



Not only on
Sundays



Hampton - Eastwick Park - Thistledown - Charity Crescent - Fairfield

FAMILY FOCUS

Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 18th December

11am **Christingle Service**

This service is in aid of the **Children's Society** and will include the distribution of **Christingles**.

6pm **Service of Carols and Readings**

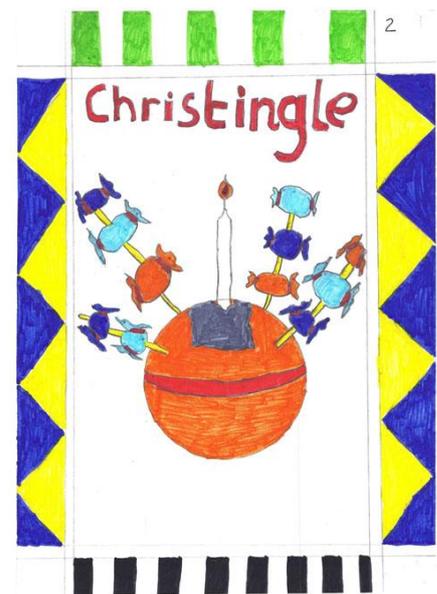
Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve

3pm **Crib Service**

This is short service for younger children.

11.30pm **Midnight Eucharist**



Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Family Eucharist**

This Christmas morning Communion welcomes families with children of any age.

The Congregation at St Andrew's wish everyone:

A Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful 2012

St Andrew's Church
Family Focus
December 2011

Revd Mark Binney - Priest in Charge
Telephone Number - 01386 424235
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Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

It's nearly Christmas 2011. There is an anticipation that something great is about to happen. For children it might be Father Christmas and all those presents. For adults it might be the joy of spending time with the family.

On that first Christmas Mary and Joseph must have had a sense of anticipation. They had done their best to make ready for the arrival of their baby. Joseph had found a place in a stable at the back of an Inn where Mary could give birth. There is a simplicity to this scene which resonates with the birth of us all into the world. The pain of labour and then the joy as this new small baby is born, so vulnerable, yet an object of wonder.

What a privilege it must have been to be present at the birth of Jesus. God had allowed himself to be that vulnerable baby. This is the joy which gives meaning to our Christmas celebrations and which we sing about in our Carols. It is the real Christmas, the first Christmas. All the trimmings, decorations and presents make sense if Jesus is at the heart of it all. This December let us receive Jesus who was and is Christmas.

**'O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today!'**



St Andrew's Tots

The Tots Team are encouraged to report growth in the number of people coming especially the morning sessions. Numbers were small at the beginning, we prayed and recently we have seen numbers grow (five adults with eight children last time).



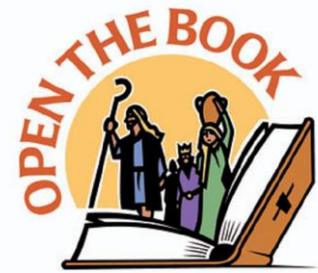
Doors are still open to welcome more mums / carers with children as well as volunteers to join us in play, chat and refreshment.

The Tots meet in term time on Fridays: 1st & 3rd Fridays 13:15 to 14:45 and 2nd & 4th Fridays 9:00 to 10:30hrs. For more information please contact Rhoda on 07932 652 646 or drop into one of the sessions.

OPEN THE BOOK

Pupils at St Andrew's continue to play an active part in the Tuesday "Open the Book" Acts of Worship.

Over the last few months the assemblies have featured stories from the Old Testament under the heading of "Men who dared to do right":



The Burning Bush	Exodus 3-4
The King Who Would Not Listen	Jeremiah 36
Down in the Well	Jeremiah 38
The Boys who Liked to Say No!	Daniel 1

During the Christmas Season the stories take on a **Christmas Theme**:

Joseph's Story	Matthew 1
The Shepherd's Story	Luke 2
The Wise Men's Story	Matthew 2

In January the next module has the theme "Children Play their Part" which has five stories.

The Helpful Servant	2 Kings 5
Snatched to Safety	2 Kings 11-12
Small King, Big Task	2 Kings 11-12
The Two Sons	Matthew 21
Be Like Me	Matthew 18



The St Andrews Church team members are grateful to pupils, parents and staff for their support and wish you all:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St Andrew's First School



Family Learning has continued to be popular with a fully subscribed adult learning group taking place each Thursday morning. This resumes in January after the Christmas break.

Evesham Library have supported an Arts project with local artist Maria Leydon working with our Year Four and Five classes to create a permanent mural for one of their walls. All classes in our school make a library visit once a half-term and will be able to see their work on display over the next few years.

St Andrew's Football Team has been well supported during this term by parents and pupils. We enjoyed taking part in the newly formed Evesham League and look forward to doing even better next year!

When we come back in January we will be providing three new **after school clubs** for children: Tag Rugby, Dance and Dodgeball. These are based on a survey of which clubs children would like to try and will run until the end of Spring term.

Don't forget, our school hall is available for private and commercial bookings during evenings and weekends. Please contact the school office on 01386 41351 or office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk for more details.

From all of us at St Andrew's First School, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St Andrew's Open Morning

St Andrew's Church is open on the second Saturday of each month. The next open morning will be on **Saturday 10th December** from 10am until noon. Come along and join us for a coffee, tea or squash and a chat.

There will be Fair Trade goods for sale along with our Christmas Cards and hand-made greetings cards.

