

ST ANDREW'S ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

Vicar's Blog

This week, we're continuing our once-a-month series called 'Healthy Habits that keep God at the centre of everything'. We're picking up the theme of the importance of trying to commit to a daily habit of reading the Bible. Thank you to those who managed to complete the discipleship questionnaire in January. Amazingly, 52% of us 'read and reflect on scripture outside of church or connect group contexts' on average 5-7 times per week, and a further 24% of us do so 2-4 times per week. Well done and keep going!

This year, I'd like us to continue to reflect on the importance of being intentional in our discipleship. I mentioned before that it's possible that the single biggest crisis in the church today is the lack of maturing of her members. We also noted that Jesus commissioned the church not to make 'converts', or 'church attenders', but apprentices, followers – disciples.

I find the whole area of behavioural psychology, in particular behavioural change fascinating. As a new Physio, I was often amazed at how few patients managed to do the ten exercises I prescribed for them in the previous session, and as I got a little more experienced, I would start to set the bar lower and lower, to try and increase compliance a little! I came across a study once which suggested that people are more likely to be compliant with a course of medicine for their pet, than they are with themselves! What does that tell us about our ability to commit to a course of behavioural change! I think the first point is being kind to ourselves, with a daily reminder that it's God's grace by which we've been saved, and that the daily choices and changes he asks of us, are entirely for our own flourishing – not so we can be robbed of other things we'd rather be doing with our time!

As we think about encouraging all of us towards a daily time of reading the Bible, and chewing it over, maybe you can take a moment to read through Psalm 1. What makes humans blessed? What should we be delighting in? How can we be 'like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season...' (v3)? You'll have to read the Psalm and mull it over to find out! If you ever want recommended resources for daily reading, talk to your connect group, or send me an email. Be blessed!

Sunday 3rd March

Healthy Habits – Psalm 1

9am Communion service at St A's

10.30am All Age service with Communion at St A's

6pm Encounter – Evening of worship & prayer at St A's

Sunday 10th March

Church of Tomorrow – Eph 2

9am Communion service at St A's

10.30am Informal Worship with Children's and Youth Groups

3:30pm Evensong at St B's

Churchdown Zero in the large hall after St A's services

Monday 4th Feb

7pm STA Youth

Wednesday 6th March

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

7:30pm Hearing God's Voice Through Art Course

Thursday 7th March

10am Thursday Knitters

10am Holy Communion at St A's

10:30am Ladies Connect Group

7:15pm Alpha

7:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Friday 8th March

9:30am Friday Minis

12noon CAMEO

Saturday 9th March

10am Women's Breakfast

Churchsuite

ChurchSuite serves as our secure platform for staying connected and accessing the latest information about events at St. Andrew's, including our weekly newsletter. You can conveniently sign up for special events, activities, and teams through the website or app, available for download at <https://churchsuite.com/apps/>.

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 07426 357967.

Notices

Envisioning Evening Our annual envisioning evening is taking place on Sunday 17th March at 6pm. Do join us as we hear from the different ministries the church engages in and take time to pray.

Marriage Course John & Alice will be running an online marriage course starting on 11th April. Whether you've been married for six months or 40 years, whether you're in a good place or struggling, The Marriage Course offers practical support over seven sessions to strengthen your relationship. To sign up or for more information, go to <https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/6cfjhhoa>

Women's Breakfast The next women's breakfast will be on Sat 9th March, 9-10:30am. Our guest speaker will be Libby Hayes. You can sign up here <https://stastb.churchsuite.com/events/maskok6i>

Youth Loft Open House Sunday, 3 March, 10am and 12pm Last year, the youth spent hours uplifting the carpet, carrying sofas, cleaning, and organising to refresh the space and make it feel like a second from. Additionally, church invested over £2,000 in a brand-new carpeting to replace the worn out old one! If you'd like to see and would be keen to pray over our youth, pop in Sunday at the Loft.

Abaana New Life Choir We are excited to announce that on Saturday 4th May 2024, the Abaana New Life Choir will be coming to perform for us, here at St. Andrew's. It's going to be an amazing night for all the family as this incredible group of Ugandan children perform a range of worship and traditional African music and dances, while sharing about what God is doing in Uganda. For more information about who Abaana are and what they do in Uganda, please visit www.abaana.org. You will also find lots more information about the choir on their website. We are also looking for 10 households from church who would be able to host 2 choir members and a chaperone each on the night of the concert. If you feel that this is something you might be able to do or if you want some more information please speak to Victoria Churton or send her an email (toribell045@gmail.com).

Brian Waters, a faithful member of our church for many years, has passed away. His funeral will be held on Thursday 7th March 11am, at St Andrew's.

Friday's Kitchen We are looking for a deputy lead to support Richard and Jane Badley in serving light lunches of soup, salad and puddings to church family and the wider community. If you are called to support this great ministry, please contact Matt in the church office.

Eco Tip

Fancy a brew? Only boil the water you need in the kettle to save water and energy. You'll get your tea quicker too!

Events

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

17th March – Envisioning Evening 6pm

24th March – Newcomers' Tea 12noon

11th April – Marriage Course Starts

4th May – Abaana New Life Choir at St Andrew's

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

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

Children's and Families: Kate Smith, children@stastb.church

Churchwarden: Andrew Smith, andrew.smith@stastb.church

Churchwarden: Celia Anderson, celia.anderson@stastb.church

Communications Coordinator: Adam Greenland, comms@stastb.church

Operations Manager: Matt Waterfield, matt@stastb.church

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

Treasurer: treasurer@stastb.church

Vicar: John Monaghan, vicar@stastb.church, 07936601497

Worship: Rhi Reeves, rhiannon.reeves@stastb.church

Youth: Jamie Flores, jamie@stastb.church

Forward any notices to Adam.



Follow us!

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