



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BIGGLESWADE

Worshipping God with joy, growing in faith, serving with love, and welcoming all



Advent Sunday Toy Gift Service

3 December 2023

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Paul addresses a community with many problems, encouraging grace and peace

Mark 13.24-37 Jesus speaks about the final coming of the Son of Man

10.00 am Family Communion

Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 861 3500 8616.
Passcode: 599753
Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

12.45 pm Sunday Lunch
6.00 pm Advent Service of Light

Church will be closed each week from Monday to Friday to allow for Heating Replacement Work. Thursday Morning Services will be held in the Chapter House, Sunday Morning Services will be held in Church.

Revd Liz and Churchwardens

This Week

Monday 4 December

7.30 pm Advent House Group

Tuesday 5 December

7.30 pm Finance Committee

Thursday 7 December

9.30 am Holy Communion,
followed by coffee, Chapter House

Readings:

Isaiah 26.1-6
Matthew 7.21, 24-27

10.30-12.30pm Warm Spaces, Chapter House

10.45 - 12noon Advent Reading Group

7.00-8.30pm 10plus Youth Group, Chapter House

7.30-9.00pm 12plus Youth Group, Chapter House

Saturday 9 December

10.00-12noon Coffee Shop/Warm Spaces, Chapter House
Wreath Making and Lunch Fundraiser, St John's Room

3.30 - 5.30 pm Bellringers District Meeting.

Sunday 10 December Second Sunday after Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion followed by coffee, Chapter House

6.00pm Sunday @ 6

7.30-9.00pm 16plus Youth Group, Chapter House

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

Churchwardens:

Dr. Robert Butcher (01767 313789)

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

Parish Administrator:

Mandy Anning (01767 317207) secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk



Facebook: @StAndrewsBiggleswade



Instagram: @StAndrewsBiggleswade

All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to **office@standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk** by **Tuesdays, 11.00 am**

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

bookings@standrewschurchbw.org.uk



Requesting our Prayers: Sylvia Rutt, Jackie Coyles, Ian Pearson, Woody Sim, Philip Hickin, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Ian Cobban, Val Scott and Paul Bennett.

Continue to Pray for: Pauline Pryor, Jane Parker, Philip Pettit

Mafambisa. We pray for 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 children: Sinethemba, Surprise, Nancy, Makabongwe, Prince, Shantheli
www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk

We pray for the souls of all the recently departed; Walter Martin, George Green and 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: 3rd Rosie Whittaker, 6th Betty Cox, 7th Heather Snell, 8th Doris Turner, 9th James Donovan.

A Very Big Thank You to all who helped with our Nativity Festival and Bazaar, whether you donated goods, ran a stall, displayed a crib set, helped in the kitchen, stewarded the display, helped set up or tidy up, put up a poster, handed out leaflets or spent your money on the day. The event ran smoothly and it was such a good event for outreach and fundraising. Thanks to businesses, Surfin Café, Maxwells, the Fruit and Veg Man and Shuttleworth for donated raffle prizes. A total of £1,400 was raised: thank you again. *Anna and Andrew Rutt.*

Wreath Making—9th December 10-1pm St. John's Room, please sign up using sheet in foyer. Places are limited, please make a donation to our heating appeal. The morning will end with Soup and crusty bread. See Chris Parker for further details. If you are able to donate any greenery, berries, cones etc for the event, we would be very grateful. Please bring it to church on Friday 8th or Saturday 9th. Thanks. *Hilary Johnson.*

Edward Peake C of E Middle School Invite you to their ECO Christmas Fayre Saturday 9 December 10.00 am –2.00 pm. Free Admission.

Carols as we Remember Departed Loved Ones. Tuesday 12 December, 7.00pm, in the Chapter House. Carols, candles, sharing memories, and refreshments, as we remember departed loved ones. All Welcome.

Advent Course Advent begins at the beginning of December. We will be running Advent Groups on Thursdays after the Holy Communion service, and also on Monday evenings as a house group at 33 Beech Avenue. (johndilley@gmail.com) We will be using a book called "The Advent Manifesto: Daily Readings and Reflections from Isaiah and Luke" by Martyn Percy this costs £9.00. Please sign the list in the foyer and indicate if you would like to purchase a book! *Growth and Mission Group.*

Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar Again this year we'd like to invite you to put aside one item per day for the food bank Christmas packs. Tins and packets of food items, toiletries (possibly cleaning items) not necessarily with a Christmas flavour, but something to make someone's Christmas a bit brighter. Your donations need to be brought to church or delivered to Preen by **Friday 15th December** so the staff can sort and distribute them up to Friday 22nd. We can still take items after this date, but they won't go out until after the Christmas break. Alternatively, you could consider a 12 Days of Christmas donation in January, adding items until 12th Night. Just a thought.... *Maggie McLoughlin.*

MU Christmas Soup Lunch Thursday 21st December 12-2pm. Seasonal additions, including mulled wine. *Maggie McLoughlin.*

Advent and Christmas 2023 Parish News Is now available to view on the Church website or in print. If you know someone who would appreciate a copy delivered please see me or phone 01767 310394, leaving a message if I'm not at home. *Sue Oldroyd.*

Shoebbox Christmas Stall I will be having my usual Christmas Stall for the Shoebbox Appeal on Saturday 9th December during Coffee Shop and the Wreath-making fundraiser, and again after the 10.00am service the following day. *Mary Dominey.*

Shoebbox Appeal Last Tuesday morning our shoeboxes were collected and taken on the first part of their journey to the Rotary warehouse in Rochdale. We sent 70 individual boxes and 210 communal boxes. I will let you know their final destination in due course. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing project. *Mary Dominey.*

Heating System and Cleaning the Church We are now approaching the end of our heating project and we must thank God for the excellent and timely job that all the contractors have delivered. There are still a few building type jobs that need to be completed and so workmen will be on site for the next couple of weeks. We are also in the process of organising some high level cleaning of the church. We will also need to organise our own cleaning of the church from Saturday 9th onwards. Please sign the cleaning list to say you can help on Saturday or one of the days during the week. There will be job sheets of areas to be cleaned. *The Vicar and Churchwardens.*

Nativity Tableau Our Nativity Tableau will be on Saturday 23rd December in the Market Square and we would encourage everyone to come along and enjoy telling the story of Christmas to the market shoppers on that day! We will also need people to set up, people to take part in the tableau, and people to sing. Please sign the list on the noticeboard.

Carols on the Lawn and Carols at Sullivan Court Back in Covid days we began to meet and sing Carols on the lawn outside Church, this proved very popular and so we repeated it last year and will again this on Wednesday 20 December at 6pm. This will be accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies. In addition to the above, on Thursday 21 December we will also be singing carols in Kings Reach square (Sullivan Court) this will be between 5.30 and 6.30 pm. Please come along and spread Christmas Joy at both events.

Future Dates

Tuesday 12 December	7.00 pm	Carols, Remembering our Dearly Departed
Thursday 14 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45—12noon	Advent Reading Group
	7.00pm	Youth Group End of Term Christmas Party, Chapter House
Wednesday 20 December	6.00pm	Carols in the Church grounds
Thursday 21 December	12.00-2.00pm	MU Christmas Soup Lunch
	5.30 –6.30pm	Carol Singing, Sullivan Court, Kings Reach
Sunday 24 December	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December	10.00am	Christmas Parish Communion
Sunday 3rd February	3.00pm	Christingle Service.

Warm Spaces From Thursday 2nd November "Warm Spaces" will be open on Thursdays from 10.30 – 12.30 and Saturdays from 10.00am until 12noon and ending Saturday 23rd March 2024. Please sign up on the rota sheet in the foyer if you are able to help. Thank you. *Revd Liz and Churchwardens.*

Parking Can we please request that church users of the car park do not "double park" especially at service times, thus blocking other users from exiting in a timely fashion. There have been a couple of instances brought to our attention which have caused a problem recently. *Rob Butcher, Chris Parker, Churchwardens*

MAFAMBISA PARTNERSHIP

We receive weekly updates from Hands at Work - from different communities via WhatsApp. If you would like to receive these I will add you to the WhatsApp group. Please text your mobile number to Chris on 07702 250776 or email on chris2parker@btinternet.com

www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk



Used Postage Stamps

Please keep collecting these for me to take to St. John's Hospice; it is important especially at this time that we give them all the support possible.
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. 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 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. *Thanks.*

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)

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

Churchwardens:

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

Dr. Robert Butcher (01767 313789)

Facebook: @StAndrewsBiggleswade

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

Instagram: @StAndrewsBiggleswade
