



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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Weekly Newsletter 20th November 2025.

Services

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

Thursday 11th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Andrews 4.30pm BCP Holy Communion

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 4th December, 18th December, 8th January. 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

Sunday 30th November marks our annual St. Andrew's Toy Service where we collect new toys (that don't need batteries) to be distributed as Christmas presents to children from deprived backgrounds in the local area. You can either bring the toys to the service or drop them off to the office during office open hours. Please don't wrap the presents!

Sunday 30th November – St Andrew's Day at 3.30pm in the Parish Centre

Join us for an afternoon tea and fun 'Curling' – a typical Scottish winter sport – but with no ice in sight! Please bring sandwiches, scones or cakes to share. We would like to know numbers so please book a space by signing the list in church or message Judith on 07708799853. All welcome especially families.

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. Come and join us and discover what the next book is. Rosemary

'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.

Shoebboxes

After the school service on Monday, 549 boxes were loaded onto the van ready to bring joy to children in Eastern Europe. 302 boxes were filled on Saturday at a rate of a hundred an hour by church members, school families and Barnt Green Community. A big thank you to everyone who makes it possible.

Christmas Stamps 2025

The first Christmas stamps, issued in 1966 when Tony Benn was Postmaster General, were actually designed by children. Youngsters also designed the stamps in 1981 and 2013. A rough pattern has emerged of alternating religious and secular themes despite the challenge of finding original design concepts each year. As well as being the most commercially successful special stamp every year, they also add that touch of authenticity and significance to Christmas card envelopes. Perhaps you could make a point of saving your used stamps this year and popping them in the box in St Andrews? Please don't bin these little beauties. Stow 'em don't throw 'em!

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.

- 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:

Afternoon 2pm : 16th December, 20th January, 17th February.

Evening 7pm: 2nd December, 6th January. 27th January.

New players welcome anytime

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 17th December 2.30 to 3.30 at the Wheel, St Catherine's, Blackwell. Contact [Lickey](#) Parish Office for further information.

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

Cut down on single-use plastic. If you're still clinging on to cling film, this festive season is the perfect time to try to reduce your usage. Instead use beeswax wraps to cover ingredients or wrap pastry dough, move food into containers to store in the fridge or simply cover a bowl with a plate. Washed leftover jars and tubs from jam, beans and peanut butter are a free storage solution, or you can buy reusable food bags that go in the dishwasher. I also recommend silicone liners for your cake tins – using them again and again, you'll save on waste and will never have to faff around cutting baking paper to size again!

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 6th December 7pm. A 2000 romance film about the consequences of opening a chocolate shop in a repressed French village.

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.