



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



APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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SUBMISSIONS

Next Issue Submission Deadline: Thursday 16th April

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

Palm Sunday	Sunday 5th April
Good Friday	Friday 10 th April
Easter Sunday	Sunday 12 th April

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Greetings and I trust and pray everyone is keeping safe and well and being filled daily with a renewing of God's presence. It is certainly challenging times as we adapt to isolating at home, following the developments over the last couple of weeks from the Government. For some it means not being able to see anyone, for others a new home office is emerging or home-schooling, and yet for others within our fellowship they are still on the front line, working diligently within the health care, looking after the sick and vulnerable. We thank all the key workers for their dedication and commitment and upholding you all in prayer.

Church life is certainly different at the moment and whilst we are not gathering in the church building, we are staying connected via phone, text, email, website. Our normality has changed drastically, and so I encourage us all to reach out to each other and offer a friendly voice. As we read

²¹ As they came out of the city, they stopped an African man named Simon, a native of Libya. He was passing by, just coming in from the countryside with his two sons, Alexander and Rufus, and the soldiers forced him to carry the heavy crossbeam for Jesus. ²² They brought Jesus to the execution site called Golgotha, which means "Skull Hill." ²³ There they offered him a mild painkiller, a drink of wine mixed with gall, but he refused to drink it. Mark 15:21-23

Even Jesus needed help. On that long and gruelling journey to the place where he was crucified, Jesus was unable to carry the cross alone anymore. The one who went on to bear the weight of all sin and death on his shoulders had to receive help from a stranger in order to make the rest of the journey. God is sharing that we all need help and support, that through sickness, weakness and circumstances outside of our control, that Christ will embrace us and carry us.

As we walk together during these unprecedented times let us also give thanks:

Let everyone give all their praise and thanks to the Lord!

Here's why—he's better than anyone could ever imagine.

Yes, he's always loving and kind, and his faithful love never ends. Psalm 107:1

During Easter as we reflect and draw closer to God, remembering the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made for us, may we each be encouraged to make a list of all the things we are so grateful for, for the many blessings. Let us allow our hearts to expand with gratitude and be filled with the peace and presence of God and allow our spirit to be lifted and refuelled, refreshed, renewed and rested. For it is our Faith in Christ that will see us through, for In Christ all things are possible.

Upholding you all in prayer.

God Bless

Donna Harris

Church Secretary

PS Don't forget to check out the services available on the St Andrews Website.

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.

[Please click here to access our website services.](#)



The screenshot shows the St Andrews Baptist Church website. The header features a cross and the text "Real, Relevant, Radical, Refreshing" and "St Andrews Baptist Church". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, COVID-19, Who, What, Where, When, How, Photos, Search. The main content area is titled "When" and "Unavailable". It lists services: Recorded Sermons, Messy Church: Family Service, and Christmas Services. It also includes a "St Andrews Calendar" and "Events" section. The main text reads: "This week we continue our series of 'Eyes on Jesus' with the theme Denying Eyes/Searching God". It lists hymns: "God is good, all the time - CMP 984" and "Jesus is Lord - CMP 367". It also includes announcements: "Church Closed for all activities (except Food Bank) until further notice." and intercessory prayers: "We come together in your name. We cry out to you for your world, for the pain, the suffering, the anxiety which surrounds everyone. We know as we read in Jeremiah 29:11. For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future." and "We pray for all in authority to seek your guidance. We pray for all in the medical profession and in front line jobs. Give them strength, courage and keep them well."

MESSY CHURCH

We have postponed our Messy Church meetings until May.

Should the situation change, we will keep you updated.



CATON HOUSE

Please keep the residents of Caton House in your prayers.

Our services at Caton House have been postponed indefinitely during this time.



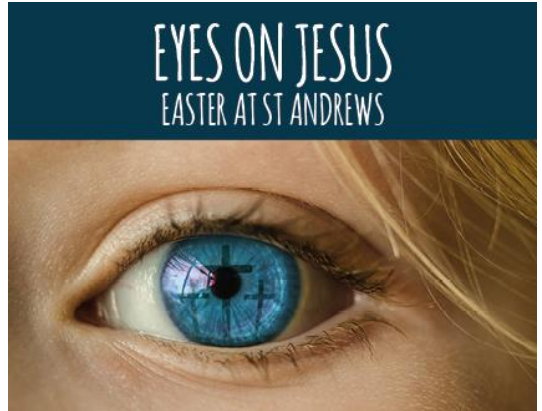
EASTER SERVICES

Easter 2020

With all the uncertainty, it is likely we will not be able to congregate in person for our Easter Services.

Should we not be able to meet, we will upload the Easter Sunday service online.

Prayer and Reflection materials will be shared for Holy Week.



SPOTLIGHT 'PASTORAL CARE'

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Care

John 21:15-17
'Feed my lambs.'



One of our core values is **PEOPLE**

1 John 3:18
'let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.'

The Team:

Elders coordinating Pastoral Care are:
Torsby/Mike

Our Pastoral Team are:

Torsby Attipoe 07400 157329
Mike Kasibo 07736 347636
Sue Lovatt 07709 448918
Donna Harris 07917 631976
Angela Mather 07968 973043
Pam Ashurst

During this time, please ensure we are doing all we can to contact those who we have contact details for in the church. We pray for those that feel lonely and isolated during this time.



OUR GROUPS

At present all of our groups have gone on pause indefinitely. This includes Home Groups, Women's Group and BUGZ. We will share more information once they reopen.

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER



Gone Fishing...

Four anglers were sitting on in a row. By the end of the day they had managed to catch, of all things, a salmon, a bream, a tench and a roach, and the amazing thing is that their names were Mr Salmon, Mr Bream, Mr Tench and Mr Roach.

Mr Salmon was sitting just to the right of the angler who caught the tench, and the fellow who caught the roach was just to the left of the one who caught the bream. Only the man sitting on the extreme left managed to catch his namesake.

Question: In what order were the four fishermen seated and what did each of them catch?



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

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Simplicity" **20LB**

$$128 + 134 + 132 + 140 + 142 + w \text{ (Dec)} = 133 \quad 676 + w = 133 \times 6$$

$$w = 798 - 676 \text{ hence (Dec) = 122 Lbs, therefore } 142 - 122 = 20 \text{ Lbs}$$

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.

CURRENT PROGRESS

So far, the profile team have compiled the data which you submitted in your demographic questionnaire at the end of February. They have also been looking into the local area and community and identifying similarities and differences.

We will be sharing our Questionnaire for March's discussion item during the week commencing 30th March – sorry for the delay with this. This will be shared by email and we would really value your feedback. We will be calling those not on email to chat through the questionnaire with them.

APRIL DISCUSSION ITEM

April's profile discussion is based on our strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats as a church. This is broken down into:

- **Strengths:** Characteristics which give us an advantage over others
- **Weaknesses:** Characteristics that place us at a disadvantage over others
- **Opportunities:** Elements in the environment that we could utilise to advantage
- **Threats:** Elements in the environment that could cause us trouble.

Please keep this in your prayers, and a discussion form will be sent out at the end of the month to get your feedback.

CHURCH MONTHLY PRAYERS

Thank you, Lord, for the world you have made. Thank you for the seasons, for the joy of springtime when we can see new life with buds bursting on the trees and bushes, for the birds singing and the warmth of the sun. Help us to treasure all the bounteous gifts you have given us.

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope for the future" Jeremiah 29:11

Lord open our hearts to hear what you are saying to us. As we listen to You give us wisdom and discernment and guide us individually and as a whole Church through this time of interregnum. We pray especially for the Elders as they lead us forward.

Jesus said "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"
Matt 11 v28.

We pray for all those who feel under pressure, whether through family circumstances, work pressures, health problems or of simply feeling overburdened. We ask that You will walk with them through their difficulties and give them a sense of peace.

We pray for those people who work with children, young people and families on our behalf. We ask that you guide them in their work and remind us to cheer them on.

Lord help us to share your Word with those we meet in our daily lives. We pray that you will guide us so that we see opportunities to express God's love in our actions and words.

Help us Lord to stand up for what we know is right. Give us courage to speak out against those things which we know are wrong in your sight, even when we might be ridiculed or laughed at. Help us to be strong in our faith no matter what other people think about us.

**As we celebrate Easter, in a different way this year. Do let us say on Easter Day.
Christ has died, Christ has Risen, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**

CHURCH MONTHLY PRAYERS

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.

1 Corinthians 6:14

We pray for those who feel isolated/lonely, surround them with Your love. We give thanks for technology that allows us to be in touch with each other, so much more than in the past.

For all that has been cancelled, particularly, weddings and celebrations.

Holy Week

We pray for followers of Jesus, wherever they are as they face persecution, pray people find strength and faith in God.

Dear Lord, we pray that we can pray through Holy Week and not be overtaken by all that is going on around us it could go on for a long time. Please encourage, all to be in prayer at this time.

We have uphold the following in our prayers:

The Beard's, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Eileen Keeling, Angela Mather, Jean Morris, David Niblock, Addie Pandolfini, Margaret Payne, Joan Pearce, Clive Piggott, Barbara Pither, Pam Smith, Susan Snow, Maureen Walduck, Shirley Wood.

Our ongoing prayers are also asked for:

Buddug Phillips, Michael Kamau, The Stocker's

We pray for: The Abraham family following the passing of Rebekah.

In our local community:

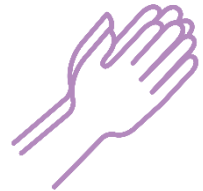
- We pray for all school children in light of the school shutdowns.
- We pray for Caton House.

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.



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.

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



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

CHURCH OFFICE

We are currently working from home and still available by phone and email.



St Andrews Baptist Church

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