



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 19th February 2026.

Services

Sunday 22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Andrews 4.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 26th February

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 1st March 2nd Sunday of Lent

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

Thursday 5th March

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 8th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 4.30pm BCP Holy Communion

Thursday 12th March

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 15th March 4th Sunday of Lent

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church

St Michaels 4.30pm Evening Prayer

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, sherigidney@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 fortnightly. The next few dates, 5th March, 19th March, 2nd April. 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

Prayer Diary

We want to thank Tom and Dorothy Young for faithfully producing the monthly prayer diary. They are stepping down from this month. Do you use it regularly? Do you have any suggestions or comments that will help you to pray. Please let Nicola know if you have valued the prayer diary so that we know how to move forward.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6th March 2pm at St Stephen's Church, Edgewood Road, Rednal B458SG

Everyone is invited and welcome to come to this unique event! The service this year has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria, who share stories of their lives written in response to the theme *I will give you rest, come (Matthew 11)*. The same words are used on this day in 146 countries, starting in Samoa and ending in American Samoa to encircle the world in a wave of prayer for the country and people of Nigeria.

Our local service is ecumenical with participants from many churches in the B45 area.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Further details from Lesley Brown (07887 716419).



A Musical Treat at St Andrew's!

An Afternoon with Esther Simkiss. 3pm • Saturday 25 April • St Andrew's Church

Get ready for a joyful afternoon of musical theatre favourites as Esther returns to St Andrew's for an informal concert filled with music and stories. This is a free event, and everyone is warmly invited. During the concert we'll also be supporting ICfEM Dreamland Mission in Kenya, where Esther has volunteered, teaching music and drama at the Dreamland Education Centre. Donations on the day will go directly to support their inspiring work. Come along, bring friends, and enjoy an uplifting afternoon of music - all for a fantastic cause. We'd love to see you there!

Monday Fellowship

Our talk for March moves across the world to South America on Monday 9th March at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. This is a continent unfamiliar to most Britons. Rob Fieldson returns with a pictorial programme and description of Columbia, which is at the north end of the South American continent. His son teaches English in this country and Rob has amassed a considerable number of photographs of this country, which is a source of a lot of our bananas.

Barnt Green Macular Society Support Group

Something very different from the excellent talk by an audiologist at our January meeting. Knowle Handbell Ringers have been booked on a member's recommendation. Why not come and listen? Our meeting, in the Parish Centre, is on Friday, 27 February, starting at 2pm, but it's better to arrive earlier. Cost £3 per person. For more information, ring Wendy on 0121 445 1585.

Open doors.

The new map of the countries where Christians are persecuted is up on the display board in the hall. Read the stories of faithful Christians who continue to witness despite the dangers.

Giving.

We have made our annual gifts to individuals serving The Lord abroad and in the UK and to a variety of charities. Look on the Mission Board for more information. We give away 10 percent of our voluntary giving and hope to so again this year. It all depends on your generosity.

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.

- Thursdays 19th March and 23rd April - 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.

Climate Stewards Carbon Fast for Lent

Traditionally, Lent is a time when Christians fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast helps us think about our carbon footprint and ask if there is any excess or unnecessary use in our lives, and if any of that excess is acting as a distraction to our relationship with God. With a different focus each week, you'll learn more, ask questions, and focus on what God thinks about these areas of our lives, as detailed on the attached flyer.

Please consider signing up to receive a weekly email full of facts, practical suggestions and prayers to lead you through the Lenten season.

Either use the QR code on the flyer, or <https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

Shoe boxes

Back to a monthly collection after a 2 month break. February is hygiene month flannels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and combs. Don't forget to ask your dentist for toothpaste.

Barnes Close

Soul craft day is on February 23rd. Come and enjoy time with God. More information from Rosemary

Craft Group

The craft group meets in the Parish Centre Lounge on the 4th Saturday of the month, 9.30-12 noon. Next meeting is February 28th, 2026.

All knitters, crocheters, and sewers welcome. Bring your own work and enjoy a few hours relaxing in the company of likeminded people, with fellowship and refreshments.

Are you having a sort out? Our crafters would like coloured buttons to make into a rainbow collage. Also, flannelette sheeting, terry towelling and plastic anoraks that will be cut up and made into sanitary packs. Please leave in boxes in the porch. Thank you.

Just turn up or speak to Di White for more information. 0121 445 4298.

Barnes Close

Make time for God. Just spend a day a month at Barnes Close. Bring your craft, a book or your journal. No distractions, guidance if you want it.

9.45 - 3 pm February 23rd or March 23rd. Website gives more information greenhouse@barnesclose.org.uk

Watering Whole

The Watering Whole is next on 1st March at 6.30 pm at St Chad's Rubery. All Welcome to join in with other Oversight Churches for a time of worship and prayer.

A time to reflect on God's goodness and find space to pray through anything of concern either individually or corporately. We aim for it to be a time of spiritual refreshment from the stresses of the world to enter into 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 come along you will be very welcome.

Top Postmarks

Thank you to everyone who has left used stamps in the shoe box in St Andrews recently. This year Royal Mail will issue several 'special' stamps including some celebrating 50 years since Concorde (already available) and 125 years of Hornby trains (on sale today). Others later on will feature roses, castles and waterfalls as well as a set celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 100th birth anniversary. However all stamps are equally valuable for our purposes as they are sold by weight. Please remember to leave 1 cm of backing around the stamp or tear them off the envelope with gay abandon and we will trim them.

Quiz night

Saturday February 28th raising funds for Malawi education. I now have tickets £3 each. Please see me after church Prizes, raffle and tombola. Any contributions would be welcome.

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, could we please ask for donations of cleaning products and washing up liquid along with the usual milk, cereal and meat tins. We have loads of tuna but popular ones are tinned curry, meatballs in tomato sauce, tinned hot dog sausages, chilli, sausages with beans/spaghetti. As always we send our very grateful thanks for everyone's generosity.

For your Prayers

Cecil Buckett has sadly passed away. His funeral will be at St Andrews Church on Wednesday 25th February at 12 noon. Please pray for his family at this difficult time.

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

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 1st March 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.

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.

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 : .17th March, 14th April

Evening 7pm: 24th February, 7th April

New players welcome anytime

Climate Crisis Action

Batch Cooking: Prepare meals in bulk to save time energy and resources. Freeze portions for easy future meals, reducing the need for takeaways or last minute trips to the shop.

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.

Barnt Green Friends Meeting House Films for 2026

Come and join us at Friends Cinema for its free film shows on: Saturday 21st February at 7pm. A profoundly human story about a man living with Tourettes's syndrome, told with empathy, humour, and unflinching honesty.

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