St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green

@chandbgparish http://standrewscofe.org.uk/ www.facebook.com/standrewsbarntgreen

Weekly Newsletter 17th November 2026

Services

Thursday 19th November
Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 22nd November Sunday next before Advent
St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship
St Michaels 4.30pm Holy communion

Thursday 26th November
Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent
St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship and Toy Service

Thursday 3rd December
Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent
Parish Centre 9am First Church
St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion
St Andrews 6pm Watering Whole

Thursday 10th December
Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent
St Andrews 9.30am Morning Worship
St Andrews 4.30pm BCP Holy communion (In Barnt Green)

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

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, 26th November, 10th December, 7th 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.**
Home Groups - Several small groups regularly meet in people's homes and all welcome new members. They provide mutual support and encouragement, an opportunity to study the Bible and pray. Groups meet on Monday mornings fortnightly, Wednesday evening weekly, Thursday afternoons fortnightly, Friday mornings and two groups meet on Sunday evenings, both fortnightly. We are always keen to develop new groups. If you would like to join a group or start a new group please contact Doug Simkiss on 01214456425, 07534864828

News and Information

Shoeboxes
Well done everyone who helped with the T4U shoebox appeal. 422 boxes were loaded into the van. They will be checked in Evesham and then begin their journey to Romania and The Ukraine. They will be given out between December 11th. and 18th. The school service was a lovely occasion, and we are grateful for their help in loading the van.

Book Club
Book club is at 2pm on Thursday November 26th 2 pm in the Parish Centre. Do come and join us.

St Andrew's Day Afternoon Tea
As St Andrew's Day falls on a Monday this year we are holding our tea party on the previous Sunday afternoon – November 29th at 3.30 pm in the Parish Centre. I hope you can join us so please add your name to the lists at the back of our 2 churches. Friends and family are very welcome. Full details and offers of help please to Judith on 07708799853

Date for your diary!
Blackwell Concert Band will be back at StAndrew's for their Christmas Concert on Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm. A lovely evening of festive music, fun and seasonal refreshments included, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets on the door or in advance from Blackwellconcertband.sumupstore.com

Church Working Parties
Both churchyards are lovely, and a good way of demonstrating our care for God's world. 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. Michaels – Thursday 14th January 2027- 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

Christmas Concert 7pm Tuesday 15 December at St Andrew's Church
Let the joyful melodies of Broadway Classics and Christmas Specials whisk you away into the festive season
Esther Simkiss Accompanied by Aaron Cliff. Doors open at 6.30pm. £15 Adults £10 Concessions
Refreshments of Mince Pies and Mulled Wine included Buy tickets in advance by texting Pip Simkiss on 07748657450 or buy on the door with cash or card.

The Asklepios Orchestra
A little reminder for our regular supporters that the Asklepios Orchestra, conducted by Lee Armstrong, will give their Autumn Concert on Sunday 22nd November 2026 at 7.00pm, in St Hilda's's Church, Smethwick, B67 5NQ. Entitled 'A Night at the Movies' it will feature music from 10 films. Tickets £10 can be bought by cash or card on the door. We will return to St Andrew's for our Spring Concert in 2027.

Christmas Choirs:
As usual, there will be an adult choir and a children's choir singing at the carol services. Dates for rehearsals and the carol services are as follows:
Children's Choir:
Sun 6th Dec - 10.45am (after service at St Andrew's): Children's Choir rehearsal
Sun 20th Dec - 10.40am (after service at St Andrew's): Children's Choir rehearsal
Thurs 24th December - 4.30pm: Carol service
Adult Choir:
Sun 13th Dec - 10.45am: Adult Choir rehearsal (after service at St Andrew's)
Sun 20th Dec - **11am approx** (after children's choir rehearsal): Adult Choir rehearsal (at St Andrew's)
Sun 20th Dec - 6pm St Michael's Carol Service & Thurs 24th Dec - 6.30pm St Andrew's Carol Service
Please speak to Katie Leaver as soon as possible if you would like to sing in either choir and please put the dates in your diary now! (07792 056183). It is really important that I know whether I have the numbers to go ahead with the choir for all of the services, so please look carefully at the dates. All are welcome – being Pavarotti is not necessary!

Watering Whole
The next Watering Whole is on Sunday 6th December at 6pm 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.

Remembrance Sunday - don't forget!
After a poignant and affecting Remembrance Service last Sunday please remember that as of yesterday a set of 6 stamps have been issued acknowledging the debt we all owe to the fallen. Also available now in Post Offices are this year's 5 Christmas stamps which will add a touch of class to your festive cards. A final reminder that when we pass these special stamps on to Birmingham City Mission they are worth no more than those bearing the monarch's head. All used stamps are sold on by weight not attractiveness. Thank you for all the recent donations.

First Church
Please come and join us on Sunday 6th December 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.

Food Bank
Could we ask for household and hygiene products please - shower gel, shampoo, cleaning sprays, bleach, laundry liquid/pods/powder and washing up liquid.
For Christmas any nice Christmas treats would be very welcome - chocolates, biscuits, mince pies, chocolate logs, custard is popular, microwave sponge puddings etc. Thank you.
As always we are extremely grateful for all the help and support that you give us.

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 28th November 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.

Climate Crisis Action
The comedian Stuart Goldsmith is an advocate for Climate change, go and see him or look him up on YouTube. A brilliant way to learn more about helping the planet whilst enjoying some laughter at the same time.

Newsletter
If you or anyone you know would like to receive this newsletter, by email every week, please contact Nicola .

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.

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 .