



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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Weekly Newsletter 21st November 2024

Services

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

Thursday 12th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 4.30pm Evening Prayer

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 shericidney@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

Toy Service – This Sunday

Please consider bring a toy to the service. All toys donated will be taken to Birmingham City Mission and distributed to families around Birmingham, where some children may not receive any presents at Christmas. The Mission organise presents for them, which hopefully will make their Christmas much happier. The children are aged between 0 and 15 years old. Toys, books, games and puzzles are needed. Please do not wrap your gifts so they can match the gift to the child. New toys only please. Many thanks.

1st December

Please remember that our morning service on the 1st December is at 10am! We will be welcoming our brothers and sisters from Rubery, Rednal, Lickey and Blackwell for a joint Communion Service.

We'd also like to make a bit of an effort to show our love for them over coffee. If you can bring some cake along for after the service, that would be amazing. Please bring it to the Parish Centre before the service.

Christmas!

Do you have a seat free at your Christmas dinner table? We are on the look out for some kind people to offer a place at their dinner table on Christmas day. If you can host one or two people, please let Andy know.

Equally, if you are going to be alone this Christmas and would appreciate being invited to dinner, also let Andy know.

lcFEM Dreamland Mission Christmas cards and gifts

We're raising funds for lcFEM Dreamland Mission by selling cards and gifts this Christmas. Dreamland Mission Hospital sees 50,000 patients a year and we're raising funds to equip a new theatre. Dreamland Education Centre has 250 pupils and 54 of these are fully sponsored by families in the UK. Dreamland Community runs tree planting and bee keeping projects helping families earn a living. Please consider buying some of your Christmas presented from lcFEM! (Contact: Pip Simkiss on 07748657450 and I'll have some on show in the parish centre after services).

Cards and Gifts - Handmade in Kenya, individual designs (pack of 8) £6. Printed design by local Kenyan artist (pack of 10) £5. Selection of crafts eg. bags £5, soap stone animals and angels £4.

Gifts for Life: Buying a gift for life for yourself or loved ones helps a child, a family or a community in need.

1 night in the baby unit £25, School starter pack £15, School lunches for a child for one month £40, Eye Health check £20, Sight saving Cataract surgery £100, Free education for one month £28, Plant a tree with the Tree planting project £15, A beehive £35

Shoe boxes.

508 shoeboxes we're packed into the van by volunteers from St. Andrew's First School on Monday. Many thanks to them and the adults who helped. It takes a lot of planning and collecting. We will go ahead next year. Super Shoe box Saturday is in the diary Saturday November 15th 2025.

Please try and collect throughout the year. January sales are a good time to pick up bargains. I will try and highlight a need each month.

Christmas hospitality.

Friends international are looking for hosts to invite an overseas student into their home over the Christmas period. If you think this is something you could do please let Rosemary know. Mike and Rachel are drawing up a list of potential hosts for the Christmas period and into 2025.

Christmas delivery.

We will be delivering Christmas presents from Birmingham City Mission just before Christmas. They need our help to deliver in Frankley, Rubery and Longbridge. If you think this is something you could help with please have a word with Mike Powell or Rosemary

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.

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

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.

Monday Fellowship

The next Monday Fellowship will be at 2.30pm on Monday 9th December in the parish centre. It will be in its traditional format where we shall have the vicar Andy Hobbs leading us and we shall also sing carols and hear some musical accompaniment from our supporting musicians. No doubt Andy will better inform us about the Christmas story and will provide a quiz that shows our lack of knowledge of the whole Christmas story. As usual it will be an informal afternoon as we will also enjoy mince pies and generally prepare ourselves for Christmas

Home group

Try a home group for 3 weeks. Starting December 3rd following the sermon series on Advent. At the home of Mike and Julia Powell, Kendal end farm. Starts at 8 pm for about an hour and a half. Anyone welcome. A warm welcome awaits you.

Greetings from Alvechurch Baptist Church

In early January we are holding a special event to brighten up that late-Christmas period. Two professional and Christian comedians will be hosting an evening of comedy, mixed with carols. It is entitled "Comedians and Carols" at Alvechurch Baptist church on January 4th at 7.30. Paul Karensa - Christian and professional stand-up, writer for 'Miranda' & 'Not Going Out' of whom Lee Mack says "Top Comic, Top Writer, Top Man", and Tony Vino - a regular at Christian festivals and events - host an evening of COMEDY and SING-ALONG CAROLS. Come along and join the fun! Tickets £15, to include mulled wine and a mince pie, available by contacting 07870 915872. Alvechurch Baptist Church is next to the Red Lion Pub, and has access from the free Village Car Park. For Satnav the post code is B487LG.

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 note - Due to poor weather this will now start at 2:00pm on Saturday**

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

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

Every day is a school day.

The most popular postage stamp in US history was released in 1993 celebrating Elvis's 58th birthday. Over 120m were sold. Some fans mailed envelopes bearing the stamp to fictitious addresses so their envelope would be sent back marked 'Return to Sender'. Speaking of stamps - a big thank you for the large number of stamps left in the porch in St Andrews or with Nicola recently. Please remember to save your stamps and retain an edging of 1cm or so to protect the perforation. Its now or never (!)

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 .

Climate Crisis Action

Did you know there are free libraries locally? In the phone boxes in Alvechurch and Burcot. You can take a book and leave one in return. This way, you give a second chance to something that has been collecting dust at home and enjoy reading for free!

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.

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 .