

What's happening in the life of St Andrew's and St Bartholomew's

IGNITE Prayer Weekend 15th-17th March

Every year we try to have one weekend when we pray for 48 hours, starting on Friday night at 6pm and finishing at FUEL on Sunday night. This has always been a very special time of drawing near to the Lord when we can intentionally focus on him over an extended period of time. So often our prayer times are short, random and chaotic. This is an opportunity to make a small change in our prayer habit to spend more time in his presence. This weekend is always during LENT which is an appropriate season to adjust our spiritual habits and practices. Take this opportunity to join in.

These are some verses to think about as we ignite our prayers:

'*The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.*' Leviticus 6.13. This instruction comes 5 times and is very emphatic. Keep the fire burning. Keep our passion for God's presence burning in our hearts. Do not quench the Spirit, advises Paul. Charles Wesley caught this thought in his magnificent hymn 'O thou who camest from above.'

Kindle a flame of sacred love, On the mean altar of my heart

There let it for thy glory burn, With inextinguishable blaze.

'*Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.*' Song of Songs 8.6. This is a description of an intense love between lovers as in marriage, but also between the Bride of Christ and the Bridegroom. However one interprets this passage, the thought is about igniting an intense longing and desire. Again, we need that passion for Jesus, for His Gospel, for His Kingdom work on earth. Let our love be a blazing fire. 'But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.' Jeremiah 20.9. Love for his presence, Love for his Kingdom and Love for his Word. When was the last time we felt the words of scripture like a fire shut up in our bones? When was the last time we were so excited by His Word that we could not hold it in any longer, but wanted to shout it from the rooftops?

The Anglican Common Worship Morning Prayer has this prayer:

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, So may the light of your presence, O God

Set our hearts on fire with love for you, Now and for ever. Amen.

That is a good prayer to start the day with. 'Set a fire down in our hearts, Lord.' There will be more details to follow for the weekend, but do mark it as a priority in your diary. Come, not for the entire time necessarily, but for some of it to ignite a new passion. John Wesley is quoted on the secret of his success "First I set myself on fire, then people come to see me burn."

Jonathan

OUR CHURCH

'UP' - 'IN' - 'OUT' 5 YEAR PLAN IN ACTION

REVIVE DAY—SAT 23rd FEB

On **Saturday 23rd February 2019** we are holding our annual Revive Day here at **St. Andrews**. Revive is a day for youth run by youth. It is a day when churches in Gloucestershire come to connect and learn together. It is run as a partnership between St. Andrews, St Matts in Cheltenham and Trinity Tewkesbury, with the aim of encouraging the Christian youth of Gloucestershire to live a life sold out for Jesus.

The day will run from 10am – 8.30pm and include:

- A morning and evening celebration with worship, guest speakers and games.
- Afternoon Seminars
- Inflatables
- Food
- Sport Ministry by PSALMS
- Workshops and activities
- Space to socialise, connect and make friends

We have two amazing guest speakers joining us for the day, **Tebo Mpanza** – Pastor at Hope City Church Birmingham and **Dan Blythe** – Pastor at Hillsong London.

Tickets can be purchased online at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/revive-day-2019-tickets-51022081419

They are **£6** online or **£7** on the door

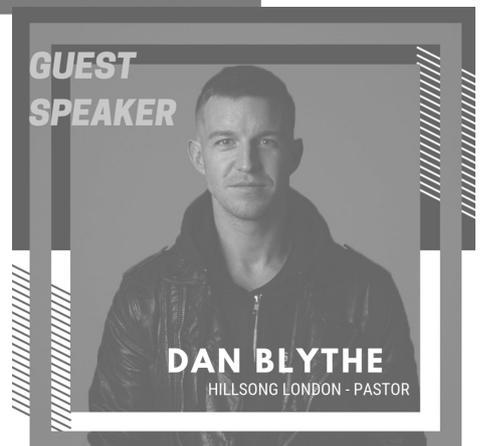
Follow/ Like us on social media for any updates to Revive Day:

www.facebook.com/ReviveYouthDay/
Instagram – [@Revive_youth_events](https://www.instagram.com/Revive_youth_events)

We'd love to see as many of our young people there as possible, it's going to be such an encouraging and inspiring day! If you have any questions please contact me on 07716433559 or youth@stastb.church

God Bless,

Harry Bennett



ALPHA IN THE SPRING

The winter will soon pass – spring is on its way. Why not use this time to explore the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment? Well here is the opportunity.

St. Andrew's will be running another Alpha Course this March, starting with a free Alpha Supper on Thursday, 7th March. During the evening a short outline of the course will be given. You can then decide whether you want to participate.

The Alpha Supper takes place on Thursday, 7th March at 7.15pm where you will find out the details of the course. The course will then run for 6 weeks every Wednesday starting with a meal at 7.30pm (13th March to 17th April) with an Alpha Away Day scheduled for Saturday, 13th April.

If you have wondered about the 'meaning of life'; are a new Christian; or simply not sure of your faith; then this could be the course for you. Why not give it a go?

When running an Alpha course there are so many who freely give their time behind the scenes to pray for the course, oversee its administration, undertake the catering, lay up tables and clean up afterwards. To all of you we are extremely grateful. If others would also like to get involved please sign up on the appropriate sheets or speak to Dave Keeper or myself

Alpha invitations are available from the Concourse. If you require any further details, please speak to Lorraine or Chantal within St. Andrew's Church Office – Tel 01452 712154. Could it be for you?

Nigel Roe

CHILDREN'S WORK

Well we have all got back to it after Christmas! Highlights include soap carving, nerf gun battles and some lovely singing from the Little Fishes on Sunday!

Please if you think you have something the children may benefit from, be it toys or books or craft materials, do speak to Laine first as she is trying to turn over a new leaf and be tidy in the new year!

A couple of events to draw your attention to:

Saturday 9th February 8-9:30am

Children's Breakfast.

Please sign up in the concourse if you would like to come. 5s and under must have an adult with them.

Tuesday 12th February 7:30-9:45pm

All Inclusive.

An evening for parents and leaders and church members on how we can make our church and children's work more inclusive for those with additional needs of all varieties. **Mark Arnold** of Urban Saints (formerly Crusaders) and of the Additional Needs Alliance is coming to run this evening and is a nationally known speaker on the subject...don't miss it!

We would love to have some more people leading groups rather than helping on a Sunday morning...all training, resources and materials provided. Please come and chat to Laine if this interests you.

We also need some "helpers" to do table laying and clearing and meal serving / squash pouring on Monday nights in March from 5-6:30pm at our InterAct group for school years 5 & 6. No cooking required, just practical help!

Thank you as ever for your prayer and practical support. Many Thanks,

Laine

THE PASSION WEEK OF JESUS GTS COURSE

Easter isn't far away – for Christians, the most important time of the year, when we remember Christ's death and celebrate his resurrection! But what really happened in those final days leading to the cross? How is *Passover* connected to *Easter*? What is Lent and where did it come from? Did you know that nearly half of everything we know about Jesus took place in the final week of his life? Was there a deeper meaning and significance to the words and works of Jesus as he approached ever closer to his death?

Starting 28th Feb, Gloucestershire Theology School (GTS) will be running a new course at St Andrew's called '**The Passion Week of Jesus**' (*passion* here means 'suffering and enduring'). This will be a golden opportunity to delve deeply into the meaning and significance of the last words and events of Jesus' life. All four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' final days in a different way – sometimes they even seem to clash. But it's only when we carefully look at all four accounts together that we can really begin to see the whole picture, work out the important sequence of events of those final days, and begin to grasp the tremendous symbolism and significance of each and every thing Jesus did.

A Seder (Passover) Meal

At the end of the course will be an opportunity to join in a traditional Jewish Seder meal (open invitation). Jesus' last supper was a Passover meal, yet he re-shaped it, and spoke of a new covenant. Find out how Jesus was the fulfillment of the Passover and what the new covenant means for us today. There is a fee for the course, and numbers are limited to about 20. For further information, contact **Dan Button**, or info@gtstheology.org

GTS Gloucestershire Theology School
The Passion Week of Jesus
St Andrew's, Churchdown
From 28th Feb - 8 weeks
Thursdays 7.15 - 9.15
 Course taught by Dan Button
 For more details email: info@gtstheology.org
www.gtstheology.org



MOTHERS' UNION

If you would like to know more about MU please speak to Janet Ross, or any MU member. You can also go on the national website mothersunion.org

Janet Ross.

**FEBRUARY MEETINGS
ALL WELCOME**

A look at Slovenia through the eyes of Slovenian women writing 2019's World Day of Prayer



'Come Everything is Ready'

**Tuesday 19th February at 7.30pm
with Catherine Rowland**

&

**Thursday 21st February at 2.30pm
with Janet Ross**

both in the church lounge

**FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS
2018**

Baptism

Micah Benjamin Ferguson
Anna Mae Swift Major
Noah Arthur Bishop

Thomas Waterfield & Siobhan
O'Donoghue

Jesica Tonks & Aaron Falconer
Eleanor Cratchley Preece & Benjamin Pinnock
Naomi Brown & Matthew Goldsmith
Elizabeth Ball & Colin Stephenson

Weddings

Katherine Harris & Adam Curtis
Joseph Denslow & Laura Hazelden
Jennifer Hampton & Callum Parfitt
Ben Fisher & Daisy Hill
Simon Meakins & Kerrie Smith
Clair Smith & Christopher Auld
Tamsyn Burrows & Nathan Whiting
Lucy White & Timothy Baker
Peter Sullivan & Michelle Allen-Jones

Burials

Richard Hovey
Kathleen Noakes
Paula Woodcock
Winifred Moore

ECO CHURCH

At St. Andrew's we continually look at ways of being eco-friendly. We have gained the A Rocha Eco Church silver award and are now working towards the gold level. St. Bartholomew's church has also been registered as an Eco Church and we are aiming for the bronze award.

It is much harder to obtain Eco Awards for small rural churches because one of the qualifying criteria is to make much use of the church and any buildings, which we certainly do at St. Andrew's. The church centre is regularly used for church events – connect groups, meetings, breakfasts, lunches, children and youth events to name but a few. We ensure the rooms are booked, taking into account the amount of people and the room capacity, and ideally make bookings when other rooms are booked out. Signs are displayed to remind individuals to turn off the lights afterwards, the heating is turned on when required, and the doors remain closed to retain heat.

Church chairs

The chairs within the church are removed for various events—A Space To Live In, Women's Advent Evening, Youth Revive Day. This takes time and the current chairs are heavy. The storage of these chairs is also a problem because they cannot be stacked more than two in height. At the moment we are planning to introduce new lightweight, stackable chairs where 25 can be stacked on a trolley. Through obtaining new chairs we will be able to hold events more often. It will be easy to link the chairs together and create either a curvature of seating or straight rows. It is imperative that we get the seating right, so we value your thoughts and feedback. Please complete the 'new church chair consultation' form that was on the news sheet and return your replies to the

Church Office by 24th February. If we purchase new chairs the current chairs will be sold on, therefore recycled.

Becoming an Eco Diocese

Gloucester Diocese have signed up with A Rocha to become an Eco Diocese, which they hope to achieve by the end of 2020. To become an Eco Diocese we need to get as many of the 390 Diocesan Churches signed up and working towards the Eco Church A Rocha Awards. If anyone would be interested to see how many churches are registered for Eco Church please check out

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-church-locations/>.

If you would like to know more about Eco Church please let me know.

Thanks for reading!

Chantal Whitehouse

chantillywhitehouse@gmail.com

'It Takes Two'

Building a lasting marriage.

An event organised by 'Care for the Family' to encourage marriages whether recent or long.

Wednesday 20th March 7.30-10pm.
Elim Church, Cheltenham.

To book: cff.org.uk/ittakestwo
or 02920810800

PRACTICING THE WAY

Our recent sermon series has drawn on some excellent teaching materials created by Bridgetown church, Portland, Oregon. These materials are available online, including videos and audio of teaching, suggested content for small groups, recommended reading lists. It is a resource that is well worth exploring.

<https://practictheway.org/>

Here is an extract:

What does it mean to “follow” Jesus?

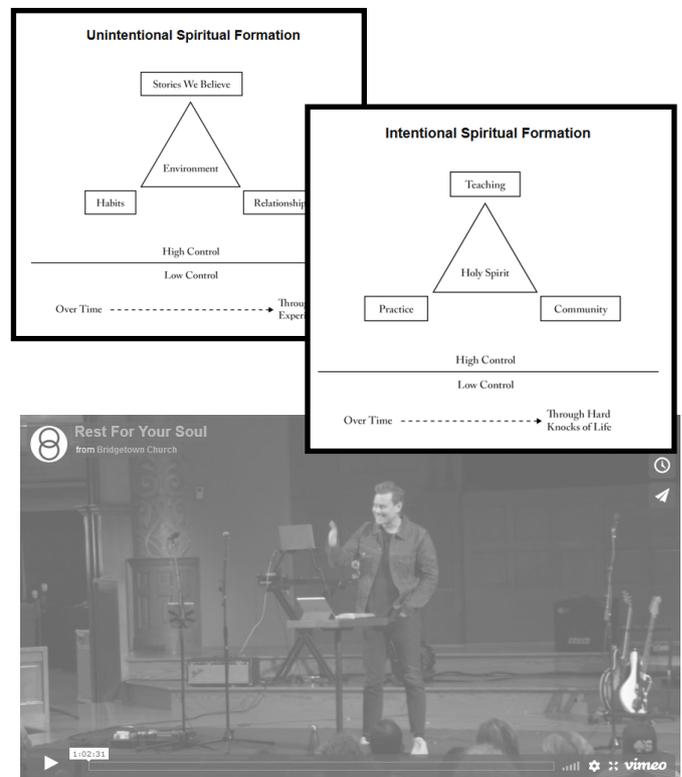
We hear the language “follower of Jesus” all the time, but what does it mean to be a disciple, or apprentice, of the rabbi from Nazareth? Put simply, it means you re-organize your life around three goals:

- 1. Be with Jesus**
- 2. Become like Jesus**
- 3. Do what Jesus did**

That’s it. But that’s an entire life’s pursuit. It is not just an event on a Sunday, but a “way” of life in community around the teachings of Jesus. To live this way means we need to be transformed, from the inside out. Is this kind of deep, authentic radical change of character possible? Really? Even in the chaos of the modern, digital, urban world? The answer is: absolutely yes. Through teaching, practice, community, and the Holy Spirit, we can recover our humanity in apprenticeship to Jesus.

“The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds... This is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in thus practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our 'practicing' we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits—not the law of gravity—and can be broken. A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings.”

Dallas Willard



WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 2019

All services will be at St Andrew's unless otherwise stated

3rd February	5th Sunday Before Lent
9:00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Worship
3.30pm	Evening Prayer at St.Bartholomew
6pm	FUEL
10th February	4th Before Lent
9:00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	All Age Communion
11am	Matins at St.Bartholomew
6pm	FUEL
17th February	3rd Before Lent
9.00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Worship
6pm	FUEL
24th February	2nd Before Lent
9.00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Worship
3.30pm	Holy Communion at St.Bartholomew
6pm	FUEL
3rd March	Sunday Before Lent
9:00am	Holy Communion
10.30am	All Age Communion
3.30pm	Evening Prayer at St.Bartholomew
6pm	FUEL

Weekday Services

The church Quiet Room is available for your morning prayers from 9.00am—9.30am. Holy Communion is held in the Quiet Room every Thursday at 10.00am.

USEFUL CONTACTS

The Vicar
Jonathan Perkin
01452-548437

Youth Pastor
Harry Bennett
07716-433559

Children's Pastor
Laine Lewis
01452-862737

Creative Pastor
Rhiannon Davies
07960-853314

Discipleship Pastor
Dave Keeper
07511-937332

Churchwardens
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01452-713641
Kevin Sadler
07821-368590

Administrators
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Chantal Whitehouse
01452-712154

Treasurer
Rachel Limbrick
07799-648219

Assistant Treasurers
Alice Oakes, Di Rowe
01452-712154

PCC Secretary
Leslie Dennish
01452-713681

Reader
Alison Summerskill

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9.30—12.30 pm