



St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green



@chandbgparish



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



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Weekly Newsletter 7th May 2026

Services

Sunday 10th May 6th Sunday of Easter

St Leonards Joint Service

St Michaels 6pm BCP Holy Communion

Thursday 14th May

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 17th May 7th Sunday of Easter

St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church

St Michaels 6pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st May

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 24th May Pentecost

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

Thursday 28th May

Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday

St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship

St Michaels 6pm Holy Communion

St Andrews 6.30pm Watering Whole

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, 14th May, 28th May, 11th June. 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

Celebration - New vicar at St. Stephens, Rednal

On 12th May Revd. Chris Chalmers will be licensed at St. Stephens Rednal and we are warmly invited.

Although Revd. Chris has been in post for some time, this licensing service represents a significant and joyful occasion in her ministry. Your presence would be a great encouragement to Revd Chris. To help St Stephens plan, it would be helpful if you could let Andy know that you want to come by the end of Sunday 10th.

Birthday celebration!

Andy will reach his half century milestone this year. To celebrate, you are all invited to his party on May 24th, 3-7pm (you don't have to stay the whole time) for food, fun and games in the Parish Centre. No presents - if you would like to mark the occasion, please contribute to the St.

Stephen's roof appeal - <https://www.ststephensrednal.co.uk/roof-appeal>

Church Working Parties

Both churchyards are lovely, and a good way of demonstrating our care. 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, and tidy up some of the grave areas. At St Andrews there is tidying and weeding. The next working parties are:

- St. Andrews - Thursday 28th May - 10:00 to 13:00
- St. Michaels – Thursday 9th July - 10:00 to 13:00

Please come and help, everyone is welcome, whatever your gardening abilities. There are tea and biscuits at halftime! It would be ideal if you would contact me before the date so we can organise activities more easily.

Many thanks, Mike Powell

Bluebell walk 2026 – Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped make bank holiday Monday's walk such a lovely event. Thank you to the helpers for setting up and serving, the cake bakers for a lovely selection, the walkers and the chatters for sharing and making it such a special time.

A message from Friands International

*" Thank you for your kind and generous hospitality. We love this special day with you each year.
Much love, Rachael, Mike and Friends International students etc!"*

We have left cake tins and boxes in the Parish Centre kitchen for collection. Thank you, Mike and Julia Powell

Interested in the consequences of our changing climate?

There will be a screening and discussion of the **People's Emergency Briefing** at Parkside Hall.

The 45-minute film captures key moments from last November's National Emergency Briefing, where leading experts in climate science, health, food security, economics, national security and nature laid out the latest evidence on how environmental change is already shaping everyday life in the UK.

After the film there will be a local conversation about what this means for Bromsgrove in terms of our economy, our resilience, and the choices we face as a town and region. We will discuss potential solutions to the issues raised.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peoples-emergency-briefing-bromsgrove-tickets-1986973264522> The Eco Group

Birmingham City Mission 60th Anniversary – 60 Bridges walk

Birmingham City Mission has been supporting the people of Birmingham for 60 years. We have supported them in many ways over the years. It is one of our parish Mission Partners, a number of people from the congregation volunteer, giving toy service and harvest items, and also foodbank donations.

Mike and Julia Powell will be taking part in the 60 Bridges walk on Saturday 6th June. This will be a daunting 21-mile canal walk from Hanbury Warf to Gas Street basin. It would be lovely if you could walk with us, for all the route or just a part, and/or sponsor us:

stewardship.org.uk/pages/MikeandJuliaBCM60Bridges Thank you.

Joint Oversight Area Service

On 10th May, we have the wonderful opportunity to worship with our brothers and sisters from across the Hillside Oversight Area at our newest members church – St. Leonard's, Frankley. Do think about offering/sharing lifts!

Home Group

Wednesday home group is moving to Mita's home 107 Hewell Road from May 6th. Meeting at 8 pm till 9.30. Everyone is welcome to come and discuss the Sunday sermon and enjoy friendship.

CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT

Our fundraising event for Christian Aid Week is on Saturday 16th May 7.30pm and features the Blackwell Concert Band with a sparkling program of music to delight and entertain! You can support the evening in several ways: Come to the concert and bring friends and neighbours - start inviting them now!

Donate something for the raffle that will take place during the evening (items to make up a food hamper). Plan to bake a cake for the refreshments during the interval. Tickets are £10 adults/ £5 for under 18s Contact for offers of help and further information: Lesley Brown 07887716419 Tickets can be reserved or bought from Lesley or from Nicola in the Parish Office (0121 447 7097)

Shoebboxes

May is for more soap, combs and brushes. Keep buying or finding. Filling 300 boxes takes a lot of soap. Don't let the children down. Thank you from T4U

Monday Fellowship

The next Monday Fellowship will be on Monday 11th May at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. This will be a speaker who hasn't yet been to our Church, is extremely busy and it took us nearly a year to get the booking. The speaker is the recently appointed Bishop of Birmingham, the Rev Dr Michael Volland. Besides being the Bishop for our Diocese, he is also a marathon runner and uses the Lickey Hills as part of his training, often returning home by train from Barnt Green. Consequently, his talk will be entitled 'Running and Spirituality' The Monday Fellowship is normally for retired people but his talk will be open to anybody who wishes to come and hear it. Beside the talk you will get tea and biscuits for £3 and you will be helping us to make a good donation to the Parish Centre at the end of the year.

Barnes Close

A day of peace, time to reflect, enjoy the Wasley's. Go to Barnes Close. Monday May 18th 9.45 till 3. Come later, leave earlier no problem. You will find a welcome. Give what you can for the day, bring your lunch and your craft or a book or your walking boots.

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 May 23rd, 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 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.

First Church

Please come and join us on Sunday 7th June 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

For your Prayers

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

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.

We would really appreciate semi-skimmed UHT milk, bags of pasta (not wholewheat or spaghetti as we have enough of those thank you) and jars of sauce please. As always, we send our very grateful thanks for everyone's generosity.

Jet, Space and Digital Ages

Queen Elizabeth II lived through all of these during her reign. Over half of the nations of the world did not exist in their current form when she was crowned in 1953. On April 21st Royal Mail issued a special set of 8 stamps celebrating the centenary of her birth. They are so special, with 8 different family images and portraits of her majesty through the ages, you may not wish to part with any of them? However, remember the shoe box for used stamps is in Church all year round. Finally, a big thank you for all the anonymous donations large and small in recent weeks.

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 : .19th May, 23rd June

Evening 7pm: 12th May, 2nd June

New players welcome anytime

Climate Crisis Action

Water Conservation. May is a great month to focus on water-saving strategies as gardens and lawns require more attention. Consider installing rain barrels to collect rainwater for irrigation, which reduces tap water use and supports plant health. Use low-flow showerheads and taps and turn off water while brushing teeth to conserve water at home. Running dishwashers and washing machines on economy settings also maximizes water efficiency and energy savings

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 16th May at 7pm. A Fred Astaire musical treat. This musical is based on the 1955 stage musical of the same name, adapted from the film Ninotchka, which was filmed in Cinemascope and features a fabulous score by Cole Porter.

Watering Whole

The Watering Whole is next Sunday on 31st 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) 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.