



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE

Christ-Centred – Welcoming – Inclusive – Outward-Looking



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

11 May 2025

Sunday

Vocations Sunday / Christian Aid Week begins

10.00 am Parish Communion

Readings: Acts 9.36-43 *Peter travels to Joppa.*
Revelation 7.9-17 *A Great Multitude from Every Nation.*
John 10.22-30 *Jesus is Rejected*

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he 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

Followed by Coffee and fellowship in Chapter House

11.45 am APCM in Church Zoom as above

6.00 pm Sunday @ 6. Christian Aid

Private Prayer at St Andrew's Church. Please note our church is usually open for private prayer Monday - Saturday, **09.00 am - 4.00 pm.** *Revd Liz and Churchwardens*

Monday 12 May

3.30 pm Baptism Preparation—Church

Tuesday 13 May

10.45 am Funeral, John Bryant RIP. Bedford Crematorium

Thursday 15 May

09.30 am Holy Communion,
Readings: Acts 13.13-25, John 13.16-20
followed by coffee in Chapter House

10.30 am Leadership Meeting, Ivel Room

7.30 pm Friends' Trustees Meeting

Evening Youth Groups—new members always welcome

Saturday 17 May

9.00 am Christian Aid Big Breakfast, Chapter House

9.30 am Bell Peal

10.00 –12.00noon Coffee Shop, Chapter House
Craft and Chat

Christian Aid Week ends

The Fifth Sunday of Easter 18 May

10.00 am Parish Communion

12.00 noon Baptism—Margot

3.00 pm Bishop Alan's Farewell, St Albans Cathedral

5.30 pm Taizé Worship, Cockayne Hatley Church

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

Churchwardens:

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

Nettie van de Weerd (07767 711353)

Parish Office: 01767 317207

Email: secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to romyben-ley@aol.com by Tuesdays 11.00 am

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Facebook: @StAndrewsBiggleswade



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Requesting our Prayers: Derek and Gill Whinnett, Nick Smithers, Thelma Holden, Anita, Sally Wells, Shelagh Hizzey, Ian Pearson, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Val Scott, Maurice Darnell, Chris Parker, Clerestine and Percy Doughty, Tim Robb. We continue to pray for: Ricardo Landsman, Julia Pilgrim

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 careworker: Zodwa children: Hassan, Hussen, Junior, Johannes. Please visit our blog at www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk.

We pray for the souls of the recently departed. Michael Dennis Mahoney, John Bryant, Derek Hamlet, Margaret Hendy, Patrick 'Mac' McLoughlin: 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: 13 Bill Cressey

Craft and Chat. The next session is on Saturday 17 May between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, during coffee shop. It would be good to see some new faces along with the regulars. *Anna Rutt*

Launchpad Celebration Evening - Monday 19 May, 7.00 pm. *Calling all Sunday School Leaders, Youth Leaders and Volunteers, PCC Members, Churchwardens, interested members of St. Andrew's Church; you are invited to join Revd. Liz for a 'Launchpad Celebration Evening' at Youthscape, Bute Street, Luton, LU1 2EY. Refreshments will be provided. Richard, Bishop of Bedford, will also be attending the Celebration Evening. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the Launchpad programme that Revd. Liz completed in March this year, and how this can support the enrichment of youth work in church. The Launchpad Course was designed for clergy to support them in responding to the challenges of engagement with young people and how youth work needs to develop and adapt to accommodate the changing culture and times we live in. Every church, parish or benefice is different, so the aim of Launchpad is to show that something is possible, however small it may start. Launchpad is a chance to think again, to create space for busy clergy to see the possibilities that arise through innovation, informed strategy and a renewed vision for youth work in church. RSVP by 9th May, 2025 to Revd. Liz if you can come along: vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk or telephone: 01767 312243.*

MU Wednesday 4 June from 2.00 pm. Meeting at the Sandy RSPB Lodge. In the cafe if wet! All welcome. If you need a lift, please ask, and we will try and get you there. *Maggie McLoughlin.*

Confirmation at St Andrew's Church Sunday 15 June. We look forward to welcoming Jane, Bishop of Hertford, for our Confirmation for young people and adults, and Admission to Communion for some Sunday School children, during our special worship on Sunday 15 June, 10.00 am. Several have already expressed an interest in discovering further information, and exploring preparation classes; if you wish to consider the possibility of Confirmation please discuss with the Vicar, or churchwardens, as soon as possible.

Christian Aid Week. 11 - 17 May 2025 and we will be able to contribute and support the work of Christian Aid in several ways. **'Sunday at 6' on 11 May** will allow us to celebrate the work of Christian Aid and pray for the people that they work with. Christian Aid envelopes will be available from next Sunday. The 'Give button' on our Web site has an option for Christian Aid Week. We will be holding a Christian Aid Big Breakfast **from 9.00 am on Saturday 17 May** - come along and enjoy breakfast.

PCC Secretary Vacancy: I shall be standing down as PCC Secretary at this year's APCM on 11 May after having held the position for 8 years. If this is a role you feel you might be interested in pursuing, do please speak to me and I can elaborate more on the role and provide a job description, or you can email me at pccsecretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk. Please note that you do not have to be a member of the PCC to undertake this role. Many thanks. *Ruth Marshall-Jones, PCC Secretary.*

Generous Giving Appeal. In January I gave an update regarding the responses we had received following the Generous Giving Appeal, October 2024. Most of those who replied and were able to increase their amount that they regularly give to the Church have now done so. Some have managed to increase by more than they said, and some others have increased, but did not respond. We have had 13 existing regular donors and 6 new donors who between them have increased their regular donations to the Church by £252, although we have also had 2 donors who have decided they can no longer make regular donations, so we have lost £52. Our regular donations have increased by £200 per month which equates to just over an increase of 3% per month.

Thank you to all these people for their increases. If your circumstances change at any time during the year, you can amend your donation (you do not have to wait until we run an appeal). If you need any help or have any queries, then please speak to either Andrew Rutt (PCC Treasurer) or myself, and we will help you (in strictest confidence.) *Adrian Maynard, Stewardship Co-ordinator*

Coffee Shop Rota. A few more people required to commit to regular offers of help for Saturday morning coffee shops. If you feel you are able to help - once a month on a Saturday morning - please speak with one of us so we can add you to the rota. Your help will be very much appreciated. *The Churchwardens.*

Holiday Club 2025 -Jungle Adventure. Our 2025 holiday club will take place during the week beginning 11 August followed by a service and barbecue on Sunday 17. This year's theme is Jungle Adventure, and we discover what a great guide Jesus can be. Please follow the link to sign up to help with our very successful holiday club. Click on ["volunteer"](#) and fill in the form – thank you.

Future Dates

Monday 19 May	7.00 pm	Launchpad Celebration. Youthscape. <i>Please see notice.</i>
Thursday 29 May	09.30 am	Ascension Day Holy Communion
Pentecost 8 June	8.00 am	Holy Communion— <i>Order II Traditional</i>
	10.00 am	All Together Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Sunday @ 6 for Pentecost
Trinty Sunday 15 June	10.00 am	Confirmation, and Admission to Holy Communion, during Parish Communion. Jane, Bishop of Hertford



Country Fayre 2025. This year's Country Fayre will take place on Saturday 20 September and is the 40th Anniversary for the event [look out for some special things to celebrate this.] The Committee are very happy to announce the 2 chosen charities we will be supporting at this year's Country Fayre are The Willow Foundation - a charity working with young people 16-40 who have had a terminal diagnosis to give them and their families some memorable moments to cherish. The second charity that we will be supporting is MS Trust who work tirelessly to support people who are living every day with Multiple Sclerosis through specialist MS Nurses and are desperate to ensure that there are enough specialist nurses for everyone across the UK. As is usual, the committee will be asking members of our Church and local community for their help to make this year's Fayre a huge success and anything you can do to help will be massively appreciated please do speak to our members. We are always looking and would be pleased to have new members join our committee so please do speak to us about that as well. *The Country Fayre Committee. Sue Cleghorn, Lucy Dilley, Noah Dilley, Oliver Dilley, Nick Gurney, Carolyn Marron, Chris Parker, Jane Parker and Nicola Woodward*

**Diocesan Prayer for the Year of Spiritual
Renewal and Wellbeing 2025**

God of life and love, pour out your blessing on our diocese as we journey to your kingdom on the Emmaus Road: where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith; where there is fear, establish us in love; where there is discord, bring reconciliation and healing: that together we may be renewed in hope by your Spirit and be ambassadors of your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Spiritual Renewal 2025

Look graciously upon us, O Holy Spirit,
and give us, for our hallowing,
thoughts that pass into prayer,
prayers that pass into love,
and love that passes into life with you forever,
Amen.

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. The online sphere is another channel we are also able to use to be able to spread God's message. The platforms allow us to reach out to our community of faith, our local community as well as others who aren't as local. Please do contact Oliver Dilley or Jessica Mepham 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. *Thank you.*

Facebook: @standrewsbiggleswade Instagram: @standrewsbiggleswade

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

Vicar: Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong (01767 312243)

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