



## St Andrew's Current COVID Closure Status

**Parish Closed.** 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.*

## From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's Parish,

I hope that you are having a blessed Christmastide. The season of Christmas really *is* 12 days long—that's not just a song about golden rings and pear trees!—and it is good for us to continue to reflect upon our dear Savior's appearance here on earth and all the grace, love and charity He always provides us, no matter what we circumstances we find ourselves in.

I'd like to share two brief thoughts with you this week.

First, we recorded a simple, spoken *liturgy for New Year's Eve* that is equally suitable for New Year's Day—or arguably, any of the first few days of the new year. While the secular celebration of a new year focuses on 'out with the old, in with the new' (and never is this more welcomed than this year!), our New Year's liturgy hearkens back a couple of centuries to covenanting services that John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist offshoot of Anglicanism, held—sometimes with hundreds or thousands of people at one time. The content of this service is three lessons that hold up for us, first, the fact that all time belongs to God, Who provides it to us as a gift; second, that the salvation Christ has procured for those who believe is forever; and third, that with our twin gifts of time and salvation, God desires us to serve and help, to love and show mercy. All of this points to the covenant with God in which we live, and the service fittingly concludes with an act of re-dedication, in which we give ourselves over, again, to God and ask God to use us however God sees fit.

This is a brief service—30 minutes; no sermon!—and, I think, a meaningful way to enter into a new year ... especially a year in which the challenges we faced in 2020 will still linger and in which we will, God willing, also begin to live into the new reality of post-pandemic life. You can access the service and the bulletin, with the readings and prayers, on the St Andrew's web page.

Second, Jim and I will be on vacation from Wednesday, 06 January, through Friday, 15 January. (We are fortunate to have the Rev Cam Hardy preaching and celebrating on the 10th.) This means that the parish voicemail and email will be checked only on Tuesday and Thursday, when Laura is in the office. In case of a pastoral emergency, you can reach me at 860-592-0171, which is the rectory line that also rings on my mobile phone.

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)

## Weekly Schedule for 3 January

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Wednesday, 6 January	Holy Eucharist: Feast of the Epiphany <i>(online)</i>	6 pm
Sunday, 10 January	Holy Eucharist: Epiphany 1, The Baptism of Our Lord <i>(online)</i>	10:30 am

## Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, 24 January

The annual meeting of St Andrew's Parish will be held on Sunday, 24 January, at 12:00 noon. So that everyone is able to participate in this important parish event, the meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom. This way, we will not have

to worry about masks, social distancing, attendance limits or anything of that nature. Copies of the annual report for 2020 will be provided to all parishioners via email (and also in hard copy, to those who request this).

## Fr Douglas on Vacation

Father Douglas will be on vacation from Wednesday, 06 January, through Friday, 15 January. We will warmly welcome the Rev Cam Hardy to preach and celebrate on Sunday, 10 January.

## Welcome our 'New' Parish Administrator!

We are very, very pleased to announce that Laura Filippi has joined us as our new parish administrator! Laura has been working since mid-December and is doing an absolutely terrific job. Some of you may remember her from her previous work at St Andrew's. Here is a little introduction she provided about herself:

I have been working at Kingsley Tavern in Kent since they first opened almost 8 years ago. I started as parish administrator a few years back but then left to live in Colorado for a little over a year. Cut to now, and I am back at both Kingsley and St Andrew's! As much as I enjoyed living somewhere new, I was incredibly happy to move back to a town that I hold very dear to my heart. Although not a true Kent native, I am unbelievably grateful for the community that I get to be a part of. They say home is where the heart is, and my heart is most definitely in Kent!

Please help us welcome Laura back to St Andrew's by giving her a call or sending her a note or an email. She will be in the parish office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 2:00.

## Upcoming Forgiveness Workshop



Forgiveness Workshop for NW  
Region of ECCT  
Saturday, January 9 9:00-12:00PM

*Are you living with unspoken hurts?  
How deeply are they buried? How do  
they affect your relationships, both  
past and present? From whom do you  
seek forgiveness? And who is  
seeking forgiveness from you?*

Join us on January 9th from 9-12 noon to explore these possibilities in a Forgiveness Workshop facilitated by Dan Gates, LMFT.

Forgiveness Workshops are an opportunity to explore questions such as these in a safe, supportive environment. Under the guidance of our skilled facilitator, participants can unburden themselves of past and present hurts and bring harmony to themselves.

The benefits of forgiveness include:

- ~ gaining insight and understanding into our wounds of abandonment, shame, or betrayal
- ~ helping to heal our unresolved trauma

This workshop is offered by free-will donation, and is open to all!

To register, sign up by clicking [this link](#).

## Parish Office *Closed*

The parish office is temporarily closed, which means the phone isn't being answered. Father Douglas checks the voicemail once-a-day, usually around 9:00 am. If you have a more urgent need, please call him at 860-592-0171 or email him at [frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com).

## All Recovery Meetings *Suspended*

While the parish is temporarily closed, all recovery group (AA and Al Anon) meetings have been suspended. They will resume when we re-open

## 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!

## 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.*

## Lections for this Week

### The Second Sunday After Christmas

*Year B*

Jeremiah 31:7-14;  
Psalm 84;  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a;  
Luke 2:41-52



## 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)

*suspended*

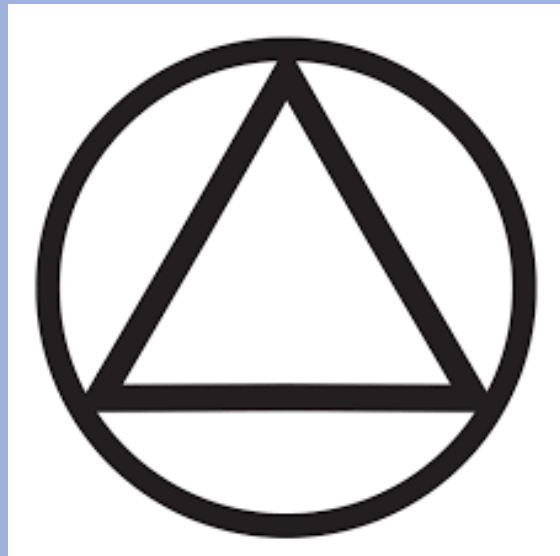
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Great Room)

*suspended*

**Fridays**

A.A. at 8 p.m.  
(Great Room)

*temporarily until First Church opens  
suspended*



## 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

**Laura Filippi,**  
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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