



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!"

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

1 John 3:18



AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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REFLECTION

Many people take time at the end of the day—and certainly at the end of the year—to reflect on what has passed and think about what is to come. But what about taking a seasonal review?

The disruption to our daily lives that we have experienced during lockdown have been, as our Prime Minister shared, 'the toughest restrictions in peacetime history'. The situation we find ourselves in, has made it challenging to tune in to the passing of time, but what has made that greater is the absence of the small factors we come to associate with the passing year which we all have in our lives. Whether it be church events, work events, school terms, holidays, birthdays, sporting events, local shows or a number of others, these have all been impacted, compromised or even impossible to take place.

Summer is a great time for some quiet musing. It is a time to look at the activities that have unfolded over the first half of the year, especially this year with the completely unexpected change to our lives, and envision how we want the next half of the year to unfold. Summer is associated with dreaming, so with the lockdown slowly easing, take some time this month to stop, take a deep breath, dream and reflect about our wishes for the latter half of the year. We can reflect by engaging in long conversations with friends and family, ask more questions of ourselves and through God and spend more time in thought.

Luke 1:37

For nothing will be impossible with God.

As we continue to prepare for the reopening of St Andrews, if you haven't already and have access to the internet, why not join us for our weekly Sunday reflections on Zoom, spending time together as a fellowship in reflection and worship.

CHURCH UPDATE

YOUNG PEOPLE

All of our youth have had a donation of a Youth Bible. It started after the first zoom meeting with the young people. Kevin had come up with the idea to ask everyone to bring a bible verse. And it was amazing! Each one of the young people that participated in the zoom meeting came prepared. It was about ten of them. They all had picked bible verses that they used to encourage the others and that helped them to trust in God during the lockdown. We then thought it would be great for them to all have the same version, so Mike and I went out to distribute the youth bibles, which are especially good for young people as they include some comments, prayers and questions to reflect on. It was fantastic to see them all one by one in front of their houses, to be able to pray and to see they are all excited to come back to church and to be able to take part using their gifts. We are having wonderful young people at St Andrews with love for God and love for people and we can expect great things from them!

PROFILE TEAM

Thanks for the feedback from the Church on the questionnaires, the team appreciate the feedback. The Church Profile will be circulated to Church Members and our aim is to submit to the Baptist Union for September as we continue to seek a full time minister.

REOPENING

We continue to prayerfully consider all options for re-opening our doors. The ministry and leadership team are looking at all options. There is much to be done, and church will certainly be different in the short-term with no singing, refreshments, and hug greetings. More information will follow in due course.

OFFICE MANAGER

We, the Elders, regret to inform the people of St Andrews Baptist Church that after seven wonderful years, Sarah has handed in her resignation as Office Manager and will be moving on to the next phase in her career journey during early August.

We give thanks to God for Sarah's servant heart. She has been a valuable and well-respected member of our team. Her work and contribution, including the extended hours of dedication and commitment are greatly appreciated. We will miss Sarah's charm, professionalism, empathy and strength. We respect her decision and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

We continue to stay connected, encourage us to make contact with someone from the church, a call, a card, with a neighbour, let us continue to share God's love.

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.

Psalm 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. Here is some feedback:



For me one of my best highlights of the week, is the coming together on Sunday, at 11 am with my Spiritual family. It is wonderful to be able sit safely, in my own space, sipping coffee, while we share happy moments, concerns and worries with each other. You are all so amazing. Sharing Testimonies, Scripture and Songs. Encouraging and supporting each other through these unprecedented times. It is strange singing songs of worship & thanks to the Creator, without others around me, but it is uplifting too. And although I mute myself for a short while, so my terrible singing cannot be heard, I know God is listening and he alone will find me tuneful. I can also meet with families from far afield. If you are on the internet you too can join us. It would be so good to see you and share some time together. – Jean Morris

I just want to say how much I am enjoying the zoom coffee mornings and being able to see my church family on a Sunday morning. For those of you that haven't joined us yet I'd like to really encourage you to do so, the benefits of staying connected with each other are immense and help to relieve feelings of isolation and loneliness. We have a time of sharing any testimonies, someone will share something encouraging, one of the youth will read a passage of scripture, a family or person will choose a song/hymn for us to sing and we close with a prayer. If anyone would like to join us and are not very good with technology someone will talk you through being able to join us. Many of those who have joined a zoom coffee morning have said how much they have enjoyed meeting with others and how their spirits have been lifted. So, come on, why not give it a try? – Sue Lovatt.

SPOTLIGHT 'PRAYER & PRAISE'

We will be holding another virtual prayer and praise evening, Taizé style on 14th August at 7:00pm.

Taizé are an ecumenical community of monks with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation in France and are drawn from 30 countries across the world. The music of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms, other pieces of Scripture, or from the liturgy, both Western and Eastern Orthodox. It is characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence. A time of peace, relaxation, reflection and being bathed in the Holy Spirit.

Today, as an ecumenical monastic community, Taizé is a sign of reconciliation. People from around the world, especially young people, come to Taizé looking for meaning in their lives as they prepare for responsibilities in their own communities.

Come and join us for a virtual time of prayer, praise and reflection.

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER

THE SYNCOPATED CLOCK



At 16.00 hr the antique clock in the hallway struck four times. Checking with his digital watch Jake noticed that the time between the first and last strikes was exactly nine seconds.

Question: How long will it take to strike midnight?

Answer in the September Newsletter

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "Water Conservation 2"

Conrad uses $\frac{1}{3}$ - which leaves $\frac{2}{3}$. Next time uses $\frac{5}{6}$ which leaves $\frac{1}{6}$. Finally he uses $\frac{1}{4}$ of remainder which leaves $\frac{3}{4}$.

$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{12}$. The amount remaining is $\frac{1}{12} = 18.75$ L so a full tank = $18.75 \times 12 = 225$ L.

CHURCH MONTHLY PRAYERS

Please see our intercessory prayers from our church services which have been published online.

We have uphold the following in our prayers:

The Beard's, Anne Brown, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Eileen Keeling, Angela Mather, The Martin's, Jean Morris, David Niblock, Gloria Ofusu-Nantwi, 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 birth of Malcolm and Pam Ashurst's grandson Reilly and the birth of Val Webb's granddaughter Agatha
- Our financial situation
- Our moderator Revd. Kevin White as well as Revd. Alan Bird for his support.
- The leadership as we continue to look at ways to open the building.

In our local community:

- We pray for all who are working from home.
- Children, those that have continued to attend school due to parents being key workers
- 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.***

Offering Envelopes



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 Develop-



Standing Order & Bank Transfer

Sort Code: 30-15-53

Account No: 02110038

St Andrews Baptist Church

Lloyds Bank PLC



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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.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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