



## The Baptism of Christ

11 January 2026

### The Baptism of Christ, 11 January

**10am** Parish Communion

**Readings:** Isaiah 42.1-9 *A light to the nations*  
Acts 10.34-43 *Hear the Good News*  
Matthew 3.13-17 *The Baptism of Jesus*

**Collect:** Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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

**Zoom** Join Zoom Meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)  
Meeting ID: 861 3500 8616.  
Passcode: 599753  
Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830  
**N.B. Please MUTE when joining Zoom**

*followed by coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House*

Sunday School: All school age children welcome.

**6pm** Sunday@6: Good News!

### Tuesday 13 January

7:30pm Standing Committee, Ivel Room

### Thursday 15 January

9:30am Holy Communion

Readings: 1 Samuel 4.1-11

Mark 1.40-45

*Followed by coffee, warm spaces and fellowship,  
Chapter House*

12pm-2pm MU Soup Lunch

*(Visit by Community Agent, Julie Balaam)*

7pm-8:30pm Cubs Evening in Church

Youth Groups Start—see website for details

### Saturday 17 January

10am - 12pm Coffee Shop, Craft and Chat  
and Warm Spaces, Chapter House

### Sunday 18 January

10am Parish Communion

Sunday School

*Followed by coffee and fellowship, Chapter House*

12 noon Baptism of Evie

### Private Prayer at St Andrew's Church

Our church is usually open for private prayer Monday to Saturday 9am-4pm. Revd Liz and Churchwardens

**Vicar:** Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong (01767 312243)

**Churchwardens:** Chris Parker (07702 250776)  
Nettie van de Weerd (07767 711353)

**Administration Assistant:** Susan Thorn (01767 317207)  
[secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk)

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Rosemary Bentley (07885 431928)  
[romybentley@aol.com](mailto:romybentley@aol.com)

All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to:  
[office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk) by Tuesdays, 11am

[www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk](http://www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk)

[office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk)



Facebook: @StAndrewsBiggleswade



Instagram: @StAndrewsBiggleswade

[bookings@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:bookings@standrewschurchbw.org.uk)



**Requesting our Prayers:** Joan Betts, Percy Doughty, Revd Liz Lavelle, Charles Rutt, Marcus Smith, Nick Smithers, Derek and Gill Whinnett.

We continue to pray for: Ricardo Landsman, Julia Pilgrim

**We pray for the souls of the recently departed:** Revd Tim Robb, Martin John Smith. For families and friends preparing for services of thanksgiving and celebration of life: . We remember with prayers and thankful, privileged, memories those whose Year's Mind fall at this time.

**Mafambisa:** We remember the people of our partner community of Mafambisa, for the vulnerable and orphaned children, the care workers, the caregivers and all who support them. By name this week we pray for care-worker: Lucia and children: Tswarelo, Andile, Surprise and Nkosikhona.

**Christmas Prayer Tree** This will be kept, hopefully for next year. Eventually it will be planted near the Garden of Remembrance.

*Maggie McLoughlin*

### **Christmas Displays and Flowers**

Thank you to all those who so kindly helped me in decorating the church with floral displays for the Christmas Season, they were all wonderful; there have been comments from members of the congregation saying how lovely they were. I very much appreciate your help and support having recently taken on the responsibility for our floral and window displays. Special thanks to the Sunday school who have kindly agreed to adopt the window above the children's corner. I very much look forward to seeing subsequent displays. If you are interested in supporting this activity in either practical or monetary ways please do speak to me, all support is very much welcomed. With thanks again in helping to make the season special.

*Lucy Dilley 07800 577106*

### **MU Christmas Soup Lunch Thursday 15 January 12noon -2pm**

Including a visit from Julie Balaam, Community Agent. All welcome. No set price, donate what you can.

*Maggie McLoughlin*

### **Craft and Chat**

Our next session will be on 17 January between 10am and 12 noon, in the Chapter house, alongside coffee shop. Why not pop in for a cuppa, chat or to make progress or start on your new craft project?

Regulars and new faces all welcome .

*Anna Rutt*

### **Snow**

We have now had our first fall of snow! When we do have snow falls we need to ensure that we keep the church paths clear ready for all users. Salt and grit are available to scatter!

So if you wake up to snow and are able, please come down to church at around 8:30am and clear the snow from the path to the car park and the north path down to Shortmead Street. Thank you.

*Churchwardens*

### **Burns Night**

We will be celebrating Burns Night on Saturday 24 January in support of this year's team heading for Mafambisa. The evening will be a Ceilidh, with Scottish food, Scottish dancing, poetry, games, lots of fun for the whole family! The fun starts at 6:30pm. See Poster in foyer for details.

*Chris Parker*

### **PCC Secretary**

As of 1 January, Harriet Shannon has started in the role of PCC secretary and can be contacted on this email address [pccsecretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk)



### Warm Spaces

Warm Spaces will be available in the Chapter House on Saturdays from 10am till 12noon and Thursdays from 10:30am-11:30am, finishing on 21 March.

*Nettie van de Weerd*

### Snowdrop Garden Open Days

We are pleased to share that the Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open to visitors on: Saturday 14 February, Sunday 15 February, Saturday 21 February and Sunday 22 February, from 2pm – 4pm, offering a much-loved chance to enjoy God's creation in its early spring beauty. This year's openings may be the last time the garden is made accessible to the public, making the occasion especially meaningful.

Thousands of snowdrops and other early bulbs will be in bloom, creating a peaceful, uplifting place to wander and reflect. Entry is £5 per adult and all proceeds will go directly to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, which helps fund essential repairs to historic churches across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Bishop Richard, Acting Bishop of St Albans, writes:

*"This is a lovely way to enjoy the first signs of spring while supporting an important cause. We're proud to contribute to preserving the unique heritage of our local churches."*

Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans

For more information, please contact: [janesmith@stalbandiocese.org](mailto:janesmith@stalbandiocese.org)

### Food Bank

Please consider adding an item to your shopping basket to help those in need in our area. Current needs are: tinned carrots, custard, rice pudding, tinned bolognese. Items can be put in the box in church or at the supermarket.

*Maggie McLoughlin and Anna Rutt*

### North Roof

As you are aware the roof of the north Aisle has been leaking for a while now and temporary repairs are no longer effective. We have now completed consultation with the DAC and other necessary bodies and the notice of petition to apply for a faculty is completed. All being well work will be able to start soon.

*Churchwardens*

### Country Fayre 2026 - Charity Nominations

It is that time of year again where the committee begin the work to make this year's Country Fayre a huge success. We use many methods to choose charities for each year; nominations from our community, looking at previous charities that we have supported, looking at local charities that might be in need of support as well as looking at financial details for each charity.

We would appreciate any charity nominations from our local congregation for charities that you feel are special to you and would like us to consider supporting.

As always - we would welcome anyone who wishes to join the committee, we generally meet on a Monday evening once a month and then more frequently nearer the date.

Please put this year's date in your diary Saturday 19 September - with your help we can make it another great event.

Many thanks, The Country Fayre Committee: *Sue Cleghorn, Lucy Dilley, Noah Dilley, Oliver Dilley, Nick Gurney, Carolyn Marron, Chris Parker and Jane Parker*

### Thank You!

Many thanks from the Vicar and Churchwardens for all the help and support they have been given during Advent and Christmas - and every blessing for the New Year.

*Revd Liz and the Churchwardens*

### A Prayer for the New Year

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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### Used Stamps for St John's Hospice

Please remember to save any stamps from the Christmas cards you receive. Please cut around them and bring them to the back of the church where there is a collection box. It seems a small thing to do as regards fund-raising, but St John's are please to receive them.

*Gill Hibbert*

### Social Media

Keeping in touch with family and friends is something as a Church we are trying to undertake through the use of our social media platforms. Please do contact Oliver Dilley or Jessica Mephram with any ideas, thoughts or content for the social media pages. In the meantime please continue to like, follow and share our social media accounts.

Facebook: @standrewsbiggleswade

Instagram: @standrewsbiggleswade

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### Future Dates

24 January	6:30pm	Burns Night
27 January	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
1 February	3pm	Christingle Service
18 February	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

**Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve, Holy Spirit make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage, for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus. Amen**

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Vicar: Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong (01767 312243 )

[www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk](http://www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk)

Churchwardens:

[office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk](mailto:office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk)

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

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Nettie van de Weerd (07767 711353)

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