



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE

Christ-Centred –Welcoming –Inclusive – Outward -Looking

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity, 27 September, 2026

10am Parish Communion Collect: Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

Readings: Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32

Zoom: To join Click here Meeting ID: 931 2877 4094 Passcode: 263739

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

Sunday School—all school-aged children welcome

Coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House

12 noon Baptism in church

This week

Tuesday 29 September	7:30pm	Growth and Mission Meeting, Ivel Room
Thursday 1 October	9:30am	Holy Communion Readings: Job 19.21-27a, Luke 10.1-12
	7pm-8:30pm	Youth Groups
Saturday 3 October	9:30am	St Luke's Tide Holy Communion Annual gathering of Pastoral Visitors with time to talk
	10am – 12noon	Coffee Shop
Sunday 4 October	8am	Holy Communion, Order 2 - Traditional
	10am	Harvest Thanksgiving – All Together Worship
	12:45pm	Sunday Lunch (please sign notice in foyer)

Private Prayer at St Andrew's Church

Please note our church is usually open for private prayer Monday—Saturday, 9am - 4pm.

Intercessions: Let us pray for: The hospitality industry; local restaurants, coffee shops, public houses, takeaways

Requesting our Prayers: Joan Chelley, Thelma Holden, Margaret Hulley, Charles Rutt, Steve Waldron, Derek and Gill Whinnett. We continue to pray for: Maurice Darnell, Joanna Friend

We pray for the souls of the recently departed: Percy Doughty, Peter Noble, John Loveridge

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: Joyce Wren (28th), Marjorie Martin (3rd)

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: Maria and children: Snethemba, Sanele, Bayanda, Mgcobi, Bafana, Victoria, Amanda, Prince

Harvest Food and Toiletry Donations

If you're not sure what to give for Harvest, please look at the Baptist Church Food Bank app: BanktheFood. Otherwise, it's tinned or packet items, particularly something with meat, like bolognese or sausage with spaghetti or beans. If that's a bit expensive, sweet corn and tinned veg, tinned fruit. Really anything you buy regularly for your family. Pot noodles etc. are good for people in temporary accommodation. Whatever you give, thank you.

Songs of Praise: October 11, 6pm - Fundraiser for Church Funds

Entry £5, a raffle (tickets to purchase on arrival), followed by hot chocolate and homemade muffins in the Chapter House (other drinks available). How it works: You are all invited to select your **three** personal favourite hymns or worship songs. Selection slips are at the back of church and should be posted in the voting box nearby. These will then be used to create our 'Top 12' hymns and songs which we will sing at our Songs of Praise Fundraiser.

So, start thinking of your three favourites and make it a date to come along, bring family and friends, for what we hope will be an enjoyable evening raising much-needed funds for our Church.

Revd Liz & Sue Thorn

Harvest Festival Sunday 4 October It is our practice to decorate the church for our Harvest Festival. If anyone who would like to decorate (floral or otherwise) a window to celebrate Harvest this year I would love to hear from you! Sunday School and Mothers Union have kindly taken ownership of a window each. My thanks do go to Judith Wakeling who supports me in ensuring we keep fresh flowers at our Chapter House entrance as part of an important welcome to all who visit our church, and also to those who have kindly donated money to enable us to have fresh floral displays especially for our major festivals. I would VERY much welcome anyone who would like to be involved with window displays either regularly or on an adhoc basis. Many Thanks, *Lucy Dilley 07800577106 lucydilley18@gmail.com*

Mafambisa Team 2026

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Mafambisa feedback session last Sunday, your support, through donations and prayers, makes a real difference. The blog is still open if you'd like to read about past trips and follow the journey we've shared together.

Team Africa 2026

A Historic Day On Saturday 19 September, the Rt Revd Dr. Andrew Rumsey was installed as the 11th Bishop of St Albans. It was a day of great joy as a full cathedral warmly greeted our new Bishop and over a thousand joined online from around the world. It was a very special moment when the Archbishop of Canterbury's mandate was read and the Archdeacon of Canterbury placed Bishop Andrew in his cathedra. Each part of the service symbolised not only the ministry of the Bishop, but also our shared ministry as the Diocese of St Albans. The welcome from all those gathered was resounding!

To read more: <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/News/installation-of-the-11th-bishop-of-st-albans-news>



MU Meetings and Events Wednesday 7 October 2pm in the Ivel Room. Meeting. Speaker: Bobbie Ball on Army Life. Followed by cake, of course. All welcome! Join us, join in.

Saturday 17 October 10.30am-3pm Quiet Day. Theme: the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis.

A curtain of poppies: We would like to make a curtain of knitted or crocheted poppies for Remembrance Sunday and invite everyone to contribute. Please bring any crafted items to church by the end of October.

Maggie McLoughlin and Rosamund Drakes

St Andrew's Country Fayre The Country Fayre committee would like to thank everyone involved in any way to this year's Country Fayre and Exhibition. We are delighted to confirm we have raised £5000. This sum is equally split between our two chosen charities – Cruse Bereavement and Homestart, Bedfordshire. We hope to present cheques to them both in a few weeks time after a Sunday morning 10am service. If you enjoyed being part of this event, one of our churches main outreach activity and would like to join a small team who plan and organise it you would be VERY welcome, no particular skills required other than like to be part of an active Team in outreaching to our local community and supporting worthy charities in doing so! Please speak to one of this year's team. Next year's Fayre takes place on Saturday 18 September 2027 - it's never too early to let us know you would like to help.

Lucy, Oliver and Noah Dilley, Jane Parker, Sue Cleghorn, Nick Gurney and Carolyn Marron

Biggleswade Deanery Project 2025-2026 Following the visit to St Andrew's Church by Teresha Clark, Founding Director of Triumph Heart, and her daughters on Sunday 19 July, we are pleased to report that £2,116.12 has now been sent to Triumph Heart. The sum represents the amount collected by the 19 churches of the Biggleswade Deanery, having selected Triumph Heart as our Deanery Project; and also, our parish Lent Giving 2026. Based in Jinja, Uganda, the charity endeavours to restore hope, dignity and opportunity to children with disabilities, and their families. Teresha recently emailed: "We are very excited to be able to give out the special equipment, so many new children are attending our clinics now. We can increase our services as of next month due to fundraising in the UK over the summer. We have recently started a new blog <https://triumphheart.blogspot.com/?m=1> if you are interested."

Rosemary Bentley, Biggleswade Deanery Lay Chair

Children's Society Boxes

Thank you to those of you who sent in your children's society boxes. Rosemary and I opened them recently and I am pleased to say that together with donations from the Mothers Union in memory of Janet Castle and cash left at her funeral we will be sending a cheque for £492.01 to the Children's Society.

Rob Butcher, Church warden and Children's Society link

Shoebox Appeal 2026

Unfortunately due to illness on the team, the Rotary Shoebox Appeal will not be functioning for the next two years. Having done research, I have decided to use Teams4U—a charity we have used before. The scheme is very similar to Rotary and they send to the same countries. The cost of a shoebox including transportation is £4. The age categories are 3-5yrs, 6-11yrs and 12+. They also send household boxes. All items need to be new or as new (no liquids). If you feel that you cannot fill a shoebox but would like be involved, a donation would be very welcome.

Mary Dominey

A Prayer

Thank you for the seasons we can count on, find routine in, and that will never cease while the earth remains.

As we enter into autumn, when the cooler winds drift in and the days grow shorter, draw us closer to you. Let us feel your warm and loving presence. May we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency when the world around us seems to be constantly changing. Thank you for your loving kindness that engulfs us and your light that drives the darkness away.

We praise you for being a God who loves us and takes care of us.

We are grateful you are with us in all circumstances and seasons.

Amen.

Future Dates

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| 11 October | 6pm Songs of Praise Church Fundraiser – <i>(see details above)</i> |
| 17 October | 10.30am-3pm Quiet Day—Theme: the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis |
| 18 October | 11:45am Friends of St Andrews AGM |
| | 5:30pm Taize Service, Cockayne Hatley |
| 24 October | 1pm 'Come and sing' Frank, Franc and Faure (see notice in foyer for details) |
| | 7:30pm Frank, Franc and Faure concert (see notice in foyer for details) |
| 1 November | 6pm All Souls' Evensong |

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All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets: office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk by **Tuesdays, 11am**