



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



March 2021 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Church Update | Page 2 |
| Upcoming Services | Page 3 |
| Spotlight | Page 4 |
| Jim's Puzzle Corner | Page 4 |
| Church Prayers | Page 5 |
| Ways to Give | Page 6 |
| Contact Details | Page 6 |

REFLECTION

God will provide (Matthew 6: 28 – 34)

JMW Turner was one of the world's greatest painters. Using mainly watercolours, he purposely caused the paint colours to run into each other. This was all part of the plan – part of the creative process. It was only at the end, with a few crisp, confident strokes that Turner gave meaning and definition. This was his genius, not an accident.

And seeing Turner's unfinished work is much like how our world is at the moment: blurred at the edges, with no sense of where we are headed in this COVID - stricken world. It has little focus and even less meaning. Or so it seems.

Does this sound familiar? During this season of Lent, we contemplate the various strokes of preparation laid down by God: The Old Testament prophecies, the birth of Jesus in a stable in a small town in a far-off place. Then the teaching and preaching of Jesus, the miracles He performed, the gathering of the disciples. Culminating in the entry into Jerusalem – on a donkey colt.

The turning of opinion, conspiracy, trial, betrayal and ultimate death on the cross. Imagine how His disciples felt. The colours were beginning to flow into each other. Meaning and definition were becoming blurred. All seemed hopeless, senseless, unplanned. But then we see the final, masterly strokes of the brush; the resurrection, Jesus' ascendancy to heaven, the formation and spread of the Christian church. All was clear, all was complete.

Where God is concerned, nothing is unplanned, nothing is meaningless. It may just be that we cannot see it yet. At times like this – in Lent and in the pandemic - we must leave everything in God's hands. And be content to watch the colours ebb and flow. And, when the time is right - in God's time, not ours – see His finger, creative still, trace out, in lines of love, the purpose He had in mind from the beginning.

God bless you.

CHURCH UPDATE

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 are also thankful to Malcolm Ashurst who has recently joined the team. We have the assurance that God has a plan and we put our total trust in Him. As a church we are reminded that we can participate:

Prayer is essential throughout the process as we seek God's will together

Patience is needed as we wait on the Lord and seek His will. It may seem slow at times but experience has shown that attempts to speed up the process or circumvent it usually produce more difficulties not less. The call of God is being discerned, rather than an employee interviewed. That needs focussed prayer, reflection, discussion and ... time!

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. We continue to monitor closely BUGB and government guidance.

Annual Report 2020

Preparation for the annual report is underway as we celebrate what God has done in challenging times throughout last year. Once completed we will submit to the external examiner for approval. Thanks in advance for all those contributing.

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

St Andrews Service Information

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.

Psalms 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.

For those within the fellowship of St Andrews who do not have access to internet, you can still participate following these simple step by step guide by telephone.

Dial telephone number 0203 901 7895

You will be asked to enter meeting ID which is 283 313 3776 then press # (hash)

You will then be asked to enter Participant ID which is the passcode 7950329 then press # (hash)

When you have joined, if you wish to speak to everyone press *6

If you would like help to get connected, then please don't hesitate to contact:

Donna on 07917631976 We hope you can join us.

Church coffee mornings staying connected. Join us for 30 minutes on a Sunday morning in addition to the online service. We come together 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 Three of our 'Core Values'



People: 1 John 3:18

We believe God desires to be in relationship with all people through Jesus Christ. We exist to foster healthy Godly relationship.



Prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We believe Christians praying to God, through Jesus Christ, is the foundation of building relationships with God and people.



Praise: John 4:24

We believe praise and worship is the rhythm of Gods heartbeat. Praising God in worship is an attitude of heart 24/7 that lifts the soul of every follower.

Let us each spend some time contemplating on our core values, spend some time reflecting on what each of these mean to you as well as to the wider church. How are we living our lives in a Godly way to love, just as God loves us? Are we setting a Godly example and allowing His light to shine.

How are we sharing in community, we may be scattered, but how are we staying connected to our brothers and sisters, being involved in church life during this lockdown season.

How has your prayer life developed? Has it increased, remained the same or decreased?

What is God saying to you during this Lent season. Submit to Him and listen to His still small voice.

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Brief Encounter"

- What time did Toby meet with the car? For Toby to arrive at work ten minutes early the car must have saved five minutes from the rendezvous point to the station and back equalling ten minutes in total. Therefore he must have been picked up at 08.30 - 5 minutes = **08.25**
- How long had Toby been walking before he was picked up? Since the train arrived at 07.00 and he was picked up at 08.25 he must have been walking 08.25 - 07.00 = **1 hour & 25 minutes**

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:

David Beard, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Mike and Elizabeth Kasibo and family, Torsby Atipoe and family, 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 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 David Beard and family following the sad loss of our sister Joan Beard who's funeral on 10th March. We also uphold Hayley and Sophie, who is mum our dear sister Debbie Eccles who sadly passed away 7th March. We give thanks to God for both Joan and Debbie and they will both be truly missed.
- All those with ill health at this time, particularly those who have tested positive with COVID, recovering at home or in hospital, those having to self-isolate

In our local community:

- We pray for all who are working from home
- We pray for our young people as they return to school as schools reopen
- We pray for Caton House
- Emergency services, those on the front line

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.

*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.

giftaidit

CONTACT INFORMATION



CHURCH SECRETARY: Donna Harris
secretary@standrewsbletchley.org.uk

CHURCH TREASURER: Juan Cronje
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