th January. Please contact the churchwardens or Ministry Team with any urgent matters during this time.

Collect and Readings...

Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings for this week...

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 2.1-5 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

For your prayers this week...

In the Anglican Communion: We pray for The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Zambia: We pray for our link church of St Andrew's, Ndola North as they celebrated St Andrew on 1st December.

In this Diocese: Jesus, help us to create a welcome for children that mirrors the love that you showed them, when others felt they were in the way. Give us the grace to learn from people of all ages.

In the Deanery: We pray for the Benefice of Nailsea Christ Church & Tickenham, & for Rev Nicki Bradford

Oct/Nov/Dec charity: The Sisters of the Church

December Prayer Cycle: Westfield Road, Westfield Close, Westfield Drive

Church Groups: During December we pray for Little Lambs toddler group, for Rhiannon Mark, its leader and for the older children now moving up.

December Baptism Anniversaries: Nathan, Grace, Lily

Backwell Junior School: We pray for our Pupil Chaplains, all Year classes, their teachers and classroom assistants.

Those who are sick or in need: Becky Jones, Estelle Wong, Jess Wong, Ed Hewitt, Grace Myahalaleel, Barbara Harland, Jenny Webb, Mike & Carol, Brenda Cooke, Lucy Goodland, Julian Barnett, Jane Hepburn, Alan, Judith Brown, Margaret Dagger.

Those who we keep in our prayers: Sue Ashman, Zofia Matyjasik, Maureen Barnett, Vicky Dunscombe

Those who have died: Gerald Wilcox

Anniversary of death: Christopher White, Stella Brooks, Sandra Barker

Advent Sermon Series Please use the accompanying leaflet for your daily reflections. Copies are in both churches and with the weekly e-mail. Also, do join us for a discussion of the sermon and the other passages on Wednesdays at 9.30am on Zoom.

Carol singing As part of the national initiative "Shine Your Light", encouraging Christians to hold outdoor events again this Christmas, there will be Carols outside Heaven coffee house on Saturday 14th December at 4.30pm. All welcome.

There will also be Carols outside Spar on Saturday 21st December at 11.00am with an open invitation to all.

Christmas Card Exchange is now available in the Link for you to exchange Christmas Cards with people who are likely to be in church. Please note that this is an exchange and not a delivery service so please do check to see if there are any cards for you – and make sure that those you leave have been collected.

Village Christmas Card Thank you to everyone who took stacks of cards to deliver. This has been a great combined effort and the whole village will be covered in partnership with the other churches.

Concerts Two concerts are coming up this weekend: Evergreen Chorus, All Saints Wroughton, Saturday 14th December 6.00pm (Sold out)
Bristol Choral Society, Bristol Beacon, Saturday 14th December 7.30pm

Fairtrade Church We have renewed our certification as a Fairtrade church at St Andrew's and posters recognising this are in the porch and Church House. Please do support Fairtrade producers where you can.

St Bridget's Christmas Coffee morning – rescheduled

This was postponed due to the weather warning on 7th and will now take place on Saturday 14th December. All welcome at St Bridget's between 10.00am and 12.00pm; there will be Christmas music with coffee and mince pies & raffle in aid of Caring in Bristol.