



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



Feb 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

Trust in God.

At the moment our whole world has changed completely. And it is easy to feel lost, lonely, upset, and worried.

However, we have faith in God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let us hold on to God's truth and God's promises regardless of what we see on the daily news. Let us use our time wisely and be focussed. This is the time now to soak in the word of God; to read it, meditate on it and remember it. Now we have the great opportunity to spend more time with God in prayer and to study the bible.

We can use the time to grow in our faith as we go deeper into the stories, prophecies, instructions, prayers, and psalms. We cannot travel far, but as we go on a journey with Moses, David, Jesus, Paul and so many others, we can be expectant that God opens new possibilities and a new hope for us.

This is the time to grow in our trust in God.

Proverbs 3;5-6 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths.'

This is the time to acknowledge God as almighty creator of heaven and earth, as sovereign God and to trust that God is in control.

Psalms 46;10 'Be still and know that I am God.'

We need to renew our strength and be confident in God's wonderful, amazing plans.

Isaiah 40;31 'But they who wait for the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.'

We must learn to trust God completely. And as you do so 'May the God of hope fill you with peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Romans 15;13

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 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 '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

Brief Encounter



Toby the engineer is a creature of habit. Every day he commutes by train to the city. At 08.30, as soon as he gets off the train, a car is waiting to pick him up and take him to the factory. However one day, by mistake, Toby caught an earlier train and managed to arrive at 07.00.

Because there was no sign of his transport, and it was a beautiful morning, he decided to walk. After a while the car meets with him and delivers him as usual to the factory gates. Checking his watch Toby sees that he's arrived ten minutes early.

Questions: What time did Toby meet with the car?

How long had Toby been walking before he was picked up?

Answer in the March Newsletter

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Making Ends Meat"

Feeding 12 hungry elves requires, £20.00 / £0.80 = 25 kg of turkey or $25 / 12 = 2.083$ kg per elf.

So to feed another 7 elves requires another ----> $2.083 \times 7 = 14.583$ kg of fresh turkey.

Therefore total cost for 19 elves ----> $14.583 \times £0.95 = £13.85$ plus the original £20.00 = **£33.85**

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 Joan and David Beard, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Debbie Eccles, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Mike and Elizabeth Kasibo 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 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 Helen Gridley and Gill Martin at this time
- 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 all those home schooling
- 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.
- Friends, families, each other



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
secretary@standrewsbletchley.org.uk



CHURCH TREASURER: Juan Cronje
treasurer@standrewsbletchley.org.uk



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