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www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

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 **@StAndrewsBiggleswade**

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St Andrew



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE

PARISH NEWS

Advent and Christmas

2022



PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE

Vicar:	Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong The Vicarage, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT. Tel: 01767 312243 vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
Readers:	Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com Colin Dixon: 317245 colindixon46@gmail.com
Churchwarden:	Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com
Churchwarden:	Robert Butcher: 313789 robertdocbutcher@gmail.com
Parish Secretary:	Natalie Robinson 317207 secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Notices for inclusion in the Weekly Notices to be emailed or handed in by Tuesday 11.00 am.
Organist :	Robert Butcher: 313789
Interim Choir Director:	Robert Butcher: 313789
PCC Secretary:	Ruth Marshall-Jones 316153 rmarshalljones@yahoo.co.uk
PCC Treasurer:	Andrew Rutt 313387 treasurer@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
Stewardship Recorder:	Adrian Maynard: 312347
Parish Magazine Editorial:	Margaret Spinner 315793 vespinner@gmail.com Sue Oldroyd 310394 sueoldroyd663@gmail.com Mary Dominey: 312939 mary@dominey.me.uk Harriet Shannon 222152 Brenda Thorpe 318568
The Friends:	Contact: Philip Rutt 601833
Bible Reading:	Booklets offering daily Bible readings and reflection. Contact: Derek Whinnett 222474

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

Sunday School:

Groups meet during the 10.00 am service on Sundays. 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 Sunday 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 Chris Parker (details above) or Claire Leeks 07484 684743
Claire.leeks@btinternet.com

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

Holiday Club: Runs for four days during the Summer Holidays and usually a one-
day event at Easter. Contact: Emma Pallett 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Mark Simmons 227346
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Andrew Whatling

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Hilary Johnson 220533 hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk
Mr Andrew Whatling

Safeguarding Officer

Vaughan Johnson 220533 vaughan@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

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

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

Brass Cleaning Rota: Contact: Rosemary Jopson 313503.

Church Flowers Rota: Contact: Jan Gardner 313124.

VICAR'S LETTER

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all love, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

With this wonderful imagery, Christina Rossetti starts one of her Christmas poems. Immediately we are pointed towards the birth of Jesus, in a stable in Bethlehem, loving coming down, the heart of Christmas. The birth of Jesus marks new life for all humanity and creation. You will not need me to tell you that the scene presented on most of our Christmas cards simply doesn't bear much relationship to the actual birth of Jesus! What many Christmas cards do have though is an area of light, in colour or glitter, or something shining, reminding us of Jesus, the light that shines in the darkness, which the darkness will not overcome (John 1:5). Christmas cards and poems, singing carols, and Christmas lights, lead us to an understanding of the light which Jesus brings into the world – the light of God's love for each one of us.

When St. Francis of Assisi introduced the first crib using live people and animals in 1223, he wanted to remind everyone what Christmas was really about. He was concerned that too many people were drawn to the materialism of the age – not focusing on the things that really matter. If you pop over to St. Andrew's Church during the Christmas season, you will find our own crib – a gentle reminder that the baby Jesus at the heart of the scene transforms the tinsel and lights of Christmas into the knowledge of the reality of God's love for each one of us. Jesus, Emmanuel, Love, born at Christmas, a vulnerable baby, in difficult times.

We see and hear about so much in the world which shocks and troubles us. Covid has certainly played a major part in this over the past couple of years. We've watched with increasing horror as the people of Ukraine battle and flee for survival, people forced to make impossible choices in the face of war, increasing numbers of migrants seeking

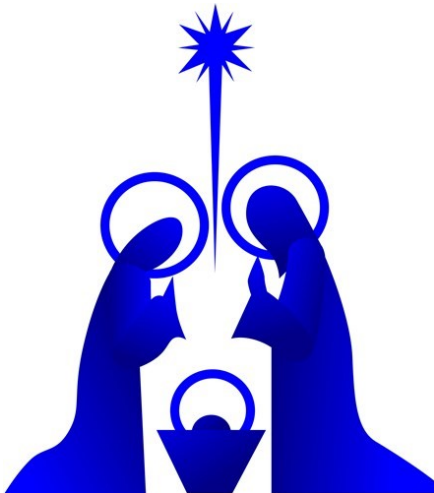
refuge on our shores and in our communities, and we are all too aware of living with the knock-on effects of that crisis on food and energy supplies all around the world, adding to the pressures on food and energy costs. We hear again and again the devastating effects of climate change that can no longer be ignored. We are urged to ‘wake up’ in this season of Advent, as we are being called to act differently for our today, and for one another’s tomorrows. Warm Spaces across Biggleswade as part of the national initiative and ‘Reverse Advent Calendars’ collecting food items for PREEN are just some of the ways we can encourage one another to care for others’ needs this winter.

Our celebration of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus assures us of one unshakeable truth: that Emmanuel’ – God is with us – with us in each of our situations – is something to celebrate and give thanks for. In our day to day lives we are all called to be signs of hope in a troubled and hurting world. Could the gift of hope be the best gift we can give this Christmas?

God of Hope, may we sing like the angels, may we be amazed like the shepherds, may we like the innkeeper offer something for others in need, and, like the wise men, may we come to worship the new-born King this Christmas.

May I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year from all at St. Andrew’s, Biggleswade.

Rev. Liz Oglesby-Elong.



DIARY:

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2022

Advent Sunday

Sun 27th 6.00 pm Advent Service of Darkness into Light.

December:

Thurs 1st 7.00 pm East Bedfordshire Chamber Choir Christmas Carol Concert in Church, followed by refreshments in Church.

Wed 14th 7.30 pm Carols for Remembrance, followed by refreshments in Chapter House *{kindly hosted by Woodmans’ Funeral Directors}*

Sat 17th 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Nativity Tableaux, Market Square.

Sat 17th 7.30 pm Biggleswade Choral Society Concert

Sun 18th 6.00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tue 20th 6.00 pm ‘Carols on the Lawn’ to include mulled wine and seasonal refreshments.

Christmas Eve:

Sat 24th 6.00 pm Crib Service

Sat 24th 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

Sun 25th 10.00 am **Parish Communion**

January 2023

Sun 8th 8.00 am Holy Communion – Order Two Traditional Worship

Sun 8th 10.00 am Epiphany Family Holy Communion

Sun 29th 3.00 pm Christingle