St Michael's & St Andrew's

Parish of Cofton Hackett & Barnt Green

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

Weekly Newsletter 5th November 2026

Services

Sunday 8th November 3rd Sunday before Advent
St Andrews 10am Remembrance Sunday
St Michaels 4.30pm BCP Holy communion

Thursday 12th November
Parish Centre 9.30am Meditation Service

Sunday 15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent
St Andrews 9.30am Holy Communion
Parish Centre 3pm Messy Church
St Michaels 4.30pm Evening Prayer

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

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, 12th November, 26th November, 10th December. 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

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

Monday Fellowship
For our next meeting on Monday 9th November at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre we will be welcoming Rev Canon Esther Prior. She will be entertaining us with tales of her life's journey from Malawi to becoming Bishop of Aston. This will be followed by our usual tea and chat. All are welcome so please join us. Admission is £3 but new visitors are free so come and try it out.

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.

Prayer for the roof
Do come and join us to pray for the new roof after church on Sunday morning in the lounge.

Super Shoe box Saturday.
We still need items to put in shoeboxes. Most of all need your help to cover shoeboxes on Wednesday November 4th 7.30 - 9.30 parish centre and Thursday November 12th. Can you help move tables and empty the cupboards on Friday November 13th 8pm. I need a couple of volunteers to serve drinks and refreshments on Saturday 14th from 10 - 12. Can you make a cake/ scones or biscuits for Saturday. Be good to have lots so we can have cake on Sunday when the Bishop is visiting. If you can't do anything please think about making a donation to help fund the transport of the boxes. Any questions please contact Rosemary.

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

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.

The Inn Crowd by Roger Jones
Roger's musical will be performed at Catshill Methodist Church (B61 0LG) on Saturday 7th November as a "musical in a day". If you would like to sing in the choir, the day starts at 12pm (bring a packed lunch), but if you would just like to attend the performance, it starts at 6pm. The musical was written in 2007, and this will be quite a special performance as several members of the original cast from the recording will be revisiting their roles – 19 years on! You will recognise the Innkeeper's Wife (Katie) and also the drummer (Joe), and Roger Jones himself will be playing the piano, so it promises to be an exciting event!

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!

Dates for your diary.
Please come to the Parish Centre on Friday November 13th help us cover shoe boxes and set up for Super Shoe box Saturday. A reminder that each box we fill costs £3.50 to send.

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 - 10:00 to 13:00
- St. Andrews– Thursday 12th November - 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

Act Of Remembrance
God's Heart for Longbridge invites you to join in an Act of Remembrance on Saturday 7th Nov at 10.45am. Outside Longbridge Extra Care Village, 2 Austin Way, Longbridge, Rednal, B31 2FZ. Lest We Forget.

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.

Stamps of Remembrance
On the 11th November Royal Mail will issue a set of 6 Special Stamps (all 1st class) featuring very moving remembrance artworks. From 1st and 2nd WW soldiers to an RAF flypast to Tyne Cot Cemetery to the Cenotaph and a to local war memorial each design is enhanced by red poppies and reflects the enduring tradition that unites our communities. These really special stamps are certainly worth saving but equally you can share the pride by passing them on for others to enjoy by leaving them in the shoe box in St Andrews. Thank you.

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
Please could you thank everyone for their very generous harvest donations. We are extremely grateful.
Could we ask for household and hygiene products please - shower gel, shampoo, cleaning sprays, bleach, laundry liquid/pods/powder and washing up liquid.
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
As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house, you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!

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