

This Week Sunday 11th March		
9.00am	Holy Communion 1 John 4:7-21	Team B
9.45am	Holy Communion at Highfields John 3:5-17	
10.30am	Family Worship 1 John 4:7-21	
6.00pm	Evening Worship Luke 22:66 - 23:25	Team I
Tuesday	Midweek Communion	
Wednesday	Explorers Kids Group	
Wednesday	Lent Course	
Friday	Parents & Toddlers	
Friday	Youth Group	
Next Week Sunday 18th March		
9.00am	Morning Prayer Isaiah 53:1-13	Team C
9.45am	Morning Worship at Highfields Isaiah 53:1-13	
10.30am	Family Communion Isaiah 53:1-13	
6.00pm	Evening Worship Luke 23:26-43	Team F 3@6
Mar 23	Confirmation Service	
Mar 27	OMF Prayer Meeting	

LAST BUT NOT LEAST . . .

. . . FUN TO THE MINI-MUM

What do you call a mother who can't draw? Tracy.
 Why did the biscuit cry?
 Because his mummy was a wafer so long!
 What did the digital clock say to its mother?
 Look, Ma! No hands!
 What did the mummy tomato say to the baby tomato?
 Catch up!
 Why did the baby strawberry cry?
 Because his mummy was in a jam.
 What did the baby Egyptian say when he got lost?
 I want my mummy.
 What did the mother horse say to the foal?
 Its pasture your bedtime.
 What did the mother broom say to the baby broom?
 It's time to go to sweep!

The office in the Church Hall is used for administering the business and clerical materials for the services. Dalena is usually there on Tuesday and Friday between 2 and 5pm.
 Telephone 01785 241894

The photo-copier in the office is available for hire from 5p per copy. If you have any personal copying requirements or need any commercial printing, please get in touch.

Castle Church Growth Trust Charity Ref No: 1126686

For contact details, please visit

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WWW.CASTLECHURCH.ORG.UK

Cross Words is compiled & edited by Les Deall



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Vicar: Rev Philip Sowerbutts
 Associate Minister: Rev Christine Sykes

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
 but a woman who fears the LORD
 is to be praised.

Proverbs 31:30

11th March 2018 MOTHERING SUNDAY 4th Sunday in Lent

WELCOME TO CASTLE CHURCH

We meet to engage with God - to hear him speak through his Word - to thank him for his goodness to us - to bring our needs before Him - and to pray for his world and to encourage each other.

Our aim is to encounter the living God together, through his Son Jesus Christ, and to discover, in our daily lives, the difference that a relationship with heaven makes to the way we live.

If you are a visitor to Stafford or this is the first time you have worshipped here, please make yourself known to those leading the service and join us for refreshments after the 9.45, 10.30 or 6.00 services.

Collect for Today

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



We are a FAIRTRADE Church. We have pledged to use Fairtrade Goods wherever possible.

**Women's World Day of Prayer
ALL GOD'S CREATION
IS VERY GOOD !**

Praying for Suriname
A Service for Everyone



POSTPONED DUE TO SNOW!
New date - 2.00pm *this* Friday 16th March 2018
Stafford Baptist Church on the Green

Beetle Drive
6.30pm
this Saturday 17th March
in Castle Church Hall.
Free entrance.
Contact Colin Price for details.

**Lent Course The Greatest Song
'Song of Songs'**

All are welcome - no prior knowledge needed!
Each Wednesday until 28th March
at 2pm and 7.30pm in the Barn.

**EASTER DUCKLINGS FOR THE
MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION**

After the Morning Service *next* Sunday 18th March, a large family of knitted ducks will arrive, each complete with a Cadbury's Cream Egg. If you would like to take one home, we are asking for a £2 donation in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. However if you are not "desirous of a duck," we would be grateful for a donation, however small, for this very worthy cause. We can take orders OR, come and see our "duckling stall" in ASDA on the afternoon of Monday, 19th March.



Mavis

**AGM & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING**



The AGM and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held this year on Sunday 22nd April in Castle Church Hall following the Morning Service.

Please come along to support your PCC.



KID'S GROUP

Wednesday 5 to 6pm
for all aged 7 to 11.

This Week - Heroes of Faith - Ruth



PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Meeting every Friday during term-time from 9.15 to 11.15am in Castle Church Hall.



YOUTH GROUP

Friday 7.30 to 9pm
for all aged 11 to 16.

This Week's Activity - Easter Craft
Talk Outline - "Evidence for the Resurrection"



PRAYER DIARY

Pick up a Prayer Diary from Church today. It contains something to pray about each day.



MIDWEEK COMMUNION

There will be a service of Holy Communion *this* Tuesday in Castle Church at 10.00am.



Confirmation Service

Friday 23rd March and
at 7.00pm Confirmation of
in Andrew Gould
Castle Church Hall. Samantha Gould
Baptism of Megan Millen
Andrew Gould Melanie Wheatley.

Led by the Right Reverend Rod Thomas,
the Bishop of Maidstone.

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me,
he must deny himself and take up his cross
and follow me."

Mark 8:34

OMF PRAYER GROUP

Next Meeting
Tuesday 27th March
at May Bee's house, 5 Keld Avenue.



BARNABAS FUND PRAYER

Thank you, dear Lord, for pastors, church-planters and evangelists who serve You in the face of opposition and violence in places where Christians are a despised minority. May Your Holy Spirit equip and empower them spiritually, just as You meet their material needs. Protect them from attacks from the majority community, harassment from the authorities and unjust penalties for their service to You. Please make their ministries fruitful, in lives transformed by the truth of the Gospel of Christ and churches strengthened to face persecution with courage and perseverance. Amen.



YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, and pray that they may be reassured by the Lord's presence in their lives -
John Weaver, Andrea McEleny,
Scott & Alisdair White, Lilian Kelsall,
Peter Grey, Beryl Martin, Mabel Rutter.

