



## St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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Weekly Newsletter 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Services

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**St Andrews** 9.30am Holy Communion

**Parish Centre** 3pm Messy Church

**St Michaels** 4.30pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**St Andrews** 9.30am Morning Worship

**St Michaels** 4.30pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** Palm Sunday

**St Andrews** 9.30am Morning Worship

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Parish Centre** 9.30am Meditation Service

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**St Andrews** 9.30am Good Friday Reflection

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Day

**Parish Centre** 9am First Church

**St Andrews** 9.30am Holy Communion

**St Michaels** 6pm Holy Communion

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

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

**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, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Mothers' Sunday

Mothers' Sunday appears again on 15<sup>th</sup> March and, as it's traditional at St Andrews, we will be presenting all the women in church with a small bouquet of flowers as a thank you to them. We will be making these bouquets the day before in the parish centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. Flowers will be provided but if you can bring some greenery with you that would be great. The men of the church are especially welcome to come and help!

#### Agape Meal

Spring is here and Easter is fast approaching. Our Maundy Thursday Agape meal will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. This time it will be a shared meal so please stun us with your culinary creations. Enough jacket potatoes and bread will be provided for everyone. Please keep the date free to be able to join us. Many thanks Judith

## 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.

## Craft Group

The craft group meets in the Parish Centre Lounge on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 9.30-12 noon. Next meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Daffodil Weekend 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

We are holding a daffodil weekend at St Michael's Church again this year on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March in aid of the Churchyard fund and Marie Curie Cancer Care. We would appreciate your help again please to set the event up on the Friday afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> March and during both days of the event. If you can help in any way please contact Jonathan Hall on 07742306386. Literally hundreds of cakes are needed so even if you've never baked before give it a try and bring them with you when you visit or leave them on the preceding Thursday or Friday mornings in the Parish Centre kitchen. Many thanks Judith.



## 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!

## The Bromsgrove Justice and Peace group

The Bromsgrove Justice and Peace group invite you to a presentation by refuge action, about what life is really like for refugees and asylum seekers, followed by a presentation by BRWR covering how you can help in our community. Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at St. Peter's Community Centre Rock Hill Bromsgrove

## Lent

Quiet day at Barnes Close Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 10 till 3. Spend time in this lovely peaceful place, walk, pray, bring your craft. Listen to God

## Prayer for youth

Prayer for youth and young people in our area Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30 probably at the Bromsgrove Youth Hub. If you're interested see Rosemary for confirmation

## Book club

Come and join us on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2 pm in the Parish Lounge. We will be talking about Wrong place wrong time by Gillian McAllistair. I have a copy if you have time to read it. Meet bimonthly. Rosemary

## Mothers' Day Cake Sale

Saturday/Sunday 14-15/03/2025. Pre-order whole cakes for home delivery (Barnt Green, Cofton Hackett only) or pick up at St Andrews Church after Sunday service

WHOLE CAKES: Lemon drizzle cake - £6 for 7in (18cm) or £8.50 for 9in (24cm) Victoria Sponge (butter icing) - £7 for 7in or £10 for 9in

Chocolate Cake (butter icing) - £8.50 for 7in or £11 for 9in Carrot Cake (cream cheese icing, no nuts) - £13 for 8in

OTHER BAKED GOODS: Chocolate chip cookies - 6 for £4 Focaccia (»7x11in) - £6 or half for £4

Pre-order by Saturday 7th March by message Aga at 07739355422

## Furniture

Is anyone getting rid of a dining table and min 4 chairs as I know a family from Iran who do not have one. And a small lounge coffee table or nest of tables? Please contact Philippa Allenby, thank you.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

March collection stationery items please. Not a very good response in January. Need lots more toothbrushes and flannels. Keep looking for bargains.

### **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 March 23rd. Website gives more information

### **Stampflation**

Doubling down on their often repudiated policy of giving a low priority to letters and cards, Royal Mail have announced price rises for postage stamps.

First class will rise to £1.80p and second class to 91p from the 7<sup>th</sup> April. Since 2020 1<sup>st</sup> class postage has risen 137% with 8 separate increases, while 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps have gone up 6 times. Should you receive one of these rare and increasingly precious items you may feel the need to hang on to it to show your great grandchildren but if not please drop it in the shoebox in St Andrews. Thank you!

### **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.

### **Message to everyone at St Andrews and St Michaels:**

Thank you so much for your really kind and generous food and monetary donations after Christmas. Our local community is already really benefitting from them. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support. God bless you all from The Pantry Team – Jo, Wendy and Amanda.

### **For your Prayers**

We are sorry to hear of the death of former longtime member of St Andrew's Sheila Gregory. Her daughter Juliet says that she died peacefully on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the age of 97. Sheila had a wonderful life and was for many years a great servant of God and his church here in Barnt Green. Please pray for Juliet and all the family at this sad time.

Please pray for former member of our church community Diana Marchand and her husband Gerard - for them to receive the support and care they need for the last weeks of Gerard's life and to know God's peace in the midst of these very difficult days.

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 5<sup>th</sup> April 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.

### **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.

### **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 : .17<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April

Evening 7pm: 7<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May

New players welcome anytime

### **Climate Crisis Action**

Be mindful of energy usage: use energy-efficient cooking methods like pressure cookers, induction stoves, air fryers, or slow cookers. These appliances consume less energy and are perfect for warming recipes.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm. A gentle comedy about hiring two disunited performers for a private concert on an island.

**Watering Whole**

The Watering Whole is next on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 6.30 pm at St Andrews. 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.

**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](mailto: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.**