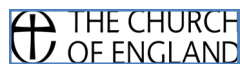




ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



PARISH NEWS



Advent
Christmas
Epiphany.

PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE.

Vicar:	Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong, The Vicarage, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT. Tel: 01767 312243, vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
Licensed Lay Minister:	Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com
Churchwardens:	Chris Parker: 07702 250776, chris2parker@btinternet.com Nettie van de Weerd: 07767 711353, wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
Organist :	Robert Butcher: 313789.
Interim Choir Director:	Robert Butcher: 313789.
Administration Assistant:	Susan Thorn 01767 317207 secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Notices for inclusion in the Weekly Pew Sheets to be emailed or handed in by by Tuesday 11.00 am.
PCC Secretary:	Vacant.
PCC Treasurer:	Andrew Rutt: 313387, treasurer@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder:	Adrian Maynard: 312347.
Parish Magazine Editorial:	Margaret Spinner: 315793 Brenda Thorpe: 318568 Sue Oldroyd: 310394 Mary Dominey: 312939
The Friends:	Vacant.
Bible Reading:	Contact: Judith Thatcher: 01767 312588.
Mothers' Union:	Contact: Maggie McLoughlin 07866 506195 (text preferred). 1st Wednesday of the month @2pm.

LETTER FROM OUR LAY MINISTER.

As we approach Christmas and Epiphany.

Car parks ever busier, wonderful Christmas displays in our retail outlets, garden centres, the Market Square, and High Street: some festive dining at restaurants and hotels already fully booked, likewise online delivery slots, perhaps an opportunity to gather with family and friends for a Christmas pantomime, or festive production. All signs that the 25th December is rapidly approaching.

Opening my new 2026 Church Desk Diary, I am reminded that Advent Sunday, this year falls on 30th November, our Patronal Festival at St Andrew's Church: during the next few weeks please note details of our services not only in Church, but also more widely in our town on the Market Square, and carols in the heart of our newer residential developments.

During the busyness of the approach to the festivities, may we occasionally pause to sustain ourselves by taking time for our own wellbeing and spiritual enrichment, drawing upon the Bible's rich resources. Referring to just three Canticles which are an integral part of Common Worship daily prayer in the Church of England: **The Benedictus**, Luke 1.68-79, **The Magnificat**, Luke 1.46-55, and **The Nunc Dimittis**, Luke 2.29-32. In the Benedictus, an integral part of Morning Prayer, Zechariah gives thanks for the birth of John the Baptist; whilst the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis are central to Evening Prayer. The former is Mary's song of praise following Gabriel's news that she has been chosen as the Mother of God's Son: the latter the elderly Simeon's response to coming face to face with the infant Jesus visiting the Temple, the fulfilment of Israel's hopes and longings. Each of these Canticles speak of hope for the future and are wonderful prayers.

May I suggest that during the season of Advent, and the busyness and demands as the Christmas festival approaches, we take time to make provision for short periods of rest and refreshment to discover, or re-discover, these inspirational scriptural songs. God-willing the hopes and possibilities and challenges that each Canticle contains may be our prayer, too, as we journey towards the joyful festivals of Christmas and Epiphany.

In conclusion, I share with you some thoughts from Jane, Bishop of Hertford, during the final session of the 2025 Diocesan Synod: “I encourage us to see where God is moving and with courage to hear things which might make us think differently. I also want to encourage us to come together with the fruit of the Spirit, and most particularly with kindness. In Galatians chapter 5 verses 22-23, Paul writes to the church in Galatia, ‘The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**’ Our society now could do with rediscovering this fruit of the Spirit, to rediscover kindness, and dare I say it, so could the church... I commend to you the simple principle of **kindness**, through which we can build one another up and be a blessing to our churches, communities and society.”

With all good wishes and every blessing for Christmas and 2026.

Rosemary, Licensed Lay Minister

Launde Abbey on St Lucy's Day, 13 December – Malcolm Guite

St. Lucy's day is brief and bright with frost,
In round cupped dew ponds shallow waters freeze,
Delicate fronds and rushes are held fast,
The low sun brings a contrast to the trees

Whose naked branches, dark against the skies
And fringed with glory by the light behind,
In patterns too severe for tired eyes,
Burn their bright beauty on the weary mind.
Saint Lucy's sun still bathes these abbey walls
And in her garden rose stalks stark and bare
Shine in a frosty light that yet recalls
The glory of the summer roses there.
Though winter night will soon surround us here,
Another Advent comes, Dayspring is near.

Christmas: On the Edge – Malcolm Guite

Christmas sets the centre on the edge;
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,
The fringe of empire, far from privilege
And power, on the edge and outer spin
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars
That edge a galaxy itself light years
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.

And from this day our world is re-aligned
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb
Becomes the source from which we all unfold
And flower into being. We are healed,
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,
For now in him all things are re-aligned.

DIARY:

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

NOVEMBER.

Patronal and Advent.

Sun 30th	10.00 am	Patronal Festival Parish Communion.
	6.00 pm	Service of Light

DECEMBER.

During Advent. Mondays – 1st, 8th, 15th

	7.00 pm	Night Prayer in Church.
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Second Sunday of Advent

Sun 7th	8.00 am	Holy Communion [<i>Order II Traditional</i>].
	10.00 am	All Together Parish Communion.

Wed 17th	6.00 pm	Carols on the Church Lawn.
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Thur 18th	6.00 pm	Christmas Carols at Sullivan Court, Kings Reach, SG18 8SX. then
	7.00 pm	Collings Crescent Play Area, St Andrew's Park, SG18 0PZ, followed by refreshments and fellowship at Kings Reach Inn, if desired.

Sat 20th	10.30 am-12 noon	Nativity Tableau, Biggleswade Market Square.
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	7.30 pm	Biggleswade and District Choral Society Concert.
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Sun 21st	6.00 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
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CHRISTMAS EVE.

Tue 24th	6.00 pm	Crib Service and Nativity.
	11.00 pm	Carols at the Screen.
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Wed 25th	10.00 am	Festival Parish Communion.
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JANUARY 2026.

The Epiphany

Sun 4th	8.00 am	Holy Communion [<i>Order II Traditional</i>].
	10.00am	All Together Communion.

FEBRUARY.

Presentation of Christ.

Sun 1st	8.00 am	Holy Communion [<i>Order II Traditional</i>].
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Candlemas.

10.00 am	All Together Parish Communion.
3.00 pm	Christingle Service.

Ash Wednesday.

Wed 18th	7.30 pm	Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes.
Thur 19th	9.30 am	Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes.

**Warm welcome for all,
usual pattern of worship at St Andrew's:**

Sundays:

10.00 am. Parish Communion, with Sunday School during term time, followed by coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House.

Thursdays:

9.30 am. Holy Communion, followed by coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House.

Get in Touch

**We are always welcoming to new members, please speak to
Rev. Liz, our Vicar, Rosemary our Lay Minister
or Chris and Nettie, our Churchwardens,
or any of our welcomers at our services.**

PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM:

‘Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. Amen.’

Sunday 12th October – Alfred Raymond Andrews.

Sunday 16th November – Ellias Gary Baker

Sunday 16th November – Alexander George Frederick Smith.



FUNERALS:

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’ John 11.25,26.

Tuesday 14th October – David William Loveridge.

Friday 17th October – Paul Kenneth Prior.

Wednesday 26th November – Iris Nicholls.

Thursday 27th November – Maureen Lilian Sibley



OUR VISION:

Christ-Centred,
Welcoming,
Inclusive,
Outward-Looking.



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Nettie van de Weerd 07767 711353
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Hilary Johnson: 220533 hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: (PSO)

Helen Tranter: safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk – 07951554484

Church P.A: Nick Gurney 07711 957122, nick@gurneyfamily.co.uk

Bell Ringers: Charlotte Smith 01462 700676,
charlotte.m.smith@pobroadband.co.uk.

Brass Cleaning: Rosemary Jopson 313503.

Church Flowers: Please contact Lucy Dilley 07800 577106
lucydilley18@gmail.com.

Chapter House Queries: Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 or
bookings@biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk.

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

Sunday School:

Groups meet during the 10.00 am service on Sundays during term time.

Contact: Emma Pallett 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com

Uniformed Organisations – For all Girl Guiding please register first via: girlguiding.org.uk

Rainbow Guides:

‘1st Biggleswade’ (St Andrew’s). Meet on Wednesdays from 5.30 pm to 6.40 pm during term time. Contact: firstbiggleswaderainbows@hotmail.com.

‘2nd Biggleswade’ Meet on Mondays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm during term time. Contact: Joanna McMurray, jlmcmurray@hotmail.co.uk.

Brownie Guides:

‘1st Biggleswade’ (St Andrew’s) Meet on Mondays from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm during term time. Contact: Babs Gurney, Leader.

Guides:

‘1st Biggleswade’ (St Andrew’s) Meet on Wednesdays from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm during term time. Contact: Rachel Calver.

Youth Organisations:

‘The Kitchen’: School year 9 & above meets Sundays 7.30 pm. Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 – chris2parker@btinternet.com or Emma Pallett 01767 319146 – emmapallett@hotmail.co.uk

10+ (Afters): For young people in School years 5 & 6 meets on Thursdays 6.00 pm. Contact: Claire Leeks – 07484 684743 or Mandy Anning – aamandy@aol.com.

12+: For young people in School years 7 & 8 meets on Thursdays, 7.30 pm. Contact: Peter Giles peterdgiles@gmail.com

14+: For young people in School years 9 & 10 meets on Thursdays 7.30 pm. Contact: Chris Parker – 07702 250776 or Emma Pallett – 01767 319146.

Holiday Club: Runs for four days during the Summer Holidays. Contact: Emma Pallett on 01767 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com.

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk



@StAndrewsBiggleswade



@standrewsbiggleswade



St Andrew