



## St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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### Weekly Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### Services

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

St Andrews 3pm Crib Service

St Andrews 4.30pm Family Carol Service

St Andrews 6.30am Carol Service

St Michaels 11pm Midnight Communion

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

St Andrews 9.30am Christmas Communion

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Andrews 4.30pm BCP Holy Communion

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church

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](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 [shrigidney@gmail.com](mailto:shrigidney@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

##### New Year's Eve Party

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December we will be holding a celebration tea party from 3-6pm in the Parish Centre. Please join us and bring along some food to share. If you wish you can also bring a game to play with others. All ages welcome.

##### Home group

Come and join a home group in the New Year. 6 studies on Colossians. Starts on January 8<sup>th</sup> 8 pm to 9:30 at Kendal End farm. Please let Mike Powell or Rosemary Aveyard if you'd like to join us. Be assured of a warm welcome.

### **Climate & Nature Bill Hangs in the Balance: Please email Your MP**

The Climate and Nature Bill is the only piece of UK legislation to fully address the climate and nature crisis. The bill will now be considered by the UK Parliament with a second reading on Friday 24 January 2025. At that second reading, 102 MPs need to vote for the Climate and Nature Bill in order for it to progress, otherwise it fails – **will you contact your MP to ensure that they plan to attend the bill's second reading on Friday 24 January, and that they vote in favour of the bill?** Details are on the attached notice.

Thank you and wishing you a very Happy Christmas from the Eco Group.

### **Apple Juice**

Enjoy some fresh apple juice for Christmas from Rejuice. £3.50 a bottle or 3 for £10. Contact Geoff Hall on [geoff.sue@outlook.com](mailto:geoff.sue@outlook.com) or 0121 445 4023

### **We wish you a merry Christmas**

Second class stamps now cost a whopping 17 shillings (85p). Get more value from your Christmas cards by popping the stamps in the shoebox in St Andrews. Yule feel good!

Used stamps you can bring

From you and your kin

We wish you a merry Christmas

And a happy new year!

### **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).

**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

### **Fellowship Group**

Our first meeting of the new calendar of 2025 takes us back in time and brings us up to the present time. It is entitled Time and Transport through the ages. We go from the invention of the wheel to Concorde, High Speed Trains and fast motor cars. It will be at our usual time of 2.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Parish Centre. Our talk will be given by a professional entertainer Richard Harding and it should be a good opening number for the new year. Come and enjoy our usual friendship between ourselves and after the festivities of Christmas food, a nice cup of tea and a biscuit will be welcome.

### **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. Tickets £15, to include mulled wine and a mince pie, available by contacting 07870 915872. For Satnav the post code is B487LG.

### **Coffee Morning**

Please come and join us every week at our Coffee Morning on Fridays in 2025 from 10.30 to 12. If anyone can help with some of these sessions please contact Andy or Nicola in the office.

### **Watering Whole**

'Watering Whole' will take place at St Andrew's at 6pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

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.

### **Climate Crisis Action**

Britain has a food waste problem and especially at Christmas. Brits end up cooking 80 per cent more food during Christmas than at other times of the year — of which 230,000 tonnes ends up in the bin, including around 7M pigs in blankets.

Save those tiny sausages and remember to buy and cook only what you need. Meal planning often helps with this: deciding what to make, and how many people will be eating, is a good way of safeguarding against panicked last-minute food shopping and a trolley full of soon-to-be uneaten nibbles. And, to off-set the issue of food waste, remember to compost too. Every little helps.

## **Food Bank**

**The Pantry@ St Stephen's** The pantry staff and families would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful congregations of St Stephen's, St Andrew's and St Michael's for their support and donations throughout the year. The pantry remains open throughout the festive break.

## **Winter Coats Appeal**

Several of our pantry clients arrive without coats or warm clothing. If you have spare or outgrown coats and winter clothes would you please send them to the pantry team? (Excess stock will be redonated to charity.) Thank you.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> January 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).

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

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

26<sup>th</sup> December 15.00 A young Viking learns to make friends with a Dragon. Beautiful Comedy Thriller.

19.00 a musical version of the play Pygmalion. A Professor teaches a flower girl how to be a lady. Starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn.

27<sup>th</sup> December 15.00 A young Viking, discovers an ice cave home to hundreds of dragons. Comedy-thriller.

19.00 Lionel Jeffries ghost story about time travelling children in a Victorian setting.

28<sup>th</sup> December 15.00 A young Viking seeks a hidden world Comedy thriller

19.00 The Johann Strauss Orchestra gives an on-screen concert of favourite music from the movies.

## **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.

**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).**