



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 18th December 2025.

Services

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 Epiphany

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

Thursday 8th January

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 11th January 1st Sunday of Epiphany

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship Second Church

St Michaels 4.30pm 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 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

Carol Singing

A few of us want to sing out the Christmas message around Barnt Green on Monday evening 22nd December.. **Everyone welcome to join in** We'll meet outside Tesco's at 6.15pm and work our way along Victoria Mews, Station Approach, Orchard Croft, Poplar Drive . finishing around 8pm. Bring a torch, wear a hat... lets sing out Christmas tidings! Philippa and Douglas Allenby

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.

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

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 Card Stamps 2025

Last Christmas, you gave us your stamps

And the very next month, we gave them away

This year, we'll do it again

We'll give them to someone special

Our 'someone special' is Birmingham City Mission who sell the stamps in bulk to raise money for their charitable work. Please leave your stamps, however small in number, in the shoe box in St Andrews.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM GRANTHAM

Rob and Philippa Fieldson send their love to everyone who remembers them, and wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas. They have sent a family newsletter (including grandchild photos!), copies of which are on the noticeboards in both churches.

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

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 : 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.

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

Christmas may feel joyful, but it's also one of the most waste-intensive times of the year. In the holiday period packaging and food waste surge, overwhelming landfills with millions of extra tons of discarded wrapping paper, single-use plastics, cardboard, and spoiled food. Much of this comes from mindless consumption: buying novelty gifts, fast-decor items, and trendy products that are poorly made, non-recyclable, and rarely used beyond the season. This consumption also fuels a global supply chain built on low-cost, high-volume production which is often linked to poor working conditions, low wages, and minimal environmental oversight. A more sustainable Christmas simply means taking a step back, thinking about what Christmas really means to you and finding ways to reduce your impact. This may look like reducing unnecessary waste, resisting the pressure to buy for the sake of buying, and choosing gifts, decorations, and food that respect both people and the planet.

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.

Yule feel good!

Cards arriving, one by one
Saving stamps and having fun
Its the season, love and understanding
Merry Christmas, everyone
Merry Christmas, thanks a ton

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.