



St Andrew's Church, Reading Street

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

AUTUMN 2025

Dear Friends,

SUNDAY

We live in a rapidly changing world – this is often said but it is worth saying again because it seems to be becoming more and more true as time goes on. One of the most remarkable changes we have been experiencing in recent years has been the way local societies are breaking up – people will know everyone on Coronation Street, but not their neighbours next door.

While it remains true and very encouraging that in older established parts of our parish neighbourhood communities still exist and are a living social force, but there are still in our local streets many people whose lives are lived as if anonymous to the local community. This is especially the case when both partners are working. For people like these it naturally occurs that there are less opportunities for them to build up their relationships in and with their neighbourhood.

This is their social alienation, then, seems a fact and a circumstance hardly avoidable in modern day life.

A typical local community bases itself on focal: these are; pubs, clubs, community centres, sports venues and centres, hobbies societies, and of course the local Churches.

We all have a deep need to belong. The people of God however, members of the Church of God have a special ingredient which is unique in the local communities we create. The Church is a community of Faith; it is where ordinary and spiritually-seeking people worship their Creator and nourish their care and love for their neighbours in the world.

Church is the place, one of the few places, where locality, community, and the everyday commonplace, meet with and experience their part and purpose within eternity. Church is that place where the need of your neighbour for the loan of a cup of sugar, or for to keep an eye on the house while they're away, coincides with and intersects with the infinite power of the Cross of Christ.

By our praying at, worshipping at, and giving our time, talents, and glad financial help to our local Church, we are performing deeds which recreate us as the local human presence representing the eternal, all-powerful Word of God here in this place.

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One big challenge is the way people keep Sunday. It used to be easy to come to Church because there was not much else to do. Now there are lots of things going on, even on a Sunday morning, and it means people have to take a conscious decision to make the effort to come to worship. The problem about Sunday really is that it is no longer a recognised "day off". Many people work on Sundays; shops are open and children's activities are arranged. We all need a day to relax, with the pressure off. Seven days a week without at least a change does no one any good. What is the answer? Make a conscious decision to keep Sunday special by putting God first and putting other things off if necessary. If you can't get to Church through illness, then spend time in prayer and meditation.

Sunday is special when you keep it as special – your treasure is where your heart is. Sunday is the day of the week our Lord Jesus Christ rose to life again from the dead – so it is worthy to be our premier day of thanksgiving and joy and praise.

God bless you

Philip

Exciting News:

Our new Christian Books Lending Library is now open!

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our brand-new Christian Books Lending Library right here at the Church. This new resource is a gift to our entire church family- a space dedicated to spiritual growth, inspiration and deeper understanding of God's word.

Whether you're looking to strengthen your faith, find encouragement for your journey, or simply enjoy some quiet time with a good book, the lending library is here for you.

What You'll Find Inside:

Our collection includes a wide variety of Christian books for all ages and interests including:

- Bibles study guides and theological works
- Anglican Prayer and Devotional books
- Christian fiction and non-fiction
- Books on prayer, discipleship, and Christian living
- Inspirational biographies of Christian leaders and missionaries

Whether you are seeking to know Christ for the first time, preparing to lead others, or simply seeking encouragement in your walk with Christ, there is something here for you. We pray this library will bless and equip you.

How It Works

- You'll find the library located in the Lady Chapel inside the Church, behind the choir stall.
- The lending process is simple: just write your name, book title and the date on the sign-out sheet provided.
- Books maybe borrowed for up to 3 weeks. Renewals are welcome if needed.

There is no cost to borrow books, and no library card is needed — just a heart ready to grow and a desire to learn. Each book has been chosen or donated with love and desire to encourage one another in faith. We hope this space becomes a source of blessing, conversation and community.

How you can help; here's how you can support:

- Volunteer: We'd love help keeping the Library organised and maintained- let's know if you would like to get involved.
- Spread the word: Encourage friends, family and neighbours to stop by.

Will You Say Yes to Jesus?

As you browse the books, study the word or sit quietly in the presence of God, perhaps you feel something stirring - longing for peace, for truth, for a life that is anchored in something greater. That longing has a name: Jesus We're excited to see how God will use this library to plant seeds, spark interest, and draw us closer to him. Let this new ministry be a blessing to many. May it inspire deeper love for God, greater knowledge of His word and a more prayerful walk with Jesus.

Come and See and Read

In Christ the Living Word

Come, take a book- leave inspired,

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

Psalms 119:105

Church Events – October to December 2025.

Sunday	2 nd Nov.	All Saints/All Souls
Sunday	9 th Nov.	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday	30 th Nov.	Advent Sunday
Sunday Evening	30 th Nov.	St Andrew's Patronal service and Christmas tree lighting.
Thursdays	Compline	4 th , 11 th and 18 th December – 7.00 pm.
Saturday	20 th Dec.	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday	21 st Dec.	Nativity Sunday
Weds.	24 th Dec.	Christmas Eve
Thursday	25 th Dec.	Christmas Day