



## St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



[www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen](http://www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen)

### Weekly Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### Services

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 10am Joint Oversight Area Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

Parish Centre 4.30pm Holy Communion

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 4.30pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 6pm Carol Service

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

##### 1<sup>st</sup> December

Please remember that our morning service on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **St Andrew's Day Shared Dinner – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.00pm in the Parish Centre**

Thank you to those who have already signed up to join us on Saturday. There is still room available if you would like to contact Mike Powell or myself by Saturday midday to ensure that enough places can be set for you. It promises to be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. Whilst we will be providing the main elements of the main course – a highland beef casserole, salmon quiches, vegetarian haggis and jacket potatoes we would ask you to bring other food to complement it including, vegetables, salads and lots of desserts etc to share. Please also bring your own drinks and cash for a donation towards the cost of the main course. Please feel free to wear something Scottish if you wish but this is not obligatory! Many thanks Judith.

### **Christmas Concert**

Barnt Green Choral Society invites you to a Christmas Concert, featuring an ensemble and the choir of St Andrews School. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm at St Andrews Church, Barnt Green. Tickets: Adults £10, including refreshments. Under £16 free. Available from members or at the door, or contact [www.barntgreenchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.barntgreenchoralsociety.org.uk)

### **Cofton Christmas Fair**

Please support Cofton Christmas Fair Cofton Village Hall this Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> 11 till 4. SANTA is coming. Reindeer will be there. Local crafter's. Good place to support locals and buy your Christmas presents

### **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 presents 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 last week. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:blackwellconcertband98@gmail.com). All profits to Macmillan Cancer Support.

### **Monday Fellowship**

The next Monday Fellowship will be at 2.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30. Paul Karenza - 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> December - 10:00 to 13:00 – Contact Mike Powell - [powelmi50@gmail.com](mailto:powelmi50@gmail.com)

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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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

### **Not Many People Know That.....**

In 2013 to celebrate their chocolatiers, Belgium produced 500,00 stamps printed on special paper imbued with the aroma of cocoa and covered with a varnish to look, smell and taste like chocolate.

Speaking of stamps, on Tuesday, as well as our toys, we passed a shoebox full of used stamps to Birmingham City Mission. Big thanks all round!

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:hobbsrev@gmail.com).

### **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) .

### **Climate Crisis Action**

Have yourself a Greener Christmas. What ways can you make sure your Christmas is both a celebration of Christ's coming and better for His creation? Check out A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas: [arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas)

### **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.

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

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

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 19.00 Aardman Animations comedy, film about how Santa delivers all those presents before Christmas Day

## **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](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.

## **Desks**



As we come towards Christmas, please do consider whether there is a way you could contribute to desk repairs. I set it at 20 per school, which costs in the region of £160. Obviously, other amounts, smaller or larger, are always also welcome. In return, you will get a photo of the specific set of desks you have funded. There are all sorts of ways these funds could be raised – forego a Christmas present, (or someone else's Christmas present!), a collection, a fundraising event, a bit less food and wine over the Christmas period etc. Here's the best pile of desks yet: Please see Rosemary if you could help with this request from Lucy Ward working with teach beyond. You can give by going to [teachbeyonduk](https://teachbeyonduk.com) and click on giving. Give to Lucy Ward

**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) .**