



## St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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Weekly Newsletter 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Next weeks newsletter will be Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

### Services

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Parish Centre 9am First Church

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

The Watering Whole is next on 1st March at 6.30 pm at St Chad's Rubery

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 4.30pm BCP Holy Communion

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

#### 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

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, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</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

#### Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday appears again on 15th 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 14th 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!

#### 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).

## **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. 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!

## **Monday Fellowship**

Our next meeting is on Monday 9th March at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre, when we will learn about Colombia in South America. Perhaps you have seen it on TV recently in *Celebrity Raced Across the World* or *The Night Manager*. Rob and Philippa Fieldson, whose son Tim teaches English out there, have visited twice and will show pictures of Bogota, Medellin, some historic colonial towns, and the beautiful countryside, and perhaps the odd one of their grandson Marco! All welcome.

## **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 message Aga

## **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 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.

### **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 February 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.

### **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

### **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.

### **Tons 'n Roses**

Later this year Royal Mail will release stamps celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II ( 21<sup>st</sup> April). There is already a set of 10 stamps on sale celebrating 100 years of Commemorative Stamps. Today, another beautiful set of 10 stamps is issued celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of David Austin (1926-2018), the visionary British breeder whose creations transformed modern rose cultivation. Regardless of the attractiveness or monetary cost of any of the stamps you receive they all have a small sell-on value. Please save your stamps and pop them in the box in St Andrews or leave them with Nicola. Thank you.

### **Quiz night**

Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> raising funds for Malawi education. I now have tickets £3 each. Please see me after church or contact me Rosemary 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**

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.

Cecil Buckett has sadly passed away. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 : .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**

Please watch the docudrama Dirty Business on channel 4 this week, you can watch on Channel 4 catch up. It's an important watch with evidence of the pollution of our rivers and seas by water companies. The group 'Surfers against Sewage' have a petition to end this sewage scandal, if you have time please sign it.

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

**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 or contact our Vicar, Rev Andy Hobbs on 0121 445 1269 .**