ST. ANDREWS
BAPTIST CHURCH

October 2026 Newsletter

What does it mean to be thankful?



As we celebrate Harvest Festival, let's take a moment to think about what we are thankful for and why.



Where did Harvest come from?

An ancient tradition of giving thanks

Harvest has been celebrated for thousands of years. In the Bible, God's people were encouraged to celebrate the harvest and bring the first and best of what they had grown as an offering to God.

"Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field."
Exodus 23:16

For the Israelites, harvest was a time to stop and recognise that their food and provision came from God and to give thanks for His goodness.

Our familiar British Harvest Festival tradition developed much later, particularly during the 19th century, when churches began holding special services to give thanks for the harvest. People brought produce from their homes and gardens, which was often then given to those in need.

Harvest is about more than food. It is about recognising God's provision, giving thanks and sharing what we have with others.

Recognise. Give thanks. Share.

But what does thankfulness look like in our lives? Being thankful is more than simply saying *"thank you."*

It is taking time to notice what we have been given, recognising God's goodness, and appreciating the blessings that can so easily become part of everyday life.

A warm home. Food on the table. Family and friends. A church family. The beauty of creation. People who encourage us.
Thankfulness helps us to stop and notice.

Being thankful doesn't mean pretending that life is always easy. We all experience difficult seasons, disappointments and things we don't understand.

Yet the Bible encourages us to remember God's goodness and bring our thanks to Him, even in the midst of those things.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”
Psalm 107:1

Thankfulness leads to generosity. When we recognise what we have received, we can also think about what we can give — our time, encouragement, kindness and resources. Thankfulness turns our attention from what we have received to what we can share.

🌾 A moment to be thankful

What am I thankful for? Who am I thankful for? Where have I seen God's goodness? Is there something I can share with someone else?

Above all, we have a reason to be thankful that goes beyond everything we receive in this life: **Jesus**. Through His death on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins and made a way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to God.

“Give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18



Autumn Church Meeting
Your Voice, our Future

Thursday 29th October – 7.30-9pm

Church is something we build together

There are important questions about the future of SABC that we want to explore together.

One of the questions many of us are asking is:
"What is happening about finding a new Pastor?"

The Autumn Church Meeting will be an opportunity to hear from the Elders about the steps being taken, ask questions, share your thoughts and pray together as we look towards the future.

Come along, listen, ask questions and be part of the conversation.

Your voice matters.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: *Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.*
Haggai 1:7-8

What happens when faith changes your story?

Meet David Harper - TV antiques presenter and expert



We are delighted to welcome **David Harper** to St Andrew's Baptist Church for our morning service on **Sunday 15th November at 10.30am**.

David will be sharing his **personal testimony**, telling us about his journey of faith and what Jesus means to him today.

There will also be opportunities to ask questions throughout the session, making this a chance not only to hear David's story, but to explore some of the questions that his story raises.

A chance to meet David too

David will be bringing copies of his new book, *The God Conundrum*, which will be available to **buy and have signed after the service.**

£10 per copy
(Online price £11.99)

Whether you already know David or not, you are warmly invited to come along, hear his story and spend some time with us.
Why not have a think about who you could invite?

Come and hear the story behind the antiques expert — you may find it prompts a few questions of your own.

Coming Up at SABC

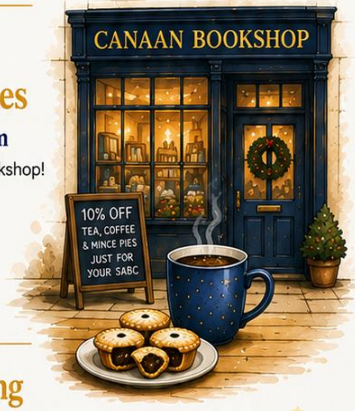
Save The Date ♡



Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 8th November

A time to remember and give thanks.
We honour the courage and sacrifice of all those who have served and laid down their lives so that we might live in peace and freedom today.
Join us as we reflect, give thanks and pray for peace.



Special Evening at Canaan Bookshop, Staines

Tuesday 17th November – 7pm–9pm

SABC has an exclusive evening at Canaan Bookshop!
The shop will be open just for us.
Enjoy 10% off all purchases, complimentary teas & coffees and mince pies.
A wonderful opportunity to browse, buy and be blessed together. ♡



Christmas Drop In Morning

Saturday 5th December – 10am–1pm

Join us for a festive morning of Christmas crafts, refreshments and friendship. A wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours from our local community.
Everyone is welcome – come and celebrate the start of the Christmas season with us! ♡

♥ TOGETHER IN FAITH • TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP ♥

Life at SABC

Join us through the week

Mondays
Craft Club – 1.30-3.30pm
Prayer Meeting – 7.00-8.00pm

Tuesdays *(Term Time Only)*
Tiddlers – 10.00-11.45am

Wednesdays
Prayer, Worship & Reflection – 2.00-3.00pm
Bible Study – 3.30-4.30pm

October at SABC

Garden Work Party
Saturday 3rd – 9.00-12.00pm

Guest Speakers: Andrew Bill – Sunday 4th
and **Danny Sitton** – Sunday 18th

Harvest Festival
Sunday 11th – 10.30am

Prayer for Israel
Thursday 22nd – 2.00-3.00pm

Autumn Church Meeting
Thursday 29th – 7.30-9.00pm



Sunday Service: 10.30am

Everyone Welcome

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