



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



OCT 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST ANDREWS BAPTIST CHURCH

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REFLECTION

As for us, we have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us.² We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God! Hebrews 12:1-2

Have you managed to take time to stop, pause, and breathe?

How have you coped during this time of lockdown and the current restrictions?

How has this impacted your life?

Have you managed to stay connected with family and friends?

Have you managed to grow in your faith?

Have you spent more time reading, praying, and listening to God?

May we each be encouraged to continue to keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, to stay connected, to allow God to speak deeply into our hearts and direct us. May we be an encouragement to our family and friends. May we reach out and offer our help and support through a phone call, sending a card, stepping outside of our comfort zone, sharing God's love.

Dear Lord, help me to care too much, to love too freely, to pray unceasingly, to forgive endlessly, to laugh fearlessly, to love, to be who I am, to hope, to believe and put my full faith in Christ and have the reassurance that He is an awesome God who will never leave me. Amen.

CHURCH UPDATE

YOUNG PEOPLE

Bank Holiday Monday: Our youth had a very small gathering, social distanced on the church green. The weather was good and with Bibles, hand gel, a blanket to sit on, it was good to be able to meet. A time to share, particularly with them all heading back to school/education. Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious, but give thanks instead and pray to God'

May we continue to uphold all our young people in prayer as they adapt to new ways of life at school/college.

PROFILE TEAM

The Church Profile has been circulated to Church Members and submitted to the National Settlement Team (NST) at the Baptist Union. We are heading into the second stage known as "the search" as we seek a full-time minister. We have the assurance that God has a plan and we put our total trust in Him.

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 no decision has been made yet as to when our doors will open. 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.

OFFICE MANAGER

We are recruiting for: **Office Administrator for 15 hours per week**

The staff role would be currently home-based. Hours are 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday to Friday. There could be some flexibility.

Applicants will need:

- Good inter-personal skills
- Good diary management skills
- Administrative, Financial, Web and IT skills to a high level
- Resourcefulness and self-motivation
- The ability to work, by telephone and email, with a wide range of people in churches and community across a wide geographical area
- To have sympathy for the beliefs of the Baptist Church

For a full job description and application form please contact the office at office@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



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. Details can be found on the weekly email. You can also participate by telephone. If you would like help to get connected, then please don't hesitate to contact Donna: 07917631976 We hope you can join us.

Whilst we are scattered, we are God's church and we are his community. 2020 has brought many changes and challenges, and none of us could have predicted not being able to all meet physically at the church.

Church coffee mornings have become part of the regular 30 minutes connection on a Sunday morning; 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 9th October 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.

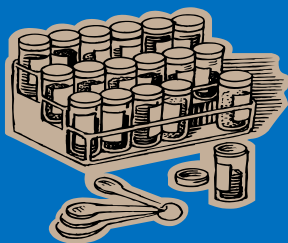
If you would like prayer, we encourage you to reach out to the eldership.

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.

Future date for your diary: Friday 13th November Prayer and Praise zoom evening join us from: 7pm-8pm

JIM'S PUZZLE CORNER

Metric to Imperial



A cubic metre contains 1000 litres, and a metre measures 39.37 inches

Question: Find the number cubic inches in 3.5 litres?

Answer in the November Newsletter

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: "The Syncopated Clock"

It took 33 seconds to strike midnight - not 27 seconds.

You need to count the time intervals - not the chimes. There are three intervals between the four strikes of 16.00, so there must 11 intervals between the 12 strikes of midnight.

3 intervals: 9 secs

11 intervals: ? secs = $11 \times 9 / 3 = 33$ secs.

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 Beard's, Anne Brown, Clarice Bratton, Joan Clarke, Joy Hubert, Ruth Hudson, Pauline Johnson, Eileen Keeling, Angela Mather, Jean Morris, David Niblock, Gloria Ofusu-Nantwi, Addie Pandolfini, Margaret Payne, Joan Pearce, Clive Piggott, Barbara Pither, Pam Smith, Maureen Walduck, Shirley Wood, Sue Lovatt

Our ongoing prayers are also asked for:

Buddug Phillips, Susan Snow,

We pray for:

- The Church Profile that has been submitted to the NST team
- 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
- Church fellowship

In our local community:

- We pray for all who are working from home
- Children, as they have gone back to school
- 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.
- Friends, families, each other
- Our relationship with Christ



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

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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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CHURCH TREASURER: Juan Cronje
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