



## St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

*(Please see Fr Douglas' column, below, for a fuller explanation of this update.)*

**Parish Closed.** As of Thursday, 20 November, either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the surrounding towns is in red status on the [Connecticut COVID Data Tracker](#). Therefore *all worship services will be pre-recorded and made available on [our YouTube account](#)* at least an hour before they were scheduled to occur. In addition, all *other parish activities will either be suspended or move to online-only*; participants in those activities will be updated separately. The parish will remain in closed status until both Kent and a majority of the surrounding towns are less-than-red for two successive Thursdays. [DW1]

## Weekly Schedule for 22 November

*Note: To attend any services please sign up beforehand with Irene Connors:*

[collageconnors@gmail.com](mailto:collageconnors@gmail.com)

860.592.0030

Services are limited to 25 socially distanced attendees (with masks)

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Friday, 20 November

Prayer and Meditation  
Friday Night AA Group  
(Parish House) temporarily  
until First Church opens  
*suspended*

5:30 pm  
8 pm

Sunday, 22 November

Holy Eucharist (*online*)

10:30 am

Tuesday, 24 November	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Anti-Racism Study Group (Parish House) <i>Zoom</i>	9 & 10:30 am 7:30 pm
Wednesday, 25 November	Tai Chi (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist ( <i>online</i> ) AA Meeting for Women (Zoom) <i>email for info.</i>	4:30 pm 6 pm 7 pm
Thursday, 26 November	AA Thursday Morning Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i> Holy Eucharist: <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> ( <i>online</i> ) AI-Anon Meeting (Great Room) <i>suspended</i>	7:30 am 10 am 7 pm
Friday, 27 November	Prayer and Meditation	5:30 pm

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*Note: The 10.30 a.m. Service is also available live on YouTube which you can access through our website [www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org) or the Saturday Epistle YouTube Live Stream link*

From Father Douglas



Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

Every morning, as part of Morning Prayer, I pray for the world as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic. I pray the same seven intercessions each day, and two of them seem quite relevant to what I have to share with you this week. First, I pray for all human beings as we make decisions about how to keep one another ... and ourselves ... safe during these unsafe times. Second, I pray for all those in authority: that they may make dispassionate decisions and take sound actions regarding our response to this virus.

These two prayers, in particular, have been on my mind a lot this week. The recent upsurge of COVID-19 in Connecticut and just about everywhere else means that we need to think about additional measures to keep parishioners and others safe. Although gathering for worship on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings and other times is a deeply engrained practice for many of us, following Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors means that we may have to forgo, for a time, some of the things we most cherish, to help limit the spread of the virus.

To this end, at the November vestry meeting, St Andrew's adopted the following COVID closure protocol: Each Thursday afternoon, we will look at the Connecticut COVID Data Tracker (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>). If either the Town of Kent and/or a majority of the towns around Kent are red, meaning they have 15 or more cases per 100,000 people, then:

- **All worship will be pre-recorded and online-only** (The choir will not rehearse or sing; a single cantor may sing during pre-recorded worship.) Recordings of Sunday services will be uploaded to the [parish's YouTube account](#) by 8:00 am on Sunday morning, and recordings of other services (including Sunday evening services during Advent) will be uploaded at least an hour before they were scheduled to take place. Bulletins for Sunday worship will be available online, as usual.
- **All other in-person activities at the parish will either be suspended or move to online-only.**

If we move to online-only, we will announce this in the Friday and Saturday Epistles *and* on the parish web site. Any move to online-only will continue until the COVID status of Kent and/or the surrounding towns has moved to orange (or less) for *two successive Thursdays*.

It was difficult to make this decision, and it may be a difficult one to accept. Ultimately, the most important consideration is that we all remain safe and healthy so that we can return to worship and fellowship as an entire parish, once the pandemic has ended.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Douglas+

[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

## Parish Prayer List To Be Reset

As we prepare to begin a new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, 29 November, we will take this opportunity to reset the parish prayer list. We are, of course, more than willing to pray for anyone as long as they (or the person who makes the request) may wish. But it is also a good practice to re-visit the list at least once-a-year, to make sure it stays fresh.

If there is a name on the current parish prayer list that you would like to remain on the list as we enter the new year, please let Fr Douglas know, by phone or email.

## From the Stewardship Committee

We are well into our annual pledge season. We are making good progress to covering our financial needs for the coming year, thanks to all timely and generous parishioners who have pledged already. But our number of pledgers is not as robust as our parish is. We would be delighted to see more participation in this important part of parish life. Pledges are a sign of commitment to our parish, as much as they are the means of paying our bills.

Of course, these are challenging times full of dislocation and distraction – not easy times in any respect. But, if you plan to pledge, we would be grateful for you to locate the pledge card that you received in early October – or ask for another. We have spares!

If you have not pledged recently, or ever, please do take a moment to consider helping to support your parish in any way that is comfortable for you. What we are really asking is for you to let us know that St Andrew's is important to you – and a pledge of *any* amount says that.

We look forward to 2021 and the shared joy, solace and fellowship we each find in being part of our St Andrew's parish family.

Thank you.

## Sunday Evening Worship During Advent

Hard to believe though it may be, Advent begins on Sunday, 29 November. During Advent this year we will offer an additional time of worship on Sunday evenings at 5:00: Evening Prayer (without preaching), followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. If you have not experienced it, Benediction is "a short service of hymns and prayers offered while the Sacrament [*i.e.*, the already consecrated Host] is placed on the altar" (*St Augustine's Prayer Book*, 194). The heart of the service is partaking, in silence, in the "the unending blessing flowing from God through the grace of the sacraments." The service ends with the Sacrament being placed back in the tabernacle to the accompaniment of a psalm or hymn. (We will record these liturgies and post them to the parish's YouTube account.)

The venerable tradition of Benediction does not 'speak' to everyone, and if

you'd prefer to attend only Evening Prayer, there will an opportunity to exit before Benediction begins. But during these times when we cannot receive communion sacramentally, perhaps you may wish to 'try on' another experience of sacramental grace during Advent... as we prepare for the in-breaking of Christ into this world.

## Heather Scofield Is Saying Good-bye

It is with deep regret that we announce that Heather Scofield has decided to leave her position as Parish Administrator, so that she can more fully pursue her artistic endeavors. Heather's last day with us will be Thursday, 03 December.

Heather has graciously allowed us to share the following with the parish: "I have truly enjoyed being of service to St Andrew's Parish and feel especially grateful for the opportunity to assist in the transition the church has gone through in the past year. I also want to acknowledge the support and many kindnesses I have received over the last 3 and a half years from the clergy, the vestry and the parishioners. It is my wish that St Andrew's prospers and continues to be a home to so many good people."

We will miss Heather, and we are so grateful for all she has done—and so well—over the last few years. If you have a chance, please consider dropping her a note or an email of thanks and well-wishing.

## A Global Online Advent Calendar: #AdventWord

Are you looking to add some depth to your season of preparation this Advent? to join others in prayer as we prepare to leave 2020 and approach Christmas? Well, we have a great suggestion for you! For the seventh year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online Advent calendar. Virginia Theological Seminary is offering meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 29. Images and meditations can be experienced via the #AdventWord website, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and ASL videos via YouTube. You can learn more and sign-up to receive daily messages during Advent at <https://adventword.org/en/home/>.

## Al-Anon Meetings Have Resumed

After a hiatus, weekly Al-Anon meetings have resumed, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Parish House, with masks and social distancing. Please contact parish office if you would like additional information.

## Computer Help is Available

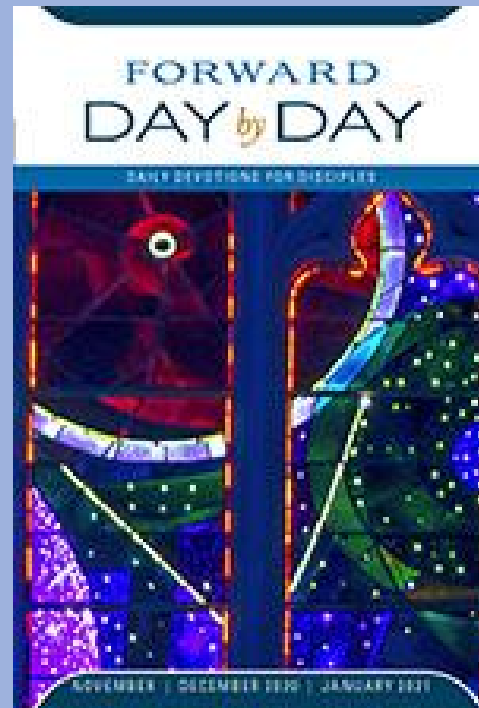


If you or someone you know is having difficulty accessing our online services, the weekly E-pistle or our web site ... or who would like to participate in our Zoom offerings but don't know how ... please let Fr Douglas or Heather know. We have parishioners who are willing to help you and also make sure your equipment and internet connection are working properly. We don't want anyone to miss an opportunity to be part of the life of St Andrew's!

## *Forward Day-by-Day* Booklets Available

The parish subscribes to the quarterly booklet called *Forward Day-by-Day*. Published by Forward Movement, which is affiliated with the Episcopal Church, *Forward Day-by-Day* contains daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage. The passages are chosen from the Church's lectionary readings, either for Eucharist or the Daily Office, as listed in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

If you attend worship in-person, you can pick up a new booklet every quarter in the narthex. If you would prefer, we would be happy to mail you a new booklet each quarter. Just let Heather know, and she'll add your name to the mailing list.



## Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Tree Sale

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to cancel our annual Christmas Bazaar this year. As with so many other cherished events, we did not see a way to hold the bazaar in a way that was safe and responsible, both for our guests and our many volunteers. Next year!!

We will, however, be having our annual Christmas Tree Sale, beginning the Saturday after Thanksgiving – many more details to follow. We are planning to

sell small items (such as ornaments) in addition to our fine trees.



## Christmas Tree Donations

Christmas trees are a cherished tradition in many families. The look – the fragrance – the decorating: Nothing heralds the season more than a fresh tree in the living room or den. But not everyone can afford a tree ... and this year, perhaps even fewer people than ever, given the COVID-dampened economy.

If you would like to donate the cost of a tree (or part of the cost of a tree) for this year's Christmas Tree Sale, just drop off or mail a check with the memo line "Christmas Tree Donation." The volunteers staffing this year's sale will make sure families who can't afford to pay for a tree nevertheless have one their homes this Christmas, with best wishes from St Andrew's.

## Kent Food Bank



Please help the parish continue our support of the Kent Food Bank  
by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P.O. Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757

\*Remember to put Food Bank in the memo of your check.

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of our town's Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro.

The Kent Food Bank is also taking food donations during this difficult time.

The Kent Food Bank is especially in need of:

*Staples such as beans, rice, tea,  
coffee, sugar, nuts,  
hot & cold breakfast cereals,  
peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna*

Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past!

You may drop off food items on Thursdays  
from 9.00 to Noon  
*in the back of the Community House  
on Main Street.*

*Please DO NOT come into the Food Bank, but leave  
outside the door.*

## Lectons for this Week

### The Last Sunday after Pentecost

*Proper 29, Year A*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24;  
Psalm 95:1-7a;  
Ephesians 1:15-23;  
Matthew 25:31-46





# Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order to view past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

## Worship Services

### -Sunday-

#### Holy Eucharist

8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays;  
Healing Service at 8.30,  
Third Sunday  
In person  
for 25 people with masks at  
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
(10.30 a.m. available live  
stream on YouTube)



### -Wednesday-

#### Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)

### -Friday-

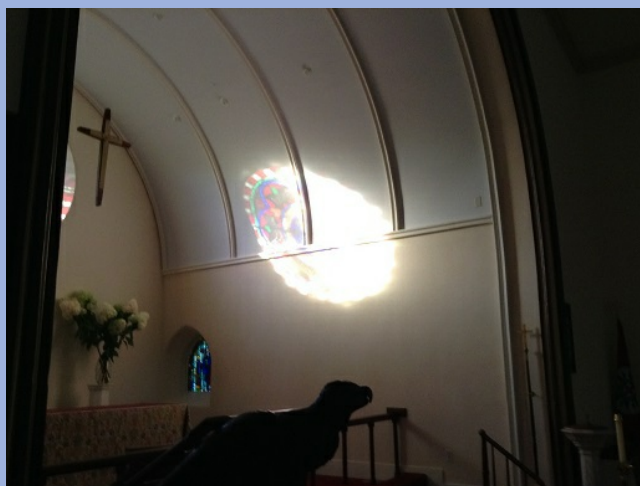
#### Prayer & Meditation

5.30 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)

### -Holy Days-

#### Holy Eucharist

6.00 p.m.  
(25 people with masks)



## 12 Step Meetings

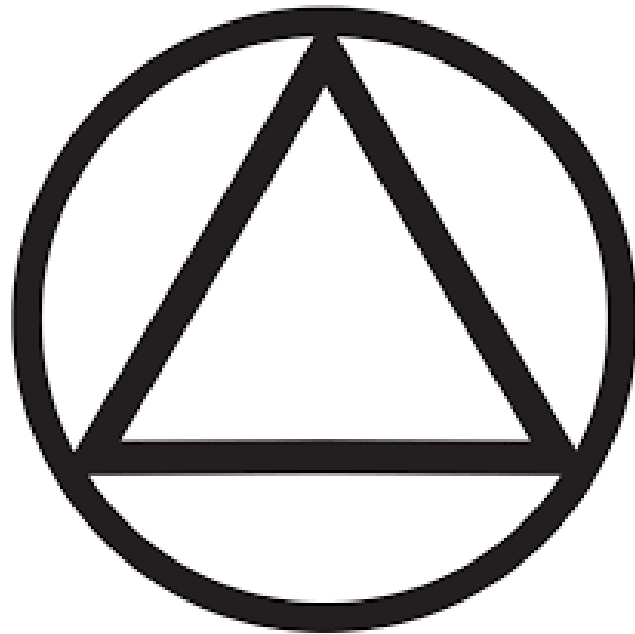
### Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.

*Zoom meeting  
email us for info.*

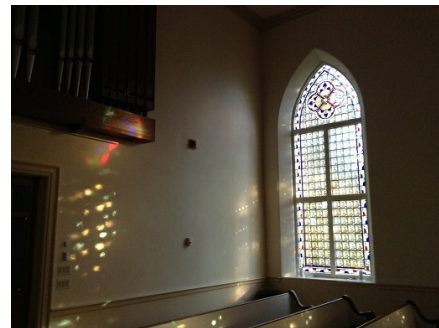
**Thursdays**  
A.A. at 7.30 a.m.  
(Great Room)  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Great Room)

**Fridays**  
A.A. at 8 p.m.  
(Great Room)  
*temporarily until First Church  
opens*



## Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S  
Worthington,  
Provisional  
Priest in Charge**  
[frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171



**Thomas W Holcombe,  
Organist & Director of Choirs**

**Margie O'Brien,  
Director of the Children's Choir**

**Heather Scofield,  
Parish Administrator**

**Joan I Cassel  
Financial Secretary**

**Bill McLaren,  
Sexton**

**Randy Osolin,  
Verger**





St Andrew's Church  
P. O. Box 309  
1 N. Main St.  
Kent, CT 06757

860.927.3486  
[st.andrew.kent@snet.net](mailto:st.andrew.kent@snet.net)

Parish office open everyday except Friday from 9 am-6 pm  
(2 pm on Thursdays)

Visit St Andrew's website at  
[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org)

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.ctepiscopal.org](http://www.ctepiscopal.org)

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