



# St Andrews Baptist Church

Keeping the Gospel Real, Relevant, Radical and Refreshing



<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**

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

**1 John 3:18**



## MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

### ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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## SUBMISSIONS

**Next Issue Submission Deadline:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

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 DATES

### Easter Services

Palm Sunday	Sunday 5th April	9:30am Traditional/11:00am Contemporary
Good Friday	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00am Service
Easter Sunday	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	9:30am Traditional/11:00am Contemporary

# OPENING REFLECTIONS

Grace and Peace from the Lord to you all.

## **Fellowship (with God and man)**

*Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness... Emphasis in this verse is on "us" and "our". Right from the beginning the Godhead (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) were in fellowship with one another. God created mankind to be like Him and to have unhindered fellowship with Him, and when His work of creation was finished, He saw that it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31).*

Mankind was made to fellowship with the Godhead and with fellow men (fellow humans). This was evident in the Garden of Eden...

*Genesis 3:8-9..."And they heard the voice of the Lord God Walking in the garden in the cool of the day and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God in the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto the man, and said unto him, where are you?"*

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD was one of the richest privileges of unfallen man. The Lord God walked in the garden and talked with Adam as a man talked with his friend. However, our fellowship with God was broken as a result of sin but God was still determined to reconnect mankind back to himself for fellowship through his son Jesus Christ. Again, in the new dispensation, God demonstrated the need for fellowship by coming in the human form as Christ and lived among us... John 1:14 *"The Word became flesh and lived among us"*.

## **Why Christian Fellowship?**

Christian fellowship helps us to equip, strengthen, and encourage each other so that we can run well and finish the race. Fellowship includes all the things we do and say to help one another in living for Christ. Christian fellowship is not just socializing but also helping one another to run the race; encouraging one another to persevere in the faith. Fellowship is also about what we can give to others and not just what we can get from others as God demonstrated when he gave his only son.

*Hebrews 10:23-25 encourages us that "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching".*

In short, to fellowship together is not just to make our Sunday mornings pleasant and enjoyable. But to give us the strength to persevere in the faith. God wants fellowship with you not because of what you are but because of what He is. He is loving and He is giving. The best He can give is Himself. He has given you the Holy Spirit so that you might have God living within you for continuous fellowship. Not in a desert sanctuary or a stone temple, but in a living intimate way. Finally, 1 Corinthians 1:9 tells us that *"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord". Amen.*

God Bless

*Torsby Attipoe.*

Church Elder

# UPCOMING SERVICES

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



**1<sup>st</sup> March** – 9:30am & 11:00am  
**8<sup>th</sup> March** – 9:30am & 11:00am  
**15<sup>th</sup> March** – 9:30am & 11:00am  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March** – 10:30am  
**29<sup>th</sup> March** – 9:30am & 11:00am

## MESSY CHURCH

Come and join us for a Family Fun Service on  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**5:30pm – 7:30pm**      **£1 per person**

A Community Celebration as Brian says  
farewell.



## CATON HOUSE

Let us bless the residents of Caton House at our two  
services this month at 11:30am:

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** Service  
**27<sup>th</sup> March:** Communion



**ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SERVICES 2020**

**WEEKS 1-3**  
**9:30AM &**  
**11:00AM**

**WEEK 4**  
**10:30AM**

9:30am Traditional and  
11:00am Contemporary inc.  
Junior Church

Combined Service

FIFTH SUNDAY WILL BE TWO SERVICES

# CHURCH NEWS

## EASTER CRACKED

We will be sharing the true meaning of Easter with the three local schools again in March. If you are able and willing to assist, please speak to Malcolm Ashurst who is heading this up.

## WORSHIP TEAM

On a Friday evening, the worship team (including, children's choir, band practice and choir practice) will be taking place from 6:30pm at St Andrews. To get involved and for more information, please speak to Helen Gridley or Elizabeth Kasibo.

## AFTERNOON TEA

**Date:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Venue:** St Andrews Baptist Church

**Cost:** £3

All are welcome to come along. The theme will be royalty.



ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH'S

# MINISTRY VISION DAY

**SATURDAY 14TH MARCH  
1:00PM - 3:00PM  
AT ST ANDREWS**

Light refreshments 1:00pm for a 1:30pm start.

We would really value if everyone serving at our Sunday Services, could join us for a Ministry Workshop.

## SPOTLIGHT 'CHILDRENS CHOIR'

Children's choir was formed in October 2019. The choir was formed to give children the opportunity to have a role in the Christmas Carol Services.

We had a great response and were blessed with having 7 children who were very committed to the choir. We had rehearsals once a week from the November half term through to the Carol services. The children were amazing at the services, they attended both services and were given very positive feedback from a lot of people.

Due to the success of Christmas we decided to keep the children's choir going, they join the main choir in some services and have their own special slots in other services.

The next services the children are having their own slots in are, Mother's Day service and Easter.

We have practices most Fridays, 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the church.

All children aged 4 and up are welcome to join us, we would really love to have a wide variety of ages in the choir so we would encourage any youth up to the age of 17 that enjoy singing and would like to take part to join us. For more information please see Elizabeth Kasibo.



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



## BUGZ

Wednesday Evenings

5:30pm – 7:00pm

£2 per child.

Our children's club for 6-11 years. There will be lots of activities, games and crafts. Plus, an XBOX, PS4. The group will meet every Wednesday at St Andrews and join Messy Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER



Sarah, who was always on a diet, achieved the following results over a five month period:

July: 128 Lb, August: 134 Lb, September: 132 Lb, October: 140 Lb and November: 142 Lb.

Whilst Sarah realised that her body weight fluctuated naturally from month to month, she also had an established ideal weight – an average of 133 Lb.

**Question:** Given that October and November's results were disappointingly high, how much weight must Sarah lose in December to ensure that her average remains unchanged?



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

### LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Pedantic Pedestrian"

$1/3 - 1/4 = 4/12 - 3/12 = 1/12$ , Gayle does this in 07.35 - 07.30 = 5 mins.

Therefore, total distance is  $12 \times 5$  mins = 60 mins.

If Gayle is  $1/4$  of the way at the church, then this distance is reached in  $60 / 4 = 15$  mins.

Therefore, she leaves home at 07.30 – 15 mins = 07.15 arriving for work one hour later at 08.15

# CHURCH PROFILE

The church profile team consists of: Donna Harris, Mike Kasibo, Torsby Attipoe, Andrea Adio, Hetsie Cronje, Juan Cronje, Marianne Brobey, Angela Mather, James Lovatt and Clive Piggott.

They will be responsible for representing the wider church and collecting feedback from the wider church to build the final church profile document which will be circulated prior to approval at a church meeting.

## PASTORAL VACANCY

A pastoral vacancy is a very significant time for our Church. What happens in this period and what decisions are made will affect its future life. We are entering a time of opportunity and excitement. That can also bring with it fear and concern! The Lord's words in Joshua 1.9 are:

*"Be strong and courageous ... do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

### **What is a church profile and why do we need it?**

The point has arrived when a Church Profile can be prepared. This will help to bring the Church together in identifying a vision for the future and also provide information for prospective Ministers. It does not need to be lengthy, but it should convey something of the ethos of our Church. The Profile should address three main questions:-

#### **1. *What are we like as a Church now?***

Present membership, worship style, social setting, theological outlook and current mission will be the sort of things covered here.

#### **2. *Where does God want us to go in mission and ministry?***

Answering this question will determine something of God's vision for our Church. Trying to see the future He has for the Church and grasp through prayer and discussion some of its detail will shape an understanding which is vital as the process of seeking a new Minister unfolds.

#### **3. *What sort of ministry do we need to take us into that future?***

Among the emphases to be considered are teaching, evangelism and team leadership. In this process of reflection, a picture of a potential Minister begins to emerge, which will help in the search. This picture will not be set in stone. God leads during the whole process and the Church may discern his will differently as time moves on.

# PROFILE: OVER THE COMING MONTHS

The process of creating the profile has now begun, and over the next few months the following information and feedback will be gathered from our church congregation.

We are aiming to gather the majority of the information at the week four, combined services and fellowship lunch. Workshops will be taking place over the fellowship lunch.

## **February Combined Service:**

Questionnaire to gather demographical information about the church congregation.

If you missed this service and are yet to complete this, please contact the church profile team.

## **March Combined Service:** *Who are we as a church and how do we evidence this.*

Discussion time over fellowship lunch about church worship, theme, ecumenism and worship style.

## **April Combined Service:**

Discussions on our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as a church.

## **May Combined Service:** *Where is God directing us to?*

Discussion about evangelism, mission and our groups.

## **June:**

Discussion about what sort of minister is God calling for St Andrews.

Please prayerfully consider the above points ahead of each combined service. If you are unable to attend any of these services, please do let a member of the profile team have your feedback.

## PROFILE PROCESS

### **Following approval of the profile document by the church members:**

1. A search team will be put in place to coordinate with the regional minister for prospective ministers.
2. Search team meet with prospective ministers.
3. Prospective minister will preach at an agreed service.
4. Search team will meet to discuss the service feedback.
5. Search team will make a recommendation at a church meeting for a prospective minister to preach with a view.
6. Prospective Minister preaches with a view.
7. Special church meeting is called to call a new minister.



# Church Prayers: March 2020

Father God we pray that you will help every member of the Church to live in harmony with each other. May we be united in love and give those we have elected to serve our church during the period of interregnum our full support, not only in what we say but in all that we do, knowing all they do is to build up your church and benefit your people within the church family. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*1 Corinthians 1:10 I urge you, my brothers and sisters, for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree to live in unity with one another and put to rest any division that attempts to tear you apart. Be restored as one united body living in perfect harmony (TPT)*

.....

Lord there are many works to be done in your house but few hands to do them. Let those whom are willing, have time, have gifts come forward and offer their assistance so we can better serve you Lord and at the same time serve our church family. Give people the courage to speak up in love and confidence. If they see something that needs doing, let them ask if they can help, if they know help is needed, give them the courage to offer because we are one family. Also give those whom receive the questions be open to hear what is being offered/asked as I believe there are many whom would love to help but don't know how or who to ask.

*Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

.....

We lift before you Lord people of all nations throughout the world. We beseech you to come before any troubles in their life and remove any obstacles that block their path to life in you. It is easy sometimes Lord to know what to do but the difficulty comes in doing it.

.....

You are always the unseen guest in our lives Lord. When we're in the car, at home, reading, listening to music, relaxing, out with friends or even on holiday – you're always there. Help us to realise God there's always an opportunity to speak with you or sing your praises. You do not look on us to ask why we are not in church doing this – you look upon us and say, "Child – thank you, because I love it when you talk with me or sing to me"

.....

We lift before you members of our church family, our own families and those we know whom are suffering at this time in whatever way. We ask you to be with them Lord and show your grace and mercy to them. Bring healing of heart, body, mind and spirit and make them whole again

*Jeremiah 33:6 " 'Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.*

.....

We ask you Lord to continue to support, guide and encourage our Elders as they seek your will.

*Philippians 4:13 I can do all things by means of the One strengthening me (DLNT)*

.....

Please pray for the ministry of the church profiling. Pray for all on the team as they settle into their roles. That they are focussed on God as he leads and directs them. *Romans 8:26*, let us pray this verse as we gain strength for all you have in store. Pray for the importance of this profiling for all who view it, for the future minister and for the present people of St Andrews.

<sup>26</sup> *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.*

# CHURCH PRAYERS

## **We have recently been asked to pray for:**

Gloria's Daughter, Susan Snow, Joan Clarke and Sue Lovatt.

## **Our ongoing prayers are also asked for:**

*Buddug Phillips, Clarice Bratton, Joan Pearce, Linda Hinze, Margaret Payne, Michael Kamau, Pam Smith*

**We pray for:** The prayers shared in this newsletter..

## **In the church:**

- Easter Cracked as we share the real meaning of Easter with the local primary schools.
- Winter Night Shelter as we draw to a close.

## **In our local community:**

- We pray for our local primary and secondary schools
- We pray for Caton House.

## **In the World beyond**

- We pray for those diagnosed with Coronavirus.

## **We give thanks for:**

- Our brilliant team who have helped support the Winter Night Shelter this season.

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> March – 7:00pm

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

**Prayer Praise and Prophecy** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

**Pray Where You Are** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

*Pray where you are today.*

**Elders Prayer.** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**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.



<sup>9</sup> *'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. <sup>10</sup> 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.**

*<sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> 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.

*giftaid it*

## Gift Aid

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



## Standing Order & Bank Transfer

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

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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



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



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

## **CHURCH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Monday – Friday:  
8:30am – 1:00pm

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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