



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



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Greetings to all who read this,

Welcome to advent the season for preparation.

Preparing is the foundation for things going well.

The bible says; *'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)*

God planned to enter into this world to visit us and to hang out with us in the everyday of life. What is it that causes the God of the heavens and earth to reduce Himself to be one of us and among us?

The only conclusion I have is - **'IT MUST BE LOVE'**.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16).

During this season St Andrews will be **ADVENT**uring through a series on **LOVE** as we journey into the nature character and heart of God.

Why not join us on this **ADVENTURE** as we travel through advent together, discovering more of our origin, purpose and destiny as planned by God, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

We look forward to spending advent with you and whoever you can encourage to attend any of the services. You never know, that invitation transform a life forever.

Have a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year

God Bless

Revd. Brian Stocker

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Next Issue Submission Deadline: Friday 13th 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

Come along to our services this month, where we are keeping the Bible
Real, Relevant, Radical and Refreshing.



1st December – 9:30am & 11:00am
8th December – 9:30am & 11:00am
15th December – 9:30am & 11:00am
22nd December – 5:00pm Carols
24th December – 5:00pm Carols
25th December – 10:30am
29th December – 10:30am Combined

MESSY CHURCH

Come and join us for a Family Fun Service on
Wednesday 18th December
5:30pm – 7:30pm **£1 per person**

Family service with messy fun and games
including a sit-down dinner for all.
Reserve your space with the office now.



CATON HOUSE


Let us bless the residents of Caton House at our two
services this month:

Wednesday 11th December – Service
Friday 20th December – Communion



It Must Be Love

Christmas Services at St Andrews
Carols by Candlelight including Christingles
Sunday 22nd December, 5pm
Carols by Candlelight including Christingles
Tuesday 24th December, 5pm
Christmas Day Service
Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am
All Welcome.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER UPDATE

This current month we have had an average of 14 guests per session. This project would not be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers and the generosity of our community.

We have opportunities for helping set up at 11:15am on a Monday and help pack down on a Tuesday Morning 6:45am – 8:15am.

AFTERNOON TEA

Date: Tuesday 3rd December

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Venue: St Andrews Baptist Church

Cost: £3 per person.

All are welcome to attend our Christmas Afternoon Tea.

MINCE PIES DONATION

Are you able to donate some mince pies for our Carols services? If so, please can you drop them off at the church by Sunday 15th December.

BRIAN AND JUNE INVITE YOU TO THEIR LAST

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN

AT ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2019
12:00 NOON - 4:00PM

INCLUDING

- BRING AND SHARE LUNCH
- FAMILY BOARD GAMES
- WORSHIP

ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG

SPOTLIGHT 'BRIAN'S INDUCTION'

Brian's final service at St Andrews will be taking place on Sunday 19th January 2020, this service will be followed by an RSVP lunch (flyers to follow soon).

Brian's induction service at Bretton Baptist Church (Copeland, South Bretton, Peterborough PE3 6YJ) will be taking place on Saturday 1st February at 2:00pm and will be followed by light refreshments. We are looking to organise a coach for this, if you would be interested in joining us please let the office know so we can get this booked.

Brian and June would love for you to be there if you are able as they begin the next chapter of their journey and ministry.



SMALL 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
Tuesday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	2 nd and 4 th Tues	Cleo Manonge	Cleo & Tafi's
Wednesday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Weekly	Mike Kasibo	The Kasibo's
Wednesday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	2 nd and 4 th Wed	Donna Harris	The Cronje's
Thursday	10:30am – 12:00pm	Weekly	Joan Clarke	Clarice's
Friday	7:00pm – 9:00pm	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Fri	Paul Mukendi	A. Bowen's

BOOK CLUB: READ, ENCOURAGE, GROW

Tuesday 17th December 12:00 noon – 2:00pm at Jean Morris' Home

Come along and join our new Book Club which started in January. The group meets to discuss different books and literatures. Please bring a sandwich and join us for lunch as we discuss the book in topic. For more questions, please see Jean Morris.

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER



People in Motion

Three passengers looking out of their window in Kings Cross station see a train pulling in. It is the train from Edinburgh. A train leaves Edinburgh for Kings Cross every hour on the hour. It takes six hours for the trip each way. Their own train is due to leave at 11.00 hrs.

Question: How many trains, including the one just entering the station, will the passengers see during their trip to Edinburgh?

Closing Date: Sunday 22nd December

Watch out for the answer(s) in the next Church Newsletter.

All the answers (*one per person*) given to me, Jim Lovatt, by (or on) the closing date will go into a draw. The first three correct answers out of the hat will be listed in the Newsletter. All the very best in your calculations.

Jim.



LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Surveying the Options"

To begin with there were 14 members – 2 (thumb twiddlers) = 12 active members Of these twelve, 8 (Draughts) – 3 (Draughts & Scrabble)= 5 played draughts only.

Therefore $12 - 5 + 3 = 4$ **played Scrabble only**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Activities for those aged birth – 18 years. We have an activity for every age group, for more information, please see the group leader.

MESSY PLAY

Currently not meeting due to staffing.

For parents/carers and their under fours. Messy and Sensory play activities. Very messy play including water play, so please do not wear your best clothes as they may get ruined.



BUGZ

Wednesday Evenings

6:30pm – 8:00pm

£2 per child.

Our new children's club for 6-11 years. There will be lots of activities, games and crafts. Plus, an XBOX and Wii. The group will meet every Wednesday at St Andrews and join Messy Church on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Closes for Christmas on Wednesday 11th 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.



IGNITE YOUTH GROUP.

Saturday 14th December

Christmas Celebration



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 Cleo for plenty of Christmas fun.

OUR TEAM



MESSY PLAY:

Vacant

JUNIOR CHURCH:

Andrea Bowen



YOUTH:

Cleo and Tafi



BUGZ:

Andrea Adio

CHURCH PRAYERS

We have recently been asked to pray for:

Kingsley Kwakye, The Baggaley Family, The Beard Family, Jan Bone's Family.

Our ongoing prayers are also asked for:

Angela Scott, Ann Long, Buddug Phillips, Clarice Bratton, Francis Wenton, Joan Pearce, Linda Hinze, Margaret Payne, Michael Kamau, Maki, Pam Smith, Rose-Chambers and Walduck families.

We pray for: The prayers shared on our Monthly Prayer sheet which can be located in the foyer.

In the church:

- All of our Christmas Services taking place throughout the month of December
- The financial proposal from the Eldership.

In our local community:

- We pray for the local schools who will be visiting St Andrews for Christmas Cracked, as we teach them the true meaning of Christmas.

In the World beyond

- People in the countries suffering from conflict – Mali, Syria, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Nigeria, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Yemen, Burundi, DR Congo, Mexico.

We give thanks for:

- The team of volunteers and the community who continue to support our Winter Night Shelter

PRAYER AT ST ANDREWS

Following the Launch of our 'Ways to Pray with St Andrews'. This month we have the following events taking place:

Prayer Walk – Thursday 5th December – 7:00pm

Meet at St Andrews for 7:00pm and we will go on a walk around the community.

Prayer Praise and Prophecy – Thursday 12th December – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

In Meeting Room 3 – Church in use as a polling station.

Pray Where You Are – Thursday 19th December

Pray where you are today.

Elders Prayer.

Prayer and Street Evangelism

One group pray at the church whilst another group go onto the streets of Bletchley.

Connect Cards – Complete a connect card and place in the offering box. The Elders will pray over your prayer throughout the week.

*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.**



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.

Gift Aid

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

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Standing Order & Bank Transfer

Sort Code: 30-15-53
Account No: 02110038
St Andrews Baptist Church
Lloyds Bank PLC

CONTACT INFORMATION



MINISTER: Revd. Brian Stocker
minister@standrewsbletchley.org.uk
Due to high volumes of emails, Brian is not always able to respond.
Brian's day off is a Monday.

CHURCH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:
8:30am – 1:00pm
**Closed 20th December 1:00pm –
2nd January 8:30am.**



OFFICE MANAGER: Sarah Harris
office@standrewsbletchley.org.uk



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



TREASURER: Juan Cronje
juan.cronje@gmail.com

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

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