



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE

PARISH NEWS

Holy Week and Easter

2023



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.
Organist :	Robert Butcher: 313789
Interim Choir Director:	Robert Butcher: 313789
Weekly Notices:	All copies for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk by Tuesdays, 11.00 am or handed into the Vicarage.
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 News:	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

VICAR'S LETTER

“Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green”

(Hymn words written by John Macleod Campbell Crum 1872-1958)

Dear Friends,

I can't tell you how much I enjoy noticing the spring flowers coming up, a simple, real joy and a lift to my heart in this season of Lent as winter and spring weather wrestle for dominance. One day we are wrapping up, walking in snow blizzards, and the next shedding a few layers, basking in early spring sunshine, warming our hearts and the frozen ground, as new life stirs in the natural world, rekindling our hope once again. As fellow pilgrims on the road, we journey in love through the season of Lent, preparing our hearts and lives for the closer walk with our Lord in Holy Week; through his passion and sufferings, his death on the cross, burial in a tomb, to the silent waiting of Holy Saturday, before the early morning joy of the Resurrection on Easter Day. As the hymn words remind us:

“Forth he came at Easter, like risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
Back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green”.

I find it interesting that the story of Easter morning takes place in a garden. Early in the morning Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb, where she saw the body of Jesus being laid on Good Friday. To her dismay she finds that the tomb is now empty, and she jumps to the conclusion that someone has stolen the body. In her distress she hurries to find Peter and another disciple to tell them what she has found. They run to the tomb to confirm this news, and return to their

homes, leaving Mary standing beside the tomb, crying. Then two amazing events happen. Firstly, as Mary looks again into the tomb, she sees two angels, who ask her why she is weeping. Then, when she turns around, she encounters the Risen Lord. At first she thinks he is the gardener. But when he calls her name she realizes the wonderful truth that Jesus is risen from the dead, and joy fills her heart. All this takes place in the setting of a garden.

The word garden is mentioned many times in the Bible and is often used as a metaphor to describe our relationship with God. This is a fruitful image for Christian spirituality as we cultivate the gardens of our own hearts. But beautiful gardens don't just happen. They take a lot of time and work, pulling up weeds, cutting back, the planting of seeds for flowers, fruits, and vegetables, all to be watered and cared for, encouraging growth. Lent gives us opportunity to attend to our spiritual lives, as we are encouraged to grow deeper into God, holding onto the promise "you shall be like a watered garden" (Isaiah 58:11). Wherever we find ourselves this Lent, however our hearts may be, in preparation for Easter we are to be encouraged, making way for new life to spring up green:

“When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,

Then your touch can call us back to life again,

Field of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green”.

The Easter Garden was an earthy place of simplicity and of profound encounter with Jesus and Mary. May our hearts be cultivated through our Lenten pilgrimage of prayer and discipline, that we may grow in grace and learn to be God's people once again. May our hearts be open to encounter with our Lord, such that we listen, and hear God calling us by name, so that our lives may be transformed by the joy of the resurrection at Easter.

Love *will* come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Happy Easter, when it comes!

With joy, Revd. Liz

DIARY: HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday.

- Sun 2nd 9.45 am Liturgy of Palms. Congregation meet on the Market Square and then process to the Church.
- Sun 2nd 10.00 am Parish Communion to include dramatic Gospel reading – Matthew

Holy Week:

- Mon 3rd 7.30 pm Compline and Address: “The Sins of the World” based on Archbishop Stephen Cottrell’s narrative, “The Things He Carried”.
- Tue 4th 7.30 pm Compline and Address: “Our Sorrows” based on Archbishop Stephen Cottrell’s narrative, “The Things He Carried”.
- Wed 5th 7.30 pm Compline and Address: “A Broken Heart” based on Archbishop Stephen Cottrell’s narrative, “The Things He Carried”.

Maundy Thursday

- Thur 6th 7.30 pm Sung Eucharist and Foot Washing followed by the Watch until Midnight.

Good Friday

- Fri 7th 10.30 am Procession of Witness leaving Dan Albone car park followed by Good Friday worship in the Market Square.

Easter Eve

- Sat 8th 8.00 pm Paschal Ceremony

Easter Day

- Sun 9th 8.00 am Holy Communion.
- 10.00 am Festival Parish Communion

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rosemary Bentley 313517
romybentley@aol.com
Robert Butcher 313789
robertdocbutcher@gmail.com
Paul Daniels 316153
Paulj.daniels@btinternet.com
Oliver Dilley 07914 341922
oliver.dilley3@gmail.com
Vivienne Gayfer 225898
viviennejayfer184@gmail.com
Vaughan Johnson 220533
vaughan@vaughanjohnson.me.uk
Hilary Johnson 220533
hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

Rob Lackey 07885 966152
rob.lackey4@gmail.com
Claire Leeks 07484 684743
claire.leeks@btinternet.com
Ruth Marshall-Jones 316153
rmarshalljones@yahoo.co.uk
Chris Parker 07702 250776
chris2parker@btinternet.com
David Pilgrim 316877
judapilgrim@btinternet.com
Andrew Rutt 313387
andrew.rutt@btinternet.com
Mark Simmons 227346
mark.simmons93@outlook.com
Andrew Whatling

Deanery Synod Members

Rosemary Bentley 313517 romybentley@aol.com
Hilary Johnson 220533 hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk
Mr Andrew Whatling

Safeguarding Officer

Vaughan Johnson 220533 vaughan@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

Church P.A. Contact: 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.

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 peterdgiles@gmail.com

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

Chapter House Queries: Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 or email

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

or



[@StAndrewsBiggleswade](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsBiggleswade)



[@standrewsbiggleswade](https://www.instagram.com/standrewsbiggleswade)

