



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 11th December 2025.

Services

Sunday 14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Andrews 4.30pm BCP Holy Communion

Thursday 18th December

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 21st December 4th Sunday of Advent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Michaels 6pm Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

St Andrews 3pm Crib Service

St Andrews 4.30pm Family Carol Service

St Andrews 6.30pm Carol Service

St Michaels 11pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

St Andrews 9.30am Family Christmas Communion

Sunday 28th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 4th January 2nd 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 Andy Hobbs

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

14-18's Youth with Lickey Church, contact Sheri Gidney

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 18th December, 8th January, 22nd 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

Help needed at St. Andrews Christmas Eve Carol Services

We need people at all 3 services to make them special for everyone who comes. Some volunteers to lay the church out, others to welcome folks, show them to their seats, act as fire marshals, or tidy the church ready for Christmas Day. Are you able to help? Most volunteers only do one role at a service they plan to attend. Please put your name on the sheet at the back of church so we can then arrange who can do each job. Thank you. Mike Powell

Lost Property

We have a pair of glasses that were found in the kitchen on Monday 24th November if anyone is missing some.

Monday Fellowship

We start the new calendar year with a familiar speaker on Monday 12th January 2026 at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. Philip Bowen, a retired Deputy Headmaster, will be giving us one of his excellent talks entitled 'All political careers end in failure.' We will be interested whom he nominates and whether he projects any current government minister likely to be added to his list. Should be a very good talk.

Thank you for your toy donations

A big thank you for all the toys that we were able to take to Birmingham City Mission for their ToyLink appeal. Every Christmas, Birmingham City Mission give Christmas presents to thousands of children. Families in need are referred by various agencies, and each child gets presents that are wrapped and delivered by volunteers before Christmas Day.

1,700 families ----- 4,000 children ----- 16,000 gifts

If you would still like to donate NEW toys, please either drop them into the office during office open hours or contact Mike and Julia Powell, and bring them to Kendal End Farm. Alternatively, you can donate online - <https://www.birminghamcitymission.org.uk/christmas-toys>. Thank you.

Birmingham City Mission

We will be delivering toys to families in Frankley, Rubery and Longbridge on Friday December 19th. We need your help. Can you spare a couple of hours to pick up toys from Mike Powell's probably Friday morning and deliver. You will get instructions and the address. Please let Rosemary or Mike know if you can help. Thank you

Message from Diane Milford (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Following on from the Safeguarding Sunday sermon I would like to highlight where our parish's various policies can be found (both safeguarding and assorted others). Some policies have been placed on the notice boards in our church buildings, but the majority of our policies can be found within the Policies tab on our church website (<https://standrewscofe.org.uk/>). The home page of the church website also has hyperlinks relating to safeguarding in the section entitled **Safeguarding Policy and Concerns Contact at St Andrew's and St Michael's** as well as having my dedicated safeguarding email and telephone number.

Safeguarding Survey

We have received a request from Bishop Michael asking us to take part in a Parish Safeguarding Survey to get an accurate picture of safeguarding culture across the Diocese. This invitation is being given to all congregation members, volunteers, PCC members, employees, young people and anyone who visits or takes part in our church activities. The survey is open until **Sunday 14th December 2025**.

Scan the QR code below with your phone to start or type the web address below into your browser.

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Cofebirmingham/ParishSafeguardingSurvey2025>



Please could you take a few moments to complete this short survey about how welcome and safe you feel at our church?

Barnt Green Choral Society

Come and celebrate Christmas with us on Saturday 13th December 2025 at 3pm, at St Andrews Church, Barnt Green. Also featuring an ensemble and the choir of St Andrews School. Tickets are £10 including refreshments, under 16's are free. Tickets available from members or at the door, or visit www.barntgreenchoralsociety.org.uk.

For your Prayers

Please pray for Jean Taylor, who is recovering from her hip surgery.

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

Christmas Stamps 2025: *Its Now or Never*

Postie, postie don't be slow

Be like Elvis, *Go Man Go*,

Lots of cards for me I'm wishin',

I'll save my stamps for the City Mission

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 4th 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.

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)

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 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: 6th January. 27th January.

New players welcome anytime

Please be aware of the cancellation of the Poppies Bereavement Support Group

The December meeting is now cancelled. 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

Illuminate your Christmas tree with energy-efficient LED lights, creating a festive ambiance while contributing to a more sustainable environment. Remembering to switch them off at night not only adds an extra touch of eco-consciousness but also helps conserve energy.

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, other main meal tins like mince and onions, chilli, sausages etc

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 4th January 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 20th December 7pm. Probably the most popular of all Viennese operettas, 'Revenge of the Bat' is a sparkling confection of mistaken identities, illicit liaisons, and champagne-fuelled merriment.

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