



St Andrews Baptist Church

Keeping the Gospel Real, Relevant, Radical and Refreshing



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

1 John 3:18



*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***

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

A NOTE FROM OUR ELDERS

Luke 2, 9-12 'but the angel said to them "don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord!"

JESUS - the greatest gift of all!

Emmanuel - God is with us!

Christ, our Saviour, the Saviour of the world!

A gift to all of us from God, who is wonderful, faithful, all-loving, omnipresent, full of compassion, mercy and grace.

We celebrate, that we have a God that loves us so much, that he gave us his only son.

We celebrate, that we are his children and he is always with us.

What a wonderful God, who is close to the people who are opening their hearts towards him.

Our God answers prayers, provides all our needs and never lets us down when we call out to him.

This Christmas let us take some time to reflect on His goodness, thank Him, worship Him and celebrate the love that our Father in Heaven has for us.

Celebrate God's love

Celebrate Jesus!

It is the best present anyone could wish for.

Merry Christmas

God Bless

Andrea Adio

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Next Issue Submission Deadline: Tuesday 18th December

Whilst we are happy to advertise external events, please take into consideration we must prioritise many adverts for church activities which take precedence and space is very limited.

UPCOMING SERVICES

This advent and Christmas at our church services, our theme will be
'It's A Wonderful Life God Gave You'



2nd Dec – 9:30am & 11:00am
9th Dec – 9:30am & 11:00am
16th Dec – 9:30am & 11:00am
23rd Dec – 5:00pm
25th Dec – 10:15am
30th Dec – 10:30am

MESSY CHURCH

Come and join us for a Family Fun Service on
Thursday 13th December
6:00pm – 7:30pm **£1 per person.**

Family service with messy fun and games
including a sit-down roast dinner.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

On Sunday 23rd December, our services will be
slightly different to usual

5:00pm Carols by Candlelight Service

We will be holding our annual carols service during
the evening, including traditional and modern
carols, Christingles, mulled wine and mince pies.



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

On Tuesday 25th December, we will be holding our
annual Christmas Day service.

10:15am **All Welcome.**

This service is suitable for all the family, and similar
to previous years there will be a show and tell.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFO

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

We began hosting the WNSMK for our sixth season on **Monday 5th November**.

We still have opportunities for you to volunteer in the mornings. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Sarah in the office.

We are also hosting on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. If you are able and willing, please speak to Sarah.

AFTERNOON TEA

Come along and join us for our Christmas Afternoon Tea:

Date: Tuesday 4th December

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Cost: £3 per person.

All are welcome, please see Angela Mather for more information.

MEN OF ST ANDREWS

Saturday 01st December

8:00am – 10:00am

£3 voluntary contribution.



Each person to bring a 3-5 minute on a character of your choice in the bible who inspires you in being a man of God. Things to share about your chosen character and passage

Who is your chosen character and passage?

Why have you chosen them and this passage?

What difference has it made to your life as a man of God?

CATON HOUSE

This month we will be holding slightly different services at Caton House, our local residential care home.

Wednesday 12th December- Service
Friday 21st December – Christmas Service

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed from 1:00pm on Friday 21st December and will not reopen until Wednesday 2nd January.

The 24-hour voicemail will be on and any messages/emails will be responded to upon return.

SPOTLIGHT: 'BRIAN MISSION TRIP'

Each month, we are going to shine the spotlight on an area of our church and give you an insight to the life of St Andrews. This month find out more about Brian's trip to Gethsemane International Ministries.

From Wednesday 5th December – Tuesday 11th December, Revd. Brian will be taking a mission trip to India to visit Pastor Prabhu and the congregation of Gethsemane International Ministries, based in Bangalore.

Gethsemane International Ministries provide food, education and training for those who are uneducated, on the streets and unemployed. Revd. Brian will be taking some raised funds to support the work the people of Gethsemane International Ministries do to help provide food, computers, sewing machines and equipment to enable those less fortunate to set up their own businesses.

We look forward to hearing how Brian's trip went once he returns.



HOME GROUPS

An opportunity to learn, grow and unpack more of the Bible in a friendly environment. If you would like further details, please pick up a leaflet and/or contact the church secretary, Donna Harris.

Home Group dates are available from their leaders.

Day	Time	Frequency	Leader	Location
Wednesday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	2 nd and 4 th Wed	Alan Webb	The Cronje's
Thursday	10:30am – 12:00pm	Weekly	Joan Clarke	Clarice's
Thursday	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Fortnightly	Mike Kasibo	The Awa's
Friday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Fri	Paul Mukendi	A. Bowen's

What are Home Groups?

Home Groups are a fantastic way to further dig deeper to understand the current series we are studying on a Sunday. They also provide an opportunity to grow spiritually among a smaller group, where questions can be asked, and thoughts shared. We have many different small groups that meet on a regular basis, either in the church or in someone's home. Each group is unique, but all aim to offer mutual support, prayer and Bible study. We come together for welcome, worship, word and witness.

Why Should I Join?

Joining a homegroup is a great way to build friendships with others in the church, grow fellowship and to learn more about the Christian faith along the way. If you are interested, then please speak with Donna.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

MESSY PLAY

For parents/carers and their under fours. Meets on a **Wednesday Morning** from **9:30am – 11:30am**. Very messy play including water play, so please do not wear your best clothes. The group asks for a **£1 donation** for the first child and **50p per additional child**.

Closed on Wednesday 19th and 26th December.



JUNIOR CHURCH

For the under 11's on a Sunday morning during the 11:00am service. We have plenty of fun activities, games and songs to teach those under 11 in a fun and interactive way. For more information please see Andrea Bowen. This month we continue material from CLICK Unit 5 which looks at the subject of 'Responding to God's Son, Jesus' from John's Gospel.

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP.

No scheduled meeting dates in December.

All who are of secondary school age are welcome to come along to our youth group, run by Tafi and Cleo. Come and join Tafi and for plenty of fun activities, if you would like more information, they would love to hear from you.



OUR FINANCES

Thank you for your continued support towards the ministry, mission and maintenance of
St Andrews Baptist Church.

FINANCES AT 30TH SEPTEMBER

	Budget	Actual
Income	£62,308	£54,447
Expenditure	£65,463	£54,984
	Net	£573

From these figures, you can see we are currently under budget for both our income and expenditure as we have been for the year. We currently have a deficit of £573, however compared to budget this is positive as we were forecasting being in a deficit of £3,155. Our offering is still tracking way below budget. We continue to monitor our expenses. For more information on our financial situation, please refer to the church meeting minutes.

Should you require a full set of our accounts, please contact Sarah in the office who will be able to assist. Should you have any questions, please see Donna Harris.

WAYS TO GIVE



Envelope Scheme

To make an anonymous weekly donation, speak to the treasurer for more details.



Offering Box

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



Cheques.

Cheques can be made payable to St Andrews Baptist Church



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 tax payer, please complete our Gift Aid form. St Andrews can claim 25% on all donations you make.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1st December – Men's Breakfast
- 4th December – Afternoon Tea
- 6th November – Christmas Cracked
- 13th November – Christmas Messy Church
- 21st December – Caton House Christmas 2.15pm
- 23rd December – Carols Service 5:00pm
- 25th December – Christmas Day Service 10:15am
- 30th December – Combined Service 10:30am



CHURCH PRAYERS

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

Please keep the following people upheld in prayer.

Angela Scott, Ann Long, Buddug Phillips, Joan Pearce, Richard Lockett, Stephen Baggaley, Stewart Baggaley, Tayo Evans, Maureen and Tony Walduck, the Adio, Brobey and Maki families.

²⁴ So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24

Lord, we lift our church family to you, for all those who are grieving, sick, waiting hospital appointments, or just struggling currently. Lord you know each of us and you know our every need, so we lift all those on our hearts at this time, Lord bring them peace and healing.

Lord, we pray for the team and children at Christmas Cracked, for the children to learn the real meaning of Christmas and also that the team are able to deliver a fantastic session for the three schools.

Lord, we pray for Revd. Brian as he takes his trip to India to visit those at Gethsemane International Ministries. We pray for his safe travels and for the relationship we share with the church in Bangalore.

Lord, we pray for the Afternoon Tea team as they open the doors of St Andrews to the local community for a Christmas get together. We pray that they meet many new and regular faces.

Lord, we pray for our young people's work teams as groups come to a close for the Christmas break. We wish to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the ministry area and pray they feel your blessing upon them as we look to begin our regular and new groups in the new year.

Lord, we pray for the Winter Night Shelter team at St Andrews. We would again like to thank them for their time over the past month and as we continue into December that they keep good health and energy to continue being able to provide for the guests this season.

Lord, we pray for our services at Caton House this month, in particular our Christmas Service on Friday 21st December at 2:15pm. That we can bless those at Caton House this festive season.

Lord, we pray also for our carols by candlelight service, that the local community again come and share in this wonderful service. We pray for the team behind the scenes planning and ensuring we put on the best service as possible for the people of West Bletchley.

Lord, finally we pray that at this busy, festive time of year, we all can take a moment of calm to reflect and remember what the real meaning of this time of year is. We want to thank you for sending your Son 'Immanuel' and enable us to realise that true meaning 'God with us'.

MY MONTHLY PRAYERS

Use the following space for any prayer requests, or if you feel God has laid something on your heart.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm

The office is closed from 1:00pm on Friday 21st December – 8:30am Wednesday 2nd January.

The office is managed by Sarah Harris with help from a team of volunteers. You are very welcome to pop in and have a cup of tea and a chat.

CONTACT DETAILS:



MINISTER: Revd. Brian Stocker

Email: minister@standrewsbletchley.org.uk

Please note due to high volumes of emails, Brian is not always able to respond.

Brian's day off is a Monday.



SECRETARY: Donna Harris

Email: secretary@standrewsbletchley.org.uk



ADMINISTRATOR: Sarah Harris

Email: sarah.harris@standrewsbletchley.org.uk



FAMILY'S WORKER: Matthew Jarvis

Email: family@standrewsbletchley.org.uk

For a full listing of our leadership, please see the board just inside the church or on our website. Thank you for taking the time to read, we do hope and pray you have a blessed month.



St Andrews Baptist Church

St Andrews Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 5DR

T: 01908 415192 ▪ E: office@standrewsbletchley.org.uk ▪ W: www.standrewsbletchley.org.uk