



St Andrews Baptist Church

Keeping the Gospel Real, Relevant, Radical and Refreshing



² Make your tent bigger. Open your doors wide. Don't think small! Make your tent large and strong, ³ because you will grow in all directions. Your children will take over many nations and live in the cities that were destroyed. ⁴ Don't be afraid!"
Isaiah 54:2-4a

'Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.'

1 John 3:18



Jan 2021 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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REFLECTION

New Beginnings.

Don't you know? Haven't you been listening? Yahweh is the one and only everlasting God, the Creator of all you can see and imagine! He never gets weary or worn out. His intelligence is unlimited; he is never puzzled over what to do! ²⁹ He empowers the feeble and infuses the powerless with increasing strength. ³⁰ Even young people faint and get exhausted; athletic ones^[a] may stumble and fall. ³¹ But those who wait for Yahweh's grace will experience divine strength. They will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles, run their race without growing weary, and walk through life without giving up. Isaiah 40: 28-31

We start a new year, new beginnings, new opportunities, and as we reflect on 2020 it will most certainly be a year we will not forget. So much happened, and I am sure we all have stories to tell, testimonies to share in how God has brought us through, and we look forward to that day when we are back in church. One thing is for sure despite all the hardship, the pain and suffering, there has been much joy and hope. We celebrated the birth of five children in 2020, proud parents and grandparent. Having more quality time to spend with our families, God's healing hand so evident for our loved ones. Opportunities for online services, we certainly did not except that.

As we start this new year, what is your hope and pray for 2021? How will you walk with God this year? What will you do differently? What commitment, promises are you going to make this year. Let us all discern God's will and purpose and ensure we keep our eyes firmly fixed on him. May we continue to share the love of Christ to everyone, family friends, neighbours. May our conversations be of great encouragement as we follow in the footsteps of Christ.

God, glorify your name! Yes, your name alone be glorified, not ours. For you are the one who loves passionately, and you are faithful and true. Psalm 115

Let us renew and strengthen our walk with Christ and continue to look up, seek the Lord in all we do. Christ be our inspiration, our hope, our joy, our peace and shine your love. Amen

CHURCH UPDATE

YOUNG PEOPLE

Well done to all our young people for your beautiful Christmas cards. You did a fantastic job and blessed the fellowship of St Andrews. We pray you have had a good Christmas break and ready for a new year.

Search TEAM

We continue to uphold in prayer as we seek God's wisdom and direction as we enter "the search" phase for a new minister. The search team consists of elders: Andrea, Mike, Torsby and Donna and leaders Hetsie and Juan. We have the assurance that God has a plan and we put our total trust in Him.

REOPENING

The ministry and leadership team continue to prayerfully consider all options for re-opening our door. There is much to be done, and no decision has been made yet as to when our doors will open. We appreciate it is very challenging and whilst we all pray for the day when the doors will be opened again, we each have a duty of responsibility and care to our fellowship. A small team has been tasked with looking at all the COVID and health and safety requirements. What we do know is church will certainly be different in the short-term with no singing, refreshments, and hug greetings.

More information will follow in due course.

Staffing

We are recruiting for: **Office Administrator for 15 hours per week**

With the church doors still closed and offering/tithe massively reduced in 2020 we have been monitoring this very carefully and have been trying to cover in the interim period. As we look to reopen the building this position is extremely important and recruitment for 2021 will commence in February 2021.

Testimonies

Would you like to give thanks and praise to God for all he is doing, in your life? Encourage others and share, those moments – Praise God, Seek God, Worship God, Trust God, and Thank God. Do you have something to share, for the monthly newsletter, and our email reflections? Send in a word doc, max of 400 words to donna.harris@standrewsbletchley.org.uk

UPCOMING SERVICES

During this uncertain time, and whilst we cannot congregate together in person on a Sunday, we are publishing service information on our website.

www.standrewsbletchley.org.uk

When

Sunday 21st June

Services

Recorded Sermons

Messy Church: Family Service

St Andrews Calendar

Events



Opening

Greetings and a very warm welcome to our service today. We are glad that you have been able to join us as we come to offer our praise and worship to God on this Father's Day. What ever our experience, may we take a few minutes to remember those men in our lives. Above all may we draw close to our Father in Heaven who adores and cherishes us. He is with us, knows us, loves and cares for us. May we learn to rest in His care, and know His peace in the chaos of life, His truth in the challenges. His love for all His children awesome in every way.

Let us this morning, be thankful for who the Lord is and what He has done for us come now is the time to worship.

Psalm 95 :1-7

It's Time to Sing

Come on, everyone! Let's sing for joy to the Lord!
Let's shout our loudest praises to our God who saved us!

2 Everyone come meet his face with a thankful heart.
Don't hold back your praises;
make him great by your shouts of joy!

3 For the Lord is the greatest of all,
King-God over all other gods!

ZOOM COFFEE MORNINGS



Every Sunday morning at 11:00am we meet for a video call coffee morning with the church family. Details can be found on the weekly email. You can also participate by telephone. If you would like help to get connected, then please don't hesitate to contact Donna: 07917631976 We hope you can join us.

Whilst we are scattered, we are God's church, and we are his community. 2020 certainly brought many changes and challenges, and none of us could have predicted not being able to all meet physically at the church.

Church coffee mornings become part of the regular 30 minutes connection on a Sunday morning and that is no different for 2021; a time to share testimonies, words of encouragement, songs and prayers, as well as communion on the first Sunday of the month. These are profound opportunities to come together as Christ's church as we give thanks to God.

To ensure the church stays connected and offers appropriate support, our pastoral team has increased the amount of care it provides and the team has taken on a range of responsibilities from delivering food supplies and prescriptions to simply being a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

How are we continuing to stay connected, may we be encouraged to make contact with someone from the church, a call, a card, with a neighbour, let us continue to share God's love.

SPOTLIGHT 'PRAYER & PRAISE'

We will be holding another virtual prayer and praise evening, on 12th February 2021 at 7:00pm.

Come and join us as we spend an hour together, as it is shared in scriptures

Ephesians 5:19 *'speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord'*

Rom 8:28 *God has promised that he works all things together for the good of his people*

From the comfort of your home join us for a time to contemplate, reflect, offer our prayers and praise to God.

If you would like prayer, we encourage you to reach out to the eldership.

God hears our prayers, he answers our prayers, let us put our full trust in him and give him the thanks and praise for the miracles and blessings we encounter.

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER

Making ends Meat



Mrs Claus wanted to prepare a traditional Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings, for the staff at the Arctic H.Q. She knows that when turkey is £0.80 per kg it costs £20.00 to feed twelve hungry elves. However another seven “little helpers” turned up wanting to join in the festivities.

Unfortunately by this time the price of turkey had risen to £0.95 per kg.

Question: How much will Mrs Claus have to pay in total in order to cater for all nineteen elves? P.s, venison burgers were not an option.

Answer in the February Newsletter

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Arfur's Bath"

The hot water tap fills the bath in 20 min or $\frac{1}{20}$ in one minute.

The cold water tap fills the bath in 15 mins or $\frac{1}{15}$ in one min.

So if both taps are turned on then $\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{15} = \frac{7}{60}$ of bath volume in one min.

-----> So $60/7 =$ **8 min 34 sec.**

With the plug pulled the bath will fill in: $\frac{7}{60} - \frac{1}{60} = \frac{1}{60}$ in one minute so bath fills = **60 mins.**

CHURCH MONTHLY PRAYERS

Please see our intercessory prayers from our church services which have been published online.

We have been upholding the following in our prayers:

The Beard's, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Eileen Keeling, Angela Mather, Jean Morris, David Niblock, Addie Pandolfini, Margaret Payne, Joan Pearce, Barbara Pither, Pam Smith, Maureen Walduck, Shirley Wood.

Our ongoing prayers are also asked for:

Buddug Phillips, Susan Snow

We pray for:

- The search for a new minister
- Our financial situation
- Our moderator Revd. Kevin White as well as Revd. Alan Bird for his support
- The Ministry and Leadership Team as we continue to look at ways to open the building
- Church fellowship, especially those grieving with the loss of family member. We particularly uphold Maureen Walduck and Andrea Bowen and families.

In our local community:

- We pray for all who are working from home
- We pray for Caton House
- Emergency services

In the World beyond

- The global pandemic for COVID-19

We give thanks for:

- All those Key Workers who are working day and night to support us all.
- Friends, families, each other
- Our relationship with Christ



⁹ So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **Luke 11:9-10**

WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for your continued support towards our ministry, mission, and maintenance.

*⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:7-8.***

Whilst we are unable to physically meet at the church, we still have financial commitments. Help St Andrews by either giving online, alternatively if you are part of the envelope scheme and would like your envelopes collected, please contact Juan at the details below. We are thankful for all your offering/tithes and your ongoing support to the ministry, mission and life of St Andrews.



Envelope Scheme

To make an anonymous weekly donation, speak to Donna to receive your envelopes.



Offering Box

Please place any loose donations or cheques into our offering box, located to the left when entering the hall.

Money Tins

Tins are available to collect loose change for the Community Development Project.



Standing Order & Bank Transfer

Sort Code: 30-15-53

Account No: 02110038

St Andrews Baptist Church

Lloyds Bank PLC



Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete our Gift Aid form. St Andrews can claim 25% on all donations you make.

CONTACT INFORMATION



CHURCH SECRETARY: Donna Harris
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CHURCH TREASURER: Juan Cronje
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