



# St Andrews Baptist Church

Making the Gospel Real, Relevant, Radical and Refreshing

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

**1 John 3:18**



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

## FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

### ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

# A NOTE FROM OUR ELDERS

## LENT

This year the time of lent will start on 14th February - 29th March.

Lent is a traditional time for fasting.

It is a time for reflection, a time to give something up.

What are you willing to give up?

By making the active choice to give up something, we can make this lent a very special, blessed time. A time that we use to worship God in our life, to get closer to God. As we spend more time with God in prayer, reflection, meditation, by reading the bible, by having an attitude of worship and thanksgiving every day, we will feel the presence of God in our life.

Colossians 3:23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings'

Let us together make this lent a special time, a Holy time, a time that gives us new strength, new blessings. As God said, ' I will bless those who put their trust in me' Jeremiah 17:7

God bless you.

*Andrea Adio*

Church Elder.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Services	Page 2
Upcoming Events and Info	Page 3
Spotlight	Page 3
Home Groups	Page 4
Young People's Work	Page 4
Our Finances	Page 5
Church Prayers	Page 6

**Next Issue Submission Deadline:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

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 month at our church services, we continue with 'Little People in God's Big Plan'  
Cards with the theme information are available in the foyer.



**04<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 9:30am & 11:00am

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 9:30am & 11:00am

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 9:30am & 11:00am

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 9:30am & 11:00am

**Refreshments** are served at 10:30am between the services. It would be great to meet you.

## COMMUNION SERVICE

We have recently started a new communion service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month to which all are welcome.

6:30am – 7:00am: Communion

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Communion and Prayers  
(Prayers to follow communion 7:30pm – 8:30pm)

This month's services will be on  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**14<sup>th</sup> February:** Lent begins

**21<sup>st</sup> February:** Functional Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Holy Week

**29<sup>th</sup> March:** Maundy Thursday

**30<sup>th</sup> March:** Good Friday

**01<sup>st</sup> April:** Easter Sunday

**19<sup>th</sup> April:** Church Meeting and AGM

**22<sup>nd</sup> April:** Stewardship Weekend

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFO

## FUNCTIONAL MEETINGS

Once a month we will be holding a functional meeting where we discuss the day to day running of the ministry, mission and maintenance.

These new monthly meetings began in January and occur during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month.

All are welcome to attend these meetings, this month's meeting is taking place on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 6:45pm at St Andrews.**

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am – 10:30am**

Ladies, come and join us for breakfast on 24<sup>th</sup> February. A great time to get to know ladies from our services. Please see Andrea Adio for more info.

## AFTERNOON TEA

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2:00pm – 3:30pm**

Come along for an afternoon full of fun, conversation and laughter. Tickets cost **£3 per person** and are available from Angela Scott. We look forward to seeing you there.

## WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

We are now approximately half way through the project for the 17/18 season. We have seen an average of 12 guests per week. Last month we had a guest chef cook Caribbean food and an Indian restaurant provided the meal on new years day. This would not be possible without the support from the volunteers, so thank you to all who have helped so far this season.



**Lent & Easter Appeal 2018**

**Meet Dimma.**

**Will you walk with her this Lent?**

**Count Your Blessings 2018**  
Walk into the wilderness this Lent.

Through daily reflections, share your journey with your sisters and brothers around the world.

**ORDER MORE COPIES**  
caid.org.uk/lent

**christian aid**  
We believe in life before death.

caid.org.uk/lent

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

A Christian Aid initiative, as we journey through Lent, we follow Jesus's journey, let's confront the wilderness in our world. Let's walk with our neighbours – like Dimma, Ibrahim and Sori- who have been forced to flee their homes. We reflect on the blessings in our life and see how our support gives people hope. For more info, please see Angela Mather or Andrea Adio.

# SPOTLIGHT: 'AFTERNOON TEA'

**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 is 'Afternoon Tea'.**

Afternoon Tea meets bi-monthly, on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. We are supported by regular church attendees as well as those who only come to afternoon tea. One of our main aims is to reach out into the community, which we are always working towards. Our afternoons are low key with tea, sandwiches, cakes, plenty of chatting and laughter.

We invite various speakers to come along with topics ranging from Desert Island Discs to Emily's Star. We always have musical entertainment and a fun afternoon is had by all. We hope to see a few more faces join us at Afternoon Tea this coming year. Our next meet is **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 2:00pm – 3:30pm.**

# 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	Fortnightly	Tim Hughes	The Hughes'
Thursday	10:30am – 12:00pm	Weekly	Joan Clarke	Clarice's
Friday	12:30pm – 2:30pm	Fortnightly	Alan Webb	The Hughes'
Friday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Paul Mukendi	A. Bowen's

## What are Home Groups?

Home Groups are a fantastic way to further break down and 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.

## Why Should I Join?

Joining a homegroup is a great way to build friendships with others in the church and to learn more about the Christian faith along the way.

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> February due to Half Term.



## MESSY CHURCH: THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

A fun filled family service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from **6:00pm – 7:30pm**. A meal is shared by all during the service. Please do not wear your best clothes as we do get messy. The group asks for a **£1 donation per person**. Please advise the office if you plan on attending for catering purposes.

## 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 2 which looks at the subject of 'God cares for people who trust Him – from Genesis'.



## IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

For those secondary school age (11-18). Meets monthly during the 11.00am service at one of the leader's homes. More info available from office.

# OUR FINANCES

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

## DRAFT FIGURES 2017

	Budget	Actual
Income	£86,752	£81,930
Expenditure	£86,752	£79,540
	Net 2017	<b>£2391</b>

The finance team is currently finalising our accounts before they head off to the independent examiner. These figures above are our draft figures; however, they show the overall end of year figures.

We are very grateful for all your contributions towards the ministry, mission and maintenance of St Andrews Baptist Church. We continue to strive being a self-sustaining church. Whilst this does have its challenges we do continue to explore other forms of income e.g. Hall Hires, Donations and Grants to assist us with the day to day of St Andrews.

Expenditure has remained extremely tight, as we continue to ensure our accounts remain positive.

More information will be shared at our Church Meeting (31<sup>st</sup> January).

Whilst these are tentative figures, we do praise God for all that was achieved in 2017 and we look forward to 2018 for God's vision for St Andrews.

## 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.

# CHURCH PRAYERS

## CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

**Please keep the following people upheld in prayer.**

*Ann Long, Buddug Phillips, Clarice Bratton, Hope Turner, Joan Pearce, Les Hubbard, Miriam Abogaye, Ruth Hudson Stewart Baggaley.*

**We lift those bereaved:**

*Vicki Sodpio following the death of her father.*

*Wally Sodipo and Alero Aror Sodipo following the death of their mother/gran.*

*Jean Morris and family following the death of Ellen (Nell) Morris.*

'You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal ' Isaiah 26:3,4

Oh Lord, our God, we come to you in prayer. We thank you for your faithfulness.

I pray for all of us. Everyone in this church, our family, our friends, our neighbours. I don't know about all the worries, all the needs. But I know we can bring it to God, put it down at the cross and leave it there.

God, take all our worries, give us peace, as we put our trust in you. I pray for turnarounds, for new beginnings. I pray the joy of God will be in our hearts. God be with us now and forever. In Jesus Name. Amen.

---

## 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 not scheduled to be closed in February.*

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](mailto:minister@standrewsbletchley.org.uk)



**SECRETARY: Donna Harris**

**Email:** [secretary@standrewsbletchley.org.uk](mailto:secretary@standrewsbletchley.org.uk)



**ADMINISTRATOR: Sarah Harris**

**Email:** [sarah.harris@standrewsbletchley.org.uk](mailto:sarah.harris@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](mailto:office@standrewsbletchley.org.uk) ▪ **W:** [www.standrewsbletchley.org.uk](http://www.standrewsbletchley.org.uk)