



## St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



<http://standrewscofe.org.uk/>



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Weekly Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Services

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**St Andrews** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Parish Centre** 3pm Messy Church

**St Michaels** 4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March** Palm Sunday

**St Andrews** 9.30am Morning Worship

**St Michaels** 4.30pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** Easter Day

**St Andrews** 9.30am Easter Holy Communion

**St Michaels** 6pm Easter Holy Communion

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Parish Centre** 9am First Church

**St Andrews** 9.30am Holy Communion

**St Andrews** 7.45pm Watering Whole

**Youth Club** – 6.30 to 8pm Monthly on Fridays in St Andrews Church (term time) –Contact [hobbsrev@gmail.com](mailto:hobbsrev@gmail.com)

**5-8's Lego Club** – Weekly on Mondays 3.30 to 4.45 (Term time) contact [hobbsrev@gmail.com](mailto:hobbsrev@gmail.com)

**14-18's Youth with Lickey Church**, contact [sherigidney@gmail.com](mailto:sherigidney@gmail.com)

Log-in details for forthcoming Zoom services and events are as follows:

**Weekly Prayer Meeting** Sat. 9.00am: meeting ID: **824 7307 6926**, password **letuspray**. There will be a 'waiting room' so please clearly identify yourself. It is important to pray for the work of the church and for our parish so please join us, even if you've not been to anything like this before. You don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to!

**Sunday Worship** 9.30am is our main service to which all ages are very welcome. The details are the same as before: meeting ID **295 293 9790** password **standrews**. To join by phone call 0203 481 5237. When asked enter meeting ID 295 293 9790. If asked for participant ID press #. Password is 894070. You'll then hear the service.

**Thursday Morning Fellowship** for those who cannot come to the meditation service, we meet on Zoom. It begins with worship and reflection at 10.00am followed by time to chat at 10.30. It's a lovely fellowship and it would be great to see new faces. Meeting ID **815 6897 6189**, password **coffeebean**.

### News and information

#### Children society, box collection.

I would like to thank all those people who collect their loose change and donate it to the children society. We have collected £188.40 pence this time and I have sent this off to the children society. I would also like to thank coffee morning who also sent a donation of £40 pounds earlier in the year. I know that the children society are grateful for all your donations which helps them support many children in need. Please contact me if you would like a collection box on 0121 445 4670. Please keep these vulnerable children in your prayers. Many thanks Tracey Lucas

#### Barnt Green Macular Society Support Group

Our next meeting is a week earlier on Friday, 22 March as Good Friday is on the last Friday of the month. Meetings start at 2 pm in the Parish Centre. Mary Moore's talk, "My life as a tour guide" has been booked on the recommendation of two of our members. New members and visitors are always welcome. Cost £3 per person. For more information, ring Wendy, on 0121 445 1585.

### **April Monday Fellowship**

The North West Passage is the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the top of America and Canada. The first ship to complete the journey was in 1906 and even by the end of 2023 only 392 ships have ever done it. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm in the parish centre 2 members of our church will tell us their story of being on one of the ships that has actually done it. Come and hear the illustrated talk by Carol and David Smith. Climate change is changing the situation but it is still only open as a shipping channel in Summer and is never likely to be a common way of transporting goods and people between the East and West or vice versa.

### **Working parties at St Michaels**

As spring approaches there are lots of jobs to be done, both big and small! We are working to a plan designed to build on all the previous good work. We hope that it will further improve the biodiversity, open up hidden areas, and tidy up some of the grave areas.

- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 10:00 to 13:00 – Contact Douglas and Phillippa Allenby
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April -10:00 to 13:00 – Contact Mike Powell

Please come and help, everyone is welcome, whatever your gardening abilities! It would be ideal if you would contact us before the date so we can organise activities easier. Many thanks

### **Lent Challenge**

The Lenten 40-day period before Easter gives us the opportunity to reflect on the practice of fasting, and commit to giving up something that brings a real benefit to nature, and helps address climate change. Why not try our "Just One Thing" challenge? Each week we will suggest different ideas for you to consider. Perhaps would like to buy more locally produced, seasonal vegetables or calculate your carbon footprint? Please note that Styan farm have changed their website slightly. The sheet contains revised instructions. All the details are on the attached sheet. Thank you for taking the time – EcoGroup.

### **The Asklepios Orchestra**

Conducted by Lee Armstrong, will give their Spring Concert on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Barnt Green, B45 8NR. The interesting programme will include:- Liszt, arr. Armstrong - Ave stella maris; Downes - Lento molto from Symphony No.2; Coates - Miniature Suite Beethoven Symphony No.3 Op.55 'Eroica'

Admission is free, and donations to the retiring collection are much appreciated. Please come along to support us, and bring your friends.

### **For your Prayers**

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be included in our prayers please drop a note to Nicola in the Parish Office.

### **Coffee Morning**

Please come and join us every week at our Coffee Morning on Fridays 10.30 to 12 . For more information contact Bill Davis.

### **Parish Directory**

It is important that we keep the Parish Directory up to date with correct contact details for everyone. Please would you check your details and contact Nicola in the office if they need updating.

### **Newsletter**

If you or anyone you know would like to receive this newsletter, by email every week, please contact Nicola at [office@chandbgparish.org.uk](mailto:office@chandbgparish.org.uk) .

### **First Church**

Please come and join us on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April for our service for young families. It takes place in the Parish Centre. Refreshments will be served between 9.00 and 9.15. The format will be: Arrive, Sing, Listen, Pray, Leave, and at 9.45 families can come into church for Communion with Andy. For further information contact Andy at [hobbsrev@gmail.com](mailto:hobbsrev@gmail.com).

### **'Watering Whole'**

The Watering Whole events are a space to come at the end of the week to spend time drawing closer to God - Worshiping through song and sharing scripture, praying into themes as we feel led. Allowing God to speak into our hearts. The vision is that, as we join together in these informal and creative activities we will experience the refreshing presence of God for the healing of our hearts, for increased wholeness and equipping for the weeks ahead. The next one is planned for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm. .

### **Food Bank**

Thank you to all who donate to the food bank. Here are the lists of urgently needed items.

Urgently needed - Tinned fruit (in juice - not prunes, grapefruit or rhubarb), tinned meat (ham, corned beef, pork sandwich, pulled pork, chicken, stewing steak, curry, sausages, meatballs), pasta sauce, rice (500g), tinned fish (tuna, mackerel, sardines), chocolate bars, tinned rice pudding, sweet biscuits (not multi-packs, as they often have no ingredients listed on the packs inside), instant hot chocolate (not cocoa powder), tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn), tinned/carton ready-made custard, liquid/bar soap, laundry liquid/powder (not family-sized), sanitary pads

Low in stock - Baked beans, cereal (not great than 500g), UHT semi-skimmed milk, tinned tomatoes, small jars of instant coffee (not decaffeinated), pasta shapes, tinned soup, jam/honey, tinned spaghetti, long-life fruit juice (not needing refrigeration), UHT whole milk, squash, porridge (not greater than 500g), dog food, cat food, tinned/packet vegetarian meals, sugar (500g), toothpaste, toilet rolls, washing-up liquid, gender neutral shampoo and shower gel, noodles, instant potato, baby food and baby care items, baby wipes, nappies (sizes 4-6).

### **Postscript**

To justify another 10p increase in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stamps next month Royal Mail claims that the average Briton only receives 2 letters per week and only spends £7 per year on stamps. Therefore notwithstanding the Christmas card influx a sincere thank you on behalf of Birmingham City Mission for the abundance of stamps left in the last 2 months. So despite their increasing rarity please continue to put them aside and leave them in the box in St Andrews or with Nicola.

PPS You may wish to stock up before April?

### **Barnt Green Friends Meeting House Films for 2024**

Come and join us at Friends Cinema for its free film shows on:

Saturday 16th March 19.00: In 1931 a Paris Orphan living in the wall of a railway station is wrapped up in mystery involving his late father and an automation. This is a homage to the early filmmaker Georges Melies. Colour and Widescreen.

### **Climate Crisis Action**

Celebrate Spring! Make sure you're giving yourself quality time enjoying creation: smelling the blossom, tapping catkins, copying bird song, finding a footprint or identifying spring flowers with PL@ntNet app. Nature can boost our happiness so take time to observe nature in your gardens, on your balconies, and in your local green spaces.

### **SAFEGUARDING NOTICE**

Please note that Diane Milford (our Parish Safeguarding Officer) now has a dedicated telephone number (**07547 267746**) and a dedicated email address ([safeguarding@chandbgparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@chandbgparish.org.uk)) for any safeguarding issues or concerns that people might want to raise with her. The email address will also be used for all future correspondence relating to safeguarding training and DBS checks for our volunteers with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

**Contact Details:** Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am to 1.30pm. Contact Nicola Denning on 0121 447 7097 or email [office@chandbgparish.org.uk](mailto:office@chandbgparish.org.uk) or contact our Vicar, Rev Andy Hobbs on 0121 445 1269 or email [hobbsrev@gmail.com](mailto:hobbsrev@gmail.com) .