



NEWS AND NOTES

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Happy New Year!!

No, I've not completely lost the plot.

Advent Sunday is a bit like the Church's New Year's Day. While most people wait until January to flip the calendar, we get to start afresh now. Advent is our reset button—a chance to lift our eyes from the past and look ahead to Christ's coming. It's a season that nudges us to begin again with hope, to wake up to God's future, and to live as people of light.

Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of peace: nations streaming to God's mountain, weapons turned into tools for growth, and people walking together in the light of the Lord. Paul picks up that theme with urgency—"wake up," he says, "the night is nearly over, the day is almost here." And Jesus reminds us that his coming will break into ordinary life without warning, so the call is simply to be ready.

Put together, these readings tell us something important: hope isn't just wishful thinking. It's rooted in God's promise. Advent hope is active—we live now as people of light, choosing peace, generosity, and love. Advent hope is shared—we encourage one another and embody God's kingdom together.

And here's the good news: we don't wait in vain. The Christ who came in humility will come again in glory. Our waiting is full of hope. So let's walk in the light of the Lord, awake and ready, because his coming is good news for the whole world.

As we step into this new year in the Church's life, we'd love you to join in our Advent devotionals. They're available online through our website, or in booklet form at church. They're a simple way to help us watch, wait, and live in hope together.

Wishing you a blessed and hope-filled Advent

Rev'd Pam Smith

SERVING THIS WEEK

St Andrew:

Prayers: Graham

Reader 1: Colin

Reader 2: Philip

St Paul:

Prayers: David

Reader 1: Dorothy E

Reader 2: Jackie

St Peter:

Prayers: Bev

Reader 1: Wiktor

Reader 2: Michael

READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2. 1 – 15

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

The Future House of God

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

New Testament Reading

Romans 13. 11 – end

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24. 36 – 44

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for

the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

WEEKLY CHURCH PRAYERS

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

We have a booklet for you to engage with daily Advent devotions and activities for you. It is available online through our website, or in booklet form at church.



These daily reflections are designed to help us watch, wait, and live in hope together. Each day there is a scripture reading, plus a couple of activities and prayer invitations for you as well as a piece of music that will help you for that day. Please navigate to

blackleycofe.church/discipleship and you will see

the page for Advent Devotional 2025 under "Study Materials".

You can view the digital version of the devotional booklet, along with a couple of musical playlists for you to choose from. I've done a "traditional" set and a "contemporary" set of music to enhance your Advent journey. If you are not tech-savvy and would like a CD of this music please let me know and I will get one to you.

CALENDAR

Midweek services:

Wednesdays 10.45am St Andrew's

Thursdays 11.00am St Paul's (Hub)

CHURCH MEETINGS

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

Weekly on Mondays at **4pm** online

Our next in-person meeting will be in December, date to be confirmed

PCC MEETINGS

St Andrew's – 14th January 2026

St Paul's – 20th January 2026

St Peter's - 22nd January 2026

DEANERY MEETINGS

Deanery Synod February 2026 (date TBC)

Deanery Chapter January 2026 (date TBC)

BLACKLEY CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

Saturday 22nd November

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival (until 14th December)

Advent & Christmas Services

Schools Visits

1st December – Pike Fold at St Peter's (rehearsal)

4th December – Pike Fold at St Peter's

15th December – Crab Lane at St Andrew's (rehearsal)

16th December – Crab Lane at St Andrew's (performance)

16th December – Crosslee at St Paul's

17th December – Bowker Vale at St Andrew's

17th December – Crosslee at St Paul's

Carol Services

7th December 6.00pm St Andrew's
with Blackley Band

14th December 4.00pm St Peter's

Community Carols

21st December 6.30pm St Paul's

Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December

10.45am No morning service at St Andrew's

Christmas Eve 4.00pm

Crib Service at St Paul's

Christmas Eve 7.00pm

First Communion of Christmas at St Peter's

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

First Communion of Christmas at St Andrew's

Christmas Day 10.00am

First Communion of Christmas at St Paul's

BOOTH CENTRE APPEAL

St Paul's are collecting items for the Booth Centre Winter appeal, and David will be taking the gathered contributions down to them on Monday 8th December. If you would like to contribute, please get them to St Paul's before Sunday 7th December.



FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS

Those getting married

- ✝ **Latisha and Declan** who will be getting married at St Peter's in 2026
- ✝ **Ethan and Megan** who will be getting married at St Paul's in 2026

Those grieving or remembering an anniversary at this time

- ✝ Julie and Tina and the church family at St Peter's as they mourn the loss of **Eric Clark**. Eric's funeral will be at St Peter's at 11.30am on Friday 5th December.
- ✝ For the family of **Ray Moth** whose funeral is on Monday 15th December (St Paul's parish)
- ✝ For the staff and residents at Allendale who are mourning **Richard Mayle**, whose funeral is on Thursday 11th December (St Peter's parish)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Those caring

- ✝ Staff, residents and visitors at Vestacare

Our Young People

- ✝ Teachers, Support Staff, Children and Governors at Bowker Vale Primary School

Those exploring Christian faith

- ✝ **Theodore** who will be baptised at St Peter's on Sunday 30th November
- ✝ **Lee** who will be baptised at St Peter's on Sunday 7th December
- ✝ **Daniel** who will be baptised at St Paul's on 1st February 2026
- ✝ **Those who have enquired about being Confirmed next year**

Those who are ill or are in hospital

Our Community Partners

- ✝ Staff and service users of Higher Blackley Community Centre

Residents and Visitors

We pray for all those people in Ada Street, Aberdare Walk and Acre Top Road

Worldwide Church

The Anglican Church of Australia

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Rev Pam Smith

SSM: Rev Jane Astley

Lay Readers: Sue Winstanley (St Peter's), Helen Vickers, Philip James, Katherine Strudwick and Steve Gray (St Andrew's)

Safeguarding Officers: Dianne McCann (St Andrew's), Taron Entwistle (St Paul's) and Karen Moores (St Peter's)

Church Wardens: Graham Gordon, Dianne McCann (St Andrew's), David Armsbey, Paul Sykes (St Paul's), and Dave Heal, Michael Scotney (St Peter's).

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT

Phone: 0161 264 9982 or 07834 424568

Email: clergy@blackleycofe.church

Website: blackleycofe.church

