



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 14th November 2024

Services

Sunday 17th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion.

Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church

St Michaels 4.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st November

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 24th November Sunday next before Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship/Toy service

St Michaels 4.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 28th November

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 1st December 1st Sunday of Advent

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 10am Joint Oversight Area Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

Thursday 5th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

Parish Centre 4.30pm Holy Communion

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

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

14-18's Youth with Lickey Church, contact 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

Joint Hillside Oversight Area Service - 1st December 10am

On the 1st December we will be hosting a joint service for our oversight area at St. Andrews. We will be welcoming our brothers and sisters in Christ from Lickey, Blackwell, Rubery and Rednal. Please note that the service starts at 10am!

BLACKWELL CONCERT BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come and welcome in the festive season with Blackwell Concert Band's Christmas cracker of a concert. Saturday 7th December, 7:30pm, St Andrew's Church. Tickets are £8 for adults, £4 for under 16's, free refreshments. Tickets available on the door or email blackwellconcertband98@gmail.com. All profits to Macmillan Cancer Support.

lcFEM Dinner

A very big thank you to all who supported our recent Dinner. We raised £1000 for lcFEM. A great result made possible by those who attended, donated raffle prizes or gave us a donation. Thank you again for making our efforts so worthwhile. Best wishes. Judith

Church Social Activities

I hope you kept Saturday 30th November free and are able to join us at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre for a lovely evening of fun, food and fellowship. As it's St Andrew's Day there will be a Scottish theme for the evening but all nationalities are welcome! We will be providing a Scottish beef casserole, salmon quiches and vegetarian haggis with lots of jacket potatoes. We would like you to bring some more food including nibbles, vegetables, salads or desserts please to share. There will be no ticket cost but donations towards the main food would be welcome on the night please. Bring your own drinks and have a really fun evening. Expect some light entertainment and if you have any ideas or are prepared to share any Scottish experiences, recite any Scottish poems, show any Scottish photos etc. then please contact Mike Powell or myself. Please complete the booking sheets in either church so that we have an idea of numbers. Hope to see you there - Judith

Shoebboxes

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the shoebox appeal. We have nearly 400 boxes in church. Do we carry on next year? It is a great event which reaches out into the community. The current team is aging. We need some young blood to step forward. The school service is on Monday November 18th at 1:30 in church followed by loading the van. Please come and join us and support the school children who come. Please speak to Rosemary to find out more.

The Asklepios Orchestra

The Asklepios Orchestra, conducted by Lee Armstrong, will give their Autumn Concert on Sunday 24th November 2024 at the earlier start time of 7.00pm, in St Andrew's Church, Barnt Green, B45 8NR, featuring works by Wagner, Debussy and Kalinnikov.. Admission is free, donations to the retiring collection are much appreciated. Please see the posters, and take a flyer from the back of church for details. Please come along to support us, and bring your friends.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

As it is now October, it must be time to think about the Christmas Choir! All are welcome – you don't have to be able to read music, but you do have to be able to attend the rehearsals and services. We will be singing two pieces which are in two parts (Soprano and Alto/Men), so it shouldn't be too much of a challenge! Please note that if you would like to sing you need to let me know as soon as possible so that I can decide whether the numbers are enough to make this viable. (If you give me your email as well, I can send music copies and recordings of the separate parts for the two pieces so that you can do some homework in advance.)

Dates are as follows: Rehearsal: Sunday 15th December at 10.50am (after the morning service) at St Andrew's
Service: Sunday 22nd December at 6pm at St Michael's
Service: Tuesday 24th December at 6.30pm at St Andrew's

Please let me know if you wish to join the choir – I look forward to hearing from you. Katie Leaver (07792 056183 / katieleaver@outlook.com)

Watering Whole

'Watering Whole' will take place at St Andrew's at 6pm on Sunday 1st December.

It's an opportunity to spend an hour and a quarter: stilling our souls, listening and or singing worship music, praying and reflecting as the Holy Spirit leads. The aim is: To be refreshed! as we make this space to meet with God we can address issues in our own hearts, bring our needs to God and be strengthened in our faith individually and together. **All are welcome** to this informal service.

Working parties at St Michaels

There are always lots of jobs to be done, both big and small! We will continue working to a plan designed to further improve the biodiversity, open up hidden areas, and tidy up some of the grave areas.

- Thursday 12th December - 10:00 to 13:00 – Contact Mike Powell - powelmi50@gmail.com
- Saturday 23rd November – Contact Douglas Allenby - da@landscape-matters.co.uk

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

Book club

You are welcome to join our friendly book club on Thursday November 28th. We now meet in the afternoon. 2pm till 4pm in the parish centre. We will be talking about The child on platform 1 by L L Thompson. You can get it on kindle or I have a copy you can borrow. See Rosemary if you're interested

For your Prayers

Message from Stuart and Laxmi – We had a really encouraging pre op appointment today. Where we met various people involved, we give thanks for that. Please remember Laxmi in your prayers in the coming week as we await her kidney transplant in Friday 15th.

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

Christmas Stamps.

I know I know - you may not want to think about Christmas just yet but Royal Mail do! On Guy Fawkes day they issued their special stamps for Christmas 2024. To celebrate the significance of cathedrals in our spiritual, cultural and social lives their stamps bear wintry images of 5 of our most striking architectural marvels - Liverpool, Armagh, Bangor and Westminster. The 5th cathedral, Edinburgh, is featured on the 2nd class stamp and would certainly add a touch of class to your Christmas cards. Finally another big thank you for the stamps left in the shoebox in the porch of St Andrews this week. These all go to Birmingham City Mission - who are very appreciative of your support.

Coffee Morning

Please come and join us every week at our Coffee Morning on Fridays 10.30 to 12 . If anyone can help with some of these sessions please contact Andy or Nicola in the office.

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 1st December 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.

Barnt Green Friends Meeting House Films for 2024

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

Saturday 16th November 19.00 Tchaikovsky's most successful ballet featuring a sleeping princess by the Royal Ballet (Dolby Surround 7.1 sound)

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 .

Food Bank

The Pantry@ St Stephen's We help a large number of pantry client families who are really grateful for the food that we are able to supply through the generosity of the congregations of St Stephen's, St Andrew's and St Michael's and through the waste food donations from local supermarkets collected by our amazing volunteers. We appreciate that it's St Stephen's Christmas Fayre weekend, and that there are many calls on your resources, but if you can help this week, we would love some **cereals, squash, tinned meat meals (such as minced beef, chicken in sauce, chilli, ravioli, meatballs, etc), instant noodles microwave rice and tinned potatoes** and we always need toilet rolls, long life milk, instant mash, soup, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, baked beans, household cleaning products, toiletries, sugar, tea and coffee. *No need this week for tuna, tinned spaghetti, pasta, or sanitary products.* Thank you so much for your faithful support, it is really appreciated.

Climate Crisis Action

Gift an experience: Gifting an experience for your loved ones will help to reduce demand for physical resources and avoids filling homes with unwanted presents. Bring people together by gifting your time, or with purchased experiences. There are lots of options to choose from that will reduce your Christmas footprint. You could buy tickets to shows, concerts or events. Or, a more wallet-friendly alternative is to gift a homemade coupon book, donating your time to help babysit, or to visit a local park, maybe a nice picnic in the summer. Other ideas include making a restaurant reservation or giving a gift card. Why not plan a day out to a National Trust or Wildlife Trust location, or even make a homemade meal. It also makes your gift last longer – having something to look forward to later in the year.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

Please note that Diane Milford (our Parish Safeguarding Officer) has a dedicated telephone number **(07547 267746)** and a dedicated email address (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 or contact our Vicar, Rev Andy Hobbs on 0121 445 1269 or email hobbsrev@gmail.com .