



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 5th December 2024

Services

Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Andrews 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

Thursday 19th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 6pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th 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

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

St Andrews 9.30am Christmas Communion

Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

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 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

Sunday Evening Service

Please note that the Sunday evening service will be held in St Andrews Church for the next 2 weeks (not the Parish Centre as previously advertised)

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.

Flowers in St Michaels

After doing flowers for over 25 years, I reluctantly had to admit old age had caught up with me. For several years June McQuaid and Peggy Amos have coped wonderfully well and I'm so grateful. I'm now wondering if there is anyone willing to help, someone they could call on, not necessarily every week. You don't have to be a flower arranger (I was never one) but have an interest in flowers and in making our well-loved old Church even more beautiful and welcoming. Please think about it and contact me if you can help.

Thank you, Audrey Court, audreycourt72tansy@icloud.com , 445 4654.

Christmas Concert

Barnt Green Choral Society invites you to a Christmas Concert, featuring an ensemble and the choir of St Andrews School. Saturday 14th 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

IcFEM Dreamland Mission Christmas cards and gifts

We're raising funds for IcFEM 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 IcFEM! (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

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.

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.

For your Prayers

A message from Chum Pettit: Please pray for my friend Jacqueline Greenfield. She is fighting cancer since 2019 and is going through a very tough period. The hospital has informed her that they have done all they can and don't think they are able to do anymore.

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 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.

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.

Watering Whole

'Watering Whole' will take place at St Andrew's at 6pm on Sunday 5th 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.

Working parties at St Michaels – Last one before Christmas!

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

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

What happens to our shoebox full of stamps?

Birmingham City Mission collects stamps from various sources, including ourselves, and then sells them on in bulk (kiloware) to big stamp companies. The stamps are divided into, say, GB/ Europe/ World and sold on to collectors in smaller transparent bags. Collectors then carefully soak the stamps in warm water and detach them from their backing. The stamps are then dried and mounted. Given the difficulty of separating modern stamps some collectors neatly trim the backing and mount their stamps that way. Either way the demand for used stamps remains - as does our now empty shoebox in the porch in St Andrews - sob!

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 5th 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.

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

Cut food waste. When you're food shopping, try to choose things that are light on packaging, or buy loose items. If you end up over catering, don't just bin what's left. Transforming leftovers can be a great way to create new meals, save money and cut waste. Try the BBC Good Food leftovers recipes online for ideas. Or challenge your family to suggest recipes with whatever you've got in the fridge. If you have too many leftovers, see what you can freeze. Or why not donate some to an elderly neighbour, local foodbank or soup kitchen. Compost any uncooked waste.

Food Bank

The Pantry@ St Stephen's Our many pantry client families 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 surplus food donations from local supermarkets collected by our amazing volunteers. If you can help this week, we would love some **tinned meat meals (such as minced beef, chicken in sauce, chilli, ravioli, meatballs, etc), long life milk, cereals and squash**, and we always need toilet rolls, instant noodles microwave rice, tinned potatoes and vegetables, instant mash, pasta sauce, baked beans, household cleaning products, toiletries, sugar, tea and coffee. *No need this week for soup, tuna, tinned spaghetti, pasta, or sanitary products.* Thank you so much for your continuing support, it is really appreciated.

Winter Coats Appeal

Several of our pantry clients arrive without coats or warm clothing. If you have spare or outgrown coats and winter goods would you please hand them in so they can be taken to the pantry team? (Excess stock will be redonated to charity.) Thank you so much.

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Barnt Green Friends Meeting House Films for 2024

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

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

26th 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.

27th 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.

28th December 15.00 A young Viking seeks a hidden world Comedy thriller

19.00 The Johann Strauss Orchestra gives and on-screen convert 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) 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 .