



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 13th November 2025.

Services

Sunday 16th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church

St Michaels 4.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 20th November

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 23rd November Sunday next before Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 4.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 27th November

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 30th November 1st Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship with Baptism and Toy Service

Thursday 4th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

Youth Club – 6.30 to 8pm Monthly on Fridays in St Andrews Church (term time)

5-8's Lego Club – Weekly on Mondays 3.30 to 4.45 (Term time)

14-18's Youth with Lickey Church,

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 fortnightly. The next few dates are 20th November, 4th December, 18th December. 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

'Blackwell Concert Band's Christmas Concert'

That time has come again to step into Christmas with Blackwell Concert Band's festive concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer support. Please join us on Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's Church for an evening of music to kick start the Christmas season. Great music, good fun and time to chat to friends old and new over a glass of wine and mince pie. The junior section of the Band will be playing too, featuring a member of the Hobbs family. Come and support the band and the amazing work that MacMillan do. Adults £10, under 16's £5, complimentary refreshments! Tickets available on the door on the night.

Monday Fellowship

Our next Monday Fellowship is the start of the Christmas Story and fellowship. It will be on Monday 8th December at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Besides hearing more of the Christmas Story from Andy Hobbs, he will also hold a quiz to judge our Christmas knowledge and we shall have our 12 Recordists to accompany us in our singing of well-known carols, and playing us other Christmas tunes. Finally forget the biscuits as you will receive as mince pie with your cup of tea!

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS

There will be a **CHRISTMAS CHOIR** again this year to sing at the 6pm Carol Service at St Michael's on **Sunday 21st December** and also at the 6.30pm Christmas Eve Carol Service at St Andrew's on **Wednesday 24th December**. For those who have sung before, we will be doing two songs we have sung in previous years – *Angels O'er the Field Were Singing* and *Like a Candle Flame*. If you haven't sung before and you want to join us this year, please don't be shy – no previous singing experience needed, just enthusiasm and availability on the right dates! Rehearsals will be as follows: **Sunday 14th December** at approx. 10.45am (after the morning service) at St Andrew's and a run-through before the Carol Service on **21st December** – meet at 5.15pm at St Michael's.

There will also be a **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** who will sing at the 4.30pm Christmas Eve Carol Service on **Wednesday 24th December** at St Andrew's. Andy has been asking some pupils from St Andrew's School, but if there are any other children who would like to join in, please speak to me or Andy and let me have parents' contact details - email address and mobile number. Rehearsals for the children will be on **Sunday 7th December** and **Sunday 21st December** at approx. 10.45am (after the morning service).

Please let me know if you would like to join either choir. As there are very few rehearsals, it would be really good if everyone could make them all! I will have paper copies of the music/lyrics available at church from now on and also recordings of the parts which I can email to you if you confirm your email address. Many thanks. Katie Leaver (07792 056183,

For your Prayers

Andy and Jill would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support after the sudden death of Jill's mum. The funeral has been booked for the 2nd December. Andy will still be working during this period but please understand that he will have limited capacity to take anything extra on as he supports his family through this difficult period.

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

The Asklepios Orchestra,

Conducted by Lee Armstrong, will give their Autumn Concert on **Sunday 23rd November 2025 at 7.00pm**, in St Andrew's Church, Barnt Green, B45 8NR, featuring works by Humpertz and Tchaikovsky. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained in advance online from ticketsource.co.uk/asklepios-orchestra, or by cash or card payment at the door. Under 16s go free. Please see the posters, and take a flyer from the back of church for further details.

Super shoe box Saturday is November 15th.

Please come and cover boxes on November 13th 7.30 in the lounge. Offers of help on Friday November 14th from 7.30 to lift things out of the cupboards and move tables would be much appreciated. We still need sweets and footballs. I have 4 pumps, no footballs.

Could you manage tea and coffee and refreshments during the morning. A couple of volunteers in the kitchen would be great. Rosemary

Book Club

There's still time to read the book for the book club meeting on November 27th 2 pm in the parish lounge. Sorrow and bliss by Meg Mason
Anyone is welcome. Rosemary

Malawi meal

A Malawi Meal is on Saturday November 22nd 7.15 for 7.30 in the Parish Centre. Please sign up today or let me know before Tuesday November 18th if you would like to come. We have room for more! Rosemary 07981962574.

Christmas Stamps 2025

This year's stamps celebrate the convergence of many people around the birth of baby Jesus. The British illustrator, Paula Doherty portrays the Nativity story in a traditional way through 5 stamps. The 2nd class stamp features the Archangel Gabriel whilst the 1st class stamp has Jesus swaddling in Mary's arms. Mary and Joseph (Large 2nd), the shepherds (Large 1st) and the 3 kings (£3.40) complete the set. The latter stamp covers letters and cards sent anywhere abroad. Remember when your Christmas cards begin to arrive that all their stamps can be passed on to collectors to raise money for the Birmingham City Mission. Our collection shoe box is in the porch in St Andrews.

St Francis, Bournville

An unavoidable difficulty has arisen which means that we are very regrettably unable to show our St Francis of Assisi Play this November. Although we have had to make this difficult decision, we shall present some parts of the piece on Saturday afternoon November 15th at 2.30 in church in Sycamore Road and intend to find a replacement date for the whole performance in the Spring of next year. We apologise to everybody who may have been planning to see it on Friday 14th November; circumstances forced this hard decision on us.

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 20th November and 15th January 2026 - 10:00 to 13:00 – Contact Mike Powell

Please come and help, everyone is welcome, whatever your gardening abilities! It would be ideal if you would contact me before the date so we can organise activities more easily. Many thanks

Board Games

These are now underway in the Parish Centre Lounge on a regular rotation between afternoon and evening sessions. The future dates are:

Evening 7.00pm 2nd Dec

Afternoon 2.00pm 18th Nov
New players welcome anytime 16th Dec

Deanery Synod News

Octobers Deanery Synod discussed exciting news about the recently announced £17.8m funding for church growth in Birmingham - see more details on the separate sheet. The diocese of Birmingham has been awarded £17.8 million by the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB), as it seeks to support church growth and address a £1.5-million structural deficit. The award, one of the largest to date, was secured by a bid to "share the Christian message, supporting all parishes to grow, with a focus on outer estates, rural areas and areas of deprivation". Please pray for all those involved in planning this exciting work.

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 7th 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

Poppies Bereavement Support Group

Wednesday 19th November and Wednesday 17th December 2.30 to 3.30 at the Wheel, St Catherine's, Blackwell.

Coffee Morning

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

Climate Crisis Action

Quality not quantity: Around half of UK adults say they have received gifts they don't want at Christmas. When buying gifts, think *less but better*. Put time into picking a quality item that will last, and be loved, for a long time. This reduces the chances of gifts going to waste and will ensure that your gift lasts for many years to come. This could also be better for your wallet by purchasing one quality gift, rather than lots of cheaper, disposable or poor-quality items.

Food Bank

The Pantry@ St Stephen's Our families are so thankful for the help provided by the generous giving of the congregations of St Stephen's, St Andrew's and St Michael's and to the volunteer pantry team and surplus collectors.

At the moment, the pantry is in need of, long life milk, squash and cereals.

Cleaner Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a cleaner at the Parish Centre and Churches, please contact Marian Reavenall or Jill Newton for further details, or leave a message on the office number 0121 447 7097.

Newsletter

If you or anyone you know would like to receive this newsletter, by email every week, please contact Nicola

Watering Whole

The Watering Whole is next on 7th December at 6pm. All Welcome to join in a time of informal worship and prayer. Reflect on God's goodness and find space to pray through anything of concern either individually or corporately. We hope its a time of spiritual refreshment from the stresses of the world to bring us God's peace. Isaiah 35:6-7: He will give us Springs in the Desert! If you want to know more please ask Douglas or Philippa Allenby or why not just come along.

Barnt Green Friends Meeting House Films for 2025

Come and join us at Friends Cinema for its free film shows on: Saturday 15th November 7pm. A heartwarming film about a boy discovering and hatching a sea creature's egg, set near Loch Ness. It has a magical touch, for the whole family.

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 contact our Vicar, Rev Andy Hobbs on 0121 445 1269