

# ST ANDREW'S ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

## Vicar's Blog

What a week it's been! Last Sunday we launched the start of our 'Healthy Habits that keep God at the centre of everything' series which we'll be dipping into once a month this year. Jesus' call on all of our lives is to continue to grow from being spiritual 'infants' to more mature Christians (Eph 4:14), as we make intentional decisions daily that help us to grow more Christ-like. It's possible to attend church your whole life, and still be in spiritual nappies, and we looked at some statistics which showed that the main reason people leave church is because they never grow up – they never mature as a disciple. We looked at how daily choices lead to actions which lead to habits, which over time lead to changes in our character. Can we lovingly challenge each other to take small intentional steps as we keep growing in the following 'healthy habits' this year?

Prayer, Scripture and Worship

Rest and relationships

Generosity and Witness

Last Sunday we also launched our 24/7 prayer week, which kicked off with an amazing evening of joy-filled singing, worship, and waiting on the Holy Spirit. It was such a privilege to be joined by our teenagers, and to have an opportunity to pray for them to be sent out as a light for Christ in their schools. It's been so encouraging seeing so many sign up to pray for an hour, and to intercede for our church and to see God's Kingdom break through in areas like our schools, businesses, Government, hospitals and families. Thank you for joining in with this move of God, and for sharing your prayers with us, which we hope to continue using as a launchpad for prayer, listening to God, and encouraging each other.

On Thursday evening we kicked off our Alpha course once again. It's not too late to sign up and bring a friend along. Thank you for your continued prayers that those who come would encounter the greatest news ever told in Jesus, and come to find life in him.

Finally, this Sunday sees the launch of our main Jan-March preaching series 'Church of Tomorrow', using chapters from John McGinley's excellent book. The Church of Tomorrow is a church that honours Jesus as Lord, is dependent on the Holy Spirit, confident in the gospel, committed to making disciples even as the social cost of being a Christian increases, and prioritises prayer. Is it possible that the best days for the church in the UK are ahead of us? Can we dare to dream and lift our eyes once more to the King on the throne who says to us today, 'yes it is'!

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

*Church of Tomorrow – Matthew 16*

**9am** Communion service at St A's

**10.30am** Informal Worship with  
Children's and Youth Groups

**3:30pm** Evensong St B's

Churchdown Zero in the large hall after  
the 9am and 10:30am services.

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

*Church of Tomorrow – Eph 1*

**9am** Communion service at St A's

**10.30am** Informal Worship with  
Children's and Youth Groups

**6pm** Encounter

## **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan**

7pm STA Youth

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan**

11:30am BLT (Babies, Lunch and  
Toddlers)

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan**

10am Thursday Knitters

10am Holy Communion at St A's

7:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

7:15pm Alpha

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan**

9:30am Friday Minis

12noon Friday's Kitchen

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan**

9am Women's Breakfast

Please visit [www.stastb.church/calendar](http://www.stastb.church/calendar)  
for the most up to date information.

## **Pastoral Care**

As part of our Christian community, we provide mutual support for one another. Much of this happens informally with friends within the church and through the connect groups. However, sometimes people will have need for more personal support and encouragement either as a 'one-off chat' or on a more ongoing basis. We have a pastoral care team who can provide this type of care. Please contact Nigel Roe (Team Leader) on 07780 994827 or Rosi White on 07426357967.

## **Churches Together**

This winter, we invite you to embrace the cosy ambience of our Winter Warmers Initiative. Join us at St. John's Church every Thursday from 12:30 pm to 2 pm until March 21, 2024. Delight in a variety of soups, freshly baked bread, delectable cakes, and steaming hot drinks! Take this opportunity to connect with others, fostering friendships over heart-warming meals. We look forward to sharing the warmth with you!

## Notices

**Alpha 2024:** It's not too late to embark on the Alpha journey with us! Alpha is open to everyone who is curious about exploring the basics of the Christian faith in a fun, free, and friendly environment. Our sessions are designed to encourage open conversations where no question is off-limits. Join us on Thursday evenings at St Andrew's Church at 7:15 pm for engaging discussions. An evening meal with refreshments will be provided to make your experience even more enjoyable. Haven't signed up yet? No worries! You can still register at [www.stastb.church/alpha](http://www.stastb.church/alpha). Once registered, we'll promptly send you all the details you need to get started.

**Women's Breakfast:** The next women's breakfast is taking place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. Shelia Johnson will be speaking - to sign up, visit <https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/hl2rpsqf>

**Discipleship Questionnaire:** We've launched our 'Healthy Habits' discipleship series, and will be preaching through them in all our all-age services plus other services. As part of that, we have a discipleship questionnaire we would love you to fill out before the end of Jan - the link for the questionnaire is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FN2RR5S>

**Men's Walk:** Join us for a revitalizing circular walk around the Roman Villa and Witcombe on January 20<sup>th</sup>. All community men are welcome! We'll meet at the Royal George Hotel in Birdlip at 9:00 AM and cover a distance of 7 and a bit miles, expecting to return between 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM. Bring along friends, and children to make it a memorable outing. To confirm your attendance and ensure we don't leave without you, email Andy at [andypchampness@gmail.com](mailto:andypchampness@gmail.com). See you there!

**Men's Breakfast:** Join us for a Men's Breakfast on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, where we will delve into the theme of prayer. This gathering promises not only a hearty meal but also an opportunity for us to come together, share our thoughts, and deepen our understanding of the power of prayer in our lives. Sign up here <https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/w6o7va27>

**Finance Officer** We are delighted to announce that Alison Salcombe will be joining the team on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January as our new Finance Officer. Alison lives in Churchdown and for over 20 years has the business manager for a school in Cheltenham. Alice and Di will be supporting Alison to settle in over the next couple of months. Please hold her in your prayers.

## Eco Tip

FOOD: Try eating less or no beef - it has the worst carbon footprint of the foods we eat. When you do buy, consider locally produced, organically grown, animal friendly, fairly traded.

## Events

Our website calendar is a good place to find out what's happening throughout the year. Visit <https://www.stastb.church/calendar>

20<sup>th</sup> Jan – Women's Breakfast

20<sup>th</sup> Jan – Men's Walk

27<sup>th</sup> Jan – Men's Breakfast

9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Youth Social – Ninja Warrior

14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Ash Wednesday Service

17<sup>th</sup> March – Newcomers' Tea

St Andrew's Church Centre, Station Road, Churchdown, Gloucester  
GL3 2JT

[www.stastb.church](http://www.stastb.church) 01452 712154

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Closed Tuesday 9.30am - 11.30am

## Contact information

Admin: [admin@stastb.church](mailto:admin@stastb.church)

Children's and Families: Kate Smith, [children@stastb.church](mailto:children@stastb.church)

Churchwarden: Andrew Smith, [andrew.smith@stastb.church](mailto:andrew.smith@stastb.church)

Churchwarden: Celia Anderson, [celia.anderson@stastb.church](mailto:celia.anderson@stastb.church)

Communications Coordinator: Adam Greenland, [comms@stastb.church](mailto:comms@stastb.church)

Operations Manager: Matt Waterfield, [matt@stastb.church](mailto:matt@stastb.church)

Pastoral/Bereavement Support: Nigel Roe, 07780 994827 or Rosi White,  
07426357967

Treasurer: [treasurer@stastb.church](mailto:treasurer@stastb.church)

Vicar: John Monaghan, [vicar@stastb.church](mailto:vicar@stastb.church), 07936601497

Worship: Rhi Reeves, [rhiannon.reeves@stastb.church](mailto:rhiannon.reeves@stastb.church)

Youth: Jamie Flores, [jamie@stastb.church](mailto:jamie@stastb.church)

*Forward any notices to Adam.*



Follow us!

For all the latest information and useful links, scan the QR code.