

Parish News

Church and Community News for Haslington and Crewe Green



St. Matthew's Haslington



St. Michael's Crewe Green

Church Leadership

Vicar:

Rev. Dr. Jane Lloyd

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Lay Readers:

Linda Clarke

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Church website:

www.hcganglican.org

Facebook:

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St. Matthew Haslington

Church Wardens:

Alan Wheeler

501450

Colin Booth

696000

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Jane McCombie

581769

Hon. Treasurer PCC:

Chris Betts

589324

Verger

Arleine Bloor

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St. Michael and All Angels Crewe Green

Church Wardens:

Nancy Kay

07791 911385

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Helen Ledward

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Roy Davies

588088

Verger

Geoff Pritchard

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Pastoral Letter

Advent Candles

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, both for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and for his glorious return as Lord of all. I love the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath because they help us reflect on the themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love, as we await the coming of Christ.

The Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches, symbolizing eternal life. It holds four candles— often three purple and one pink—arranged in a circle. The circle represents God’s eternity, with no beginning and no end, while the evergreens symbolize the hope we find in Jesus. Each candle is lit progressively, one for each Sunday of Advent, leading up to Christmas.

The first candle, called the *Prophet’s Candle*, is purple and represents hope. In the Old Testament, the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah, and this candle reminds us of the hope they had. It also calls us to reflect on the hope we have as we await Christ’s return. As we light this candle, we remember the light of God’s promises shining through the darkness.

The second candle, also purple, is known as the *Bethlehem Candle* and represents peace. This peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of Christ, who came to bring peace to our hearts and to the world. The lighting of this candle invites us to reflect on the peaceful night in Bethlehem when Jesus was born and to pray for peace in our lives, our communities, and the world.

The third candle, which is pink, is called the *Shepherd’s Candle* and represents joy. This candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing. The pink colour symbolizes the joy that comes with the knowing that Jesus’ birth is near and his return nearer than before. The shepherds, who received the good news of Jesus’ birth, represent the joy we feel as Christmas approaches. Lighting this candle reminds us to rejoice in God’s goodness and in the joy that the birth of Jesus brings.

The fourth candle, also purple, is called the *Angel’s Candle* and represents love. The angels announced Christ’s birth with words of peace and goodwill to all. The love of God for us is seen in the gift of His Son, and this candle reminds us to reflect on how we can share that love with others. As we light this candle, we are invited to live out God’s love in our own lives.

Most Advent wreaths also include a fifth candle, placed in the centre. This is the Christ Candle, which is white, symbolizing purity. It is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to mark the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World. The Christ Candle signifies the fulfilment of the promises of Advent. (Cont.)

(Cont.)

The lighting of the Advent candles is a spiritual practice that invites us to pause and reflect on the deeper meanings of the season. As we light each candle, we prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew.

May the light of our candles guide us through Advent, helping us focus on hope, peace, joy, and love as we await the coming of our Saviour.

With every blessing

Vicar Jane xx

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you to all who took part in this year's appeal.

As a Joint Benefice we were able to donate 22 boxes to this wonderful cause, with many donating online too.

Many thanks Helen Ledward



St. Matthew's PCC

PCC Members— Rev Jane(Chair), Alan Wheeler (Warden) Colin Booth (Warden) ,Jane McCombie (Secretary) Arleine Bloor, Roger Pearce, Barbara Harris, , Viv Grunner, Anna Betts, Steve Grunner, Celia Booth.

Minutes From The PCC Meeting will now be posted at the back of church

Our next PCC meeting will be held on 30th January 2025 at 10:00am Location TBA.

Church Hall cleaning and maintenance

The next church hall cleaning party is on Friday 6th December. Please note the new starting time of 9:00am. New volunteers are welcome.

Refreshments served after the clean.

Anna Betts



Church Diary December 2024

Sunday	1st	1st Sunday of Advent	
		9.30 am	Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church
		10.45 am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
		11.00 am	Service of Morning prayer at St Michael's Church
		4.00 pm	Café Church, Advent, in St Matthew's church Hall.
Wednesday	4 th	10:45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church
Sunday	8th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
		9:30 am	Service of Morning prayer at St Matthew's Church
		10:45 am	Service of Morning prayer at Christ Church
		11.00 am	Holy Communion service at St Michael's Church
		4.00 pm	Christingle service in St Matthew's church hall.
			
Wednesday	11 th	10:45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church
Sunday	15th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
		9.30 am	Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church
		10.45 am	Service of Morning Prayer at Christ Church
		11.00 am	9 lessons & Carols at St Michael & All Angels.
		4.30 pm	Lighting the Remembrance Tree at Christ Church
Wednesday	18 th	10:45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church
Saturday	21 st	7.30 pm	The Longest Night, Christmas Service, at Christ Church,
Sunday	22nd	4th Sunday of Advent	
		9.30 am	Service of Morning Prayer at St Matthew's Church
		10.45 am	Service of Morning Prayer at Christ Church
		11.00 am	Christingle with shortened holy communion, at St Michael & All Angels
		3.00 pm	9 lessons and Carols, at St Matthew's Church
		4.30 pm	Service of Evening Prayer at Christ Church
			
Tuesday	24th	Christmas Eve,	
		3.00 pm	Nativity, St Matthew's Church.
		4.30 pm	Nativity, Christ Church, Wheelock
		10.00 pm	Holy Communion, St Matthew's Church
		11.30 pm	Holy Communion, St Michael & All Angels
Wednesday	25th	Christmas Day	
		10.00 am	Prayer Book Mattins, Christ Church
		10.00 am	Holy Communion, St Matthew's Church
Sunday	29th	1st Sunday after Christmas	
		10.30 am	United Benefice Holy Communion, Christ Church,



Haslington Women's Institute

Our November meeting was the AGM, with the election of the President and new Committee.

We then enjoyed prize bingo and a most pleasant social evening.

The Mercia Link meeting in Shavington was most entertaining. The author of "Murder at the Winterbottom WI" came to talk to us. We were then served Afternoon Tea.

A number of ladies decorated the village with poppies for Remembrance. Also WI ladies served refreshments for people attending the Cenotaph. The trip to Chatsworth House Christmas markets was very festive. A great day, even the sun was out.

A number of ladies went to Nantwich Civic to see a tribute act to Guns and Roses. Excellent music.

The book club are reading "The Couple at No 9" by Claire Douglas, an excellent thriller.

Coming up we have Escape rooms, the Golf club meal, the Christmas party and the Vintage Afternoon Tea.

The WI meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at The Cosey Club 7.30pm. All welcome.

Janet Dake.....haslington WI

Facebook.....haslingtonwi



St. Matthew's Social Committee

The next monthly coffee morning is in the church hall on Friday 24th January 2025 between 10:00am and 12:00 noon.



Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th December at 11:00am Soup and carols including the Christmas draw in the church hall, all welcome.

Saturday 25th January Beetle drive and fish and chip supper



*United Benefice
Mothers Union*

Due to unforeseen circumstances there is no MU report this month.

WANTED for this Christmas Eve,

**Mary's, Joseph's, shepherds, and kings, for the Nativity service at
3:00pm at St. Matthew church.**

**We look forward to seeing you. If able to help please contact
Anna Betts for more details.**



Advent is a season of looking back, thinking how it must have been, waiting for the promised salvation of God, not knowing what to expect. And, at the same time, Advent is a season of looking ahead, preparing ourselves to meet Jesus at his Second Coming.



Rev. Jane will be running an Advent Course called "Joy to the World" starting Wednesday 20th November, 7:00pm at the Vicarage Crewe Road All Welcome.



Regular Church Hall Activities

Because of current circumstances the church hall and all social meetings / events are beginning to open up if you require any information please contact any of the below.

Young People

Cubs	Tuesday	17:45 – 19:15	Katrina Fearn email: crewegreenscouts@hotmail.co.uk
Scouts	Monday	19:30 – 21:00	Verity Ashcroft / Jamie Davies email: crewegreenscouts@hotmail.co.uk
Rainbows	Wednesday	17:00 – 18:00	Mrs Maria Pickersgill Tel: 258821 haslingtonbrownies@yahoo.co.uk
Brownies	Wednesday	18:15 – 19:30	Mrs Cathy Consterdine Tel: 214832 haslingtonbrownies@yahoo.co.uk

Cameo

Our Cameo Group, a luncheon club for the bereaved and anyone else who, through circumstances, finds themselves alone. On the 3rd Thursday of the month (at the present) at 1:00 in St. Matthew's Church Hall. We welcome anyone from anywhere. Contact Viv Grunner (501538) for further information.

Mothers Union

Meet on a Wednesday please Speak to Jane McCombie (581769) or Viv Grunner (501538)

Coffee Mornings

Friday Morning Coffee Mornings are held in St. Matthews Church Hall 10:00 –12:00 on the 4th Friday of the month.

Gardening Club

Meet on the 1st Thursday of the month 19:30 – 21:00

Health/Wellbeing/Hobbies

Keep Fit Tuesday 19:30 – 20:30

Pre School Dance `Thursday 10:45—11:45

Friday 10:45—11:45

God at the Movies 2nd Thursday in the month

Prayer Breakfast 4th Saturday every 2 months

Café Church / Open table 2nd Sunday in the month



Festive Mince Pie Twists

Ingredients

2 x 320g Jus-Rol Ready Rolled Shortcrust Pastry Sheets
411g jar mincemeat
zest of 1 large orange
25g caster sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
A little icing sugar, to finish



Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C, (180°C for fan assisted ovens), Gas Mark 5.

Carefully unroll out the ready-rolled pastry sheets. Use the greaseproof paper supplied with the pastry to line two large baking trays.

Spread one pastry sheet with the mincemeat evenly to the edges.

Grate over a generous amount of orange zest and place the remaining pastry sheet on top.

Mix together the sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over the pastry evenly. Use your hands to press the sugar mixture into the pastry.

Cut into 16 equal-sized strips and twist each strip holding both ends and place on the prepared baking sheets.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes until golden. Allow to cool, sieve over the icing sugar before serving.

Enjoy with crème fraiche, cream or ice-cream.





Church Rotas
For St. Matthew's



**St. Matthew's
Reading Rota**

01/12/2024	Chris Betts
08/12/2024	Helen Pearce
15/12/2024	Pat Hills
22/12/2024	Alan Wheeler
29/12/2024	United Service

**St. Matthew's
Intercession Rota**

01/12/2024	Colin Booth
08/12/2024	Chris Wheeler
15/12/2024	Darren Evans
22/12/2024	Viv Grunner
29/12/2024	United Service

**St. Matthew's
Eucharist Server Rota**

01/12/2024	Chris Betts
08/12/2024	-
15/12/2024	Alan Wheeler
22/12/2024	
29/12/2024	United Service

**St. Matthew's
Sides-person Rota**

01/12/2024	Dennis & Jane McC
08/12/2024	Janet D & Shelagh H
15/12/2024	Jane & John McC
22/12/2024	Sheila M & Anne A
29/12/2024	United Service

**St. Matthew's
Flower Rota**

01/12/2024	Christine Wheeler
08/12/2024	----"----
15/12/2024	TBA
22/12/2024	Christmas Flowers
29/12/2024	----"----

**St. Matthew's
Church Locking up**

01/12/2024	Arleine Bloor
08/12/2024	Steve Grunner
15/12/2024	Vicar Jane
22/12/2024	Chris Betts
29/12/2024	Colin Booth

December Sudoku

8					7		3
3		5	9		6	8	4
	2			1		6	
	5		1		9		
		1		5		9	
			4		8		5
		8		3			6
	6	7	2		4	1	8
1		9					4

Easy

4						6	3	5
	5		8		6		1	
			4	9		8		
		9						4
6	8						9	7
2						3		
		6		2	7			
	1		5		3		2	
5	2	3						1

Medium

5		4	6	9			
8			1			9	2
		2			1		3
	6		3	4		2	
3		1			6		
4	3			8			5
			9	3	8		7

Hard



St. Michael's PCC

P.C.C. Members: Rev Jane(Chair), Nancy Kay (CW) Helen Ledward (Secretary, Deanery Rep), Roy Davies (Treasurer) Linda Clarke (Deanery Rep), Ron Taylor, Anne Thompson, Jeanette Allman, Barrie Blood, Margaret Hepburn, David Pegg.

Notes From The PCC Meeting will now be posted at the back of church.

St. Michael's next P.C.C meeting will be on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00 pm in the church vestry.



St. Michael's Social Committee



WINTERLEY METHODIST BRASS BAND CONCERT



St. Michael's Church Saturday 7th December at 7.00 pm
Back by popular demand , a musical evening to remember
Tickets £8 including Cheese and Wine and soft drinks.



ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 14th December 10:00am—12:00 noon
With Christmas Nativity Story and Crafts



Christmas Tree Decorating
Festive Fun For All The Family



We look forward to seeing you all





Church Rotas
For *St. Michael's*



**St. Michael's
Prayer Rota**

01/12/2024	Ron
08/12/2024	Nancy
15/12/2024	Helen
22/12/2024	Linda
29/12/2024	Roz

**St. Michael's
Reading Rota**

01/12/2024	Ron
08/12/2024	Helen
15/12/2024	Anne
22/12/2024	Linda
29/12/2024	Nancy

**St. Michael's
Cleaning Rota**

07/12/2024	Ron & Irene
14/12/2024	Linda
21/12/2024	Helen
28/12/2024	Anne
04/01/2025	Ron & Irene

**St. Michael's
Coffee Rota**

01/12/2024	Ron & Irene
08/12/2024	Barrie/Janette
15/12/2024	Helen
22/12/2024	Linda
29/12/2024	Helen

**St. Michael's
Sides-person Rota**

01/12/2024	Margaret
08/12/2024	Helen
15/12/2024	Nancy
22/12/2024	Barrie
29/12/2024	Margaret

ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many thanks to all who came to support our Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th November. It was a great event with many enjoying the fun, stalls and hot lunches, as well as raising valuable funds for the church.

November Sudoku Solutions

3	5	6	2	8	4	7	1	9
1	2	8	7	3	9	4	6	5
7	9	4	6	5	1	3	2	8
5	8	7	9	6	3	1	4	2
4	6	9	1	7	2	5	8	3
2	1	3	5	4	8	6	9	7
6	3	2	4	9	7	8	5	1
9	7	5	8	1	6	2	3	4
8	4	1	3	2	5	9	7	6

Easy

6	5	3	2	7	8	9	1	4
7	4	1	3	9	6	5	8	2
8	9	2	4	5	1	7	3	6
4	8	6	5	1	7	3	2	9
5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7	8
2	1	7	8	3	9	6	4	5
3	6	4	7	2	5	8	9	1
9	7	5	1	8	4	2	6	3
1	2	8	9	6	3	4	5	7

Medium

3	4	8	2	9	1	6	7	5
5	7	9	6	8	4	1	2	3
1	2	6	7	3	5	8	4	9
7	9	3	5	1	2	4	8	6
6	5	2	8	4	7	9	3	1
4	8	1	3	6	9	2	5	7
8	6	4	1	5	3	7	9	2
2	1	5	9	7	8	3	6	4
9	3	7	4	2	6	5	1	8

Hard



Prayer Subjects

Some ideas that you may like to include in your daily prayers this month are:

Lord Jesus, as we enter this Advent season, help us cling to the hope You bring. In a world that feels heavy with need, remind us of Your promise to come again and make all things new. Let our hearts be filled with the light of Your presence, leading us closer to You each day.

Amen.

Prince of Peace, settle our hearts in this season of waiting. Where there is tension or fear, bring Your calming presence. May Your peace fill our lives, our homes, and our relationships, drawing us together in unity and love.

Amen.

God of joy, let us rediscover the wonder of Your love this Advent. Help us to rejoice not just in the gifts we receive, but in the gift of Your Son. May our hearts overflow with gratitude and joy as we look forward to celebrating Your birth.

Amen.

Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Your Son, fill us with Your perfect love. Teach us to see others as You see them, to reach out in kindness, and to share the gift of Your love with those around us. Help us to live in a way that reflects Your heart for the world.

Amen.



In Memoriam

Burial of Ashes of Andrew Shaw, St Matthew's, 1st November

Funeral of Lesley Goode, Christ Church, 7th November.

Funeral of Lisa Marsters St Matthew 8th November.

Funeral of Baby Isla Ayana Wood, St Matthew's. 12th November.

Funeral of Philip Colclough Christ Church, 13th November.

Funeral of Elaine Clarke St Matthew's 15th November,

Funeral of John Joseph Haynes St Matthew's 28th November.



Around The Community

Meeting God at the Movies is on Thursday 12th December.

2.00pm in St Matthew's church hall



Please bring your interval drinks and pop corn!



*From all our article contributors, distributors
and editorial team*

Santa's Workshop.



Things are very busy in Santa's Workshop,
Where Elves work hard and never stop;
Making Dolls of every size and shape,
And model aircraft kits for you to make.
Jigsaw Puzzles that leave you in a muddle,
Teddy bears just waiting for a cuddle.

Scalextric cars that whizz around a track,
Toy soldiers that are ready to attack.

Old fashioned Spinning Tops and Skipping Ropes,
Shiny new Sledges for slippery slopes.

Roller Skates, Bicycles and a Scooter,
A Pedal Car with a noisy hooter.

Animals that live on the farm or in the Zoo,
Escaped from Noah's Ark two by two.

A football and an England Cricket Set,
Buckets and Spades and a fishing net.

Battleships, Ludo and other board games,
Dinky cars, Pond Yachts and Hornby Trains.

Crayons, Colouring Pencils and a Dot to Dot,
Drawing Paper, Brushes and a paint pot.

Picture and Story Books by Enid Blyton,
Scary tales that are meant to frighten.

All of these toys on Santa's list,

Elves check to be sure no one is missed.

Before they are loaded on the reindeers' sleigh,
In time to bring joy and happiness on Christmas Day.



Christine Wheeler. 2024.



**Christmas
raffle!**

The Christmas Raffle.

Christmas time is nearly here.
It's the time Chris Wheeler's
Raffle tickets always appear.

Some people try and shy away,
But be sure Chris will catch up with you,
In the end one day.



Please buy your tickets, and don't shy away;
And one of the Christmas Hampers,
Maybe coming your way.

Sheila Mason. November 2024.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Wednesday 20th November, 7.00 pm Advent Course,
Joy to the World, at the Vicarage on Crewe Road.

Thursday 5th December 7.00pm, Winterley Brass Band Christmas concert,
at Christ Church.

Saturday 7th December 7.00 pm December Winterley Brass Band,
Christmas concert, at St Michael & All Angels.

Saturday 7th December 11.00 am soup and carols, with raffle, in St
Matthew's church hall.

Saturday 14th December 10-12 pm Decorating the Christmas Tree, with
crafts and refreshments, at St Michael & All Angels.



Christmas Raffle.



St. Matthew's Social Committee will be holding their annual Christmas Raffle, with soup and Carols on Saturday 7th December.

The theme this year will be Christmas Songs and carols, and there will be 12 hampers.

- 1. Joy to the World.** Containing Gingerbread, Stollen, Panettone, Shortbread, Linz biscuits etc.
- 2. Mistletoe and Wine.** Containing a selection of wines and some mistletoe.
- 3. Santa Claus is coming to town.** A Children's hamper containing toys, etc.
- 4. I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus.** A ladies hamper containing mistletoe, lipstick, toiletries etc.
- 5. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.** Containing chocolate and sweets.
- 6. White Christmas.** Containing white wine, white chocolate, tinsel etc.
- 7. In the bleak mid-winter.** Containing bob hats, gloves, hot water bottle, ice scraper etc.
- 8. We wish you a merry Christmas.** Containing mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding etc.
- 9. Deck the halls with boughs of holly.** Containing decorations, cards, paper etc.
- 10. God rest you merry Gentlemen.** A man's hamper containing beer, cider, chocolate, toiletries etc.
- 11. Here we come a Wassailing.** Containing mulled wine, nibbles etc.
- 12. Silent Night.** Containing hot chocolate, bed socks, teddy, night time tea etc.

There will be books at the back of church, detailing individual items to donate. In the meantime, if you have any items which would be suitable for the hampers, please let me know.

Many Thanks Chris Wheeler.



December Quick View Diary

Sunday	1st	1st Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday	3 rd	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
Wednesday	4 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
Thursday	5 th	7.00pm	Winterley Brass Band Christmas concert, at Christ Church Wheelock.
		7:30pm	Gardening Club meet in the Church Hall
Friday	6 th	9:00am	Church Hall Cleaning party
Saturday	7 th	11.00am	Soup and Carols, with raffle, in St Matthew's church hall.
		7.00 pm	Winterley Brass Band, Christmas concert, at St Michael & All Angels. Crewe Green
Sunday	8th	2nd Sunday of Advent	
		4.00 pm	Christingle service in St Matthew's church hall.
Tuesday	10 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
		7:30pm	Haslington WI meet at the Cosy Club
Wednesday	11 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
Thursday	12 th	2:00pm	Meeting God at the movies St. Matthew's Church hall
Saturday	14 th	10-12 pm	Decorating the Christmas Tree, with crafts and refreshments, at St Michael & All Angels.
Sunday	15th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday	17 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
Wednesday	18 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
			Mothers Union Meeting
Thursday	20 th	1:00pm	CAMEO in St. Matthew's church hall
Sunday	22nd	4th Sunday of Advent	
		3.00 pm	9 lessons and Carols, at St Matthew's Church
Tuesday	24 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
		3.00 pm	Nativity, St Matthew's Church.
		4.30 pm	Nativity, Christ Church, Wheelock

Parish News Deadline for the **January** edition is **Wednesday 25th December**

Chris Betts, 3 Park Rd. Haslington Tel: 589324 Email: chris_betts_@hotmail.com