



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



PARISH NEWS



Holy Week and Easter 2026

PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE.

Vicar: 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.

Churchwarden: Nettie van de Weerd: 07767 711353,
wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk.

Organist: Robert Butcher: 313789

Interim Choir
Director: Robert Butcher: 313789

Administration
Assistant: Sue Thorn: 01767 317207,
secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk,
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
10.00am-1.00pm. Notices for inclusion in
the Weekly Pew Sheet to be emailed or
handed in by Tuesday 11.00am.

PCC Secretary: Harriet Shannon, 222152.

PCC Treasurer: Andrew Rutt, 313387,
treasurer@standrewschurchbw.org.uk.

Stewardship: Adrian Maynard, 312347.

Parish Magazine: Margaret Spinner: 315793, Sue Oldroyd:
Editorial Team: 310394, Mary Dominey: 312939, and
Brenda Thorpe.

The Friends': Andrew Rutt, 313387.

Bible Reading: Judith Thatcher 312588.

Mothers' Union: Maggie McLoughlin 07866 506195 (text
preferred). 1st Wed of the month
@2.00pm.

LETTER FROM OUR LICENSED LAY MINISTER.

“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.” Matthew 28.5.6

The most important week in the church’s liturgical year begins on Palm Sunday, 29th March, with the distribution of palm crosses in the market square, followed by Parish Communion in Church, including the dramatic reading of the St Matthew’s Passion Narrative when we recall our Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding a donkey along a palm strewn route. Palm crosses are blessed, we sing, “Ride on, ride in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.”

During the first three days of Holy Week at 7.00 pm, Night Prayer, a short service lasting no more than 30 minutes, will be said. We then enter the “**Triduum**”, the holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve. Our observance of these significant days reflects the practice of the early Church in the observations of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection in Jerusalem. The Triduum is one liturgy in three parts; one hopes that these special services will be a priority for our parish.

On Thursday 2nd April, the clergy, and Licenced Lay Ministers and Readers make their way to St Albans Cathedral; the Chrism Mass begins at 11.00 am, with an opportunity to renew their ordination and ministerial vows, all are welcome to join the congregation. During this service, the Oils are blessed and distributed for use in our parishes. When Simon Peter acknowledged Jesus as “the Christ,” [Mark 8.29] he recognised him as God’s “Anointed One.” The title

which belonged to the anointed kings of Israel is now confirmed on Jesus, who was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism. From an early date it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the heads of those being baptised, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism. At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil, [James 5.15], as a sign of healing and forgiveness.

On Maundy Thursday our evening Sung Eucharist is followed by the stripping of the altars, the church is bare and unadorned, and the reserved sacrament reposes in the garden prepared on the Memorial Altar – our Garden of Gethsemane. We leave Church in silence, but are also invited to keep the Watch until midnight, following our Lord's invitation to his disciples, "could you not watch with me one hour?" Then follows an ecumenical Good Friday Walk of Witness and service in the market square, and at 1.30 pm the solemn liturgy of Good Friday, a poignant but simple act of worship, centres upon the Cross as we hear the account of the Passion in John's Gospel, pray and if desired receive communion, not celebrated on the day itself, but reserved from Maundy Thursday.

The Easter Eve Paschal Ceremony, an ancient Vigil service, is one of the earliest known liturgies of Christian worship and celebrates the coming of Christ in his resurrection on the first day of the week. Outside the new fire is blessed and new light is brought into Church as the Paschal Candle is carried through the nave to the sanctuary. We listen to the Good News of God and are invited to renew our baptismal vows. The conclusion of Holy Week before we prepare to celebrate the Risen Christ during our **Festival Parish Communion on Easter Day.**

A happy and blessed Easter to you all. *Rosemary Bentley.*

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 18th January – Evie Sophie Iris 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.

2025

Thursday 4th December – Maurice Charles Law.

Monday 22nd December – Beatrice Vera Elizabeth De Quincey.

Monday 29th December – Joyce Irene Carr.

2026

Wednesday 28th January – Martin John Smith.

Wednesday 11th February – Sylvia Joan Lowther.

Tuesday 24th February – Christopher Parker.

Tuesday 10th March – Gillian McSweeney

Friday 20th March – Alan Buck

DIARY: HOLY WEEK, EASTER AND PENTECOST.

March.

Palm Sunday.

| | | |
|----------|----------|--|
| Sun 29th | 9.45 am | Blessing of Palms in the Market Square. |
| | 10.00 am | Parish Communion to include dramatic St Matthew's Passion. Dramatized reading. |

Holy Week.

Mon 30th 7.00 pm Night Prayer.

Tue 31st 7.00 pm Night Prayer.

April.

Wed 1st 7.00 pm Night Prayer.

Maundy Thursday.

Thur 2nd 7.30 pm Holy Communion, Hand Washing, Watch of the Night until midnight.

Good Friday.

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| Fri 3rd | 10.00 am | Churches Together in Biggleswade Walk of Witness, please join along the route. |
| | 10.05 am | Depart from Sullivan Court, Kings Reach. |
| | 10.25 am | Stratton School. |
| | 10.40 am | Biggleswade Baptist Church. |
| | 11.00 am | Ecumenical Service, Biggleswade Market Square – led by the Baptist Church. |
| | 1.30-3.00 pm | Good Friday Liturgy, including St John's Passion Dramatized reading. |
| | 1.30-3.00 pm | Easter Garden Preparation, activities for Good Friday in the Chapter House, for children accompanied by parents/carers. |

Easter Eve.

Sat 4th 8.00 pm Paschal Ceremony.

Easter Day.

Sun 5th 10.00 am Festival Parish Communion.

Mon 6th Easter Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral.

May.

Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Sun 3rd 8.00 am Holy Communion, Order II
[Traditional]

10.00 am All Together Parish Communion.

Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Sun 10th 10.00 am Parish Communion.

11.45 am Annual Parish Church Meeting.

Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Sun 17th 10.00 am Parish Communion.

12.45 pm Sunday Lunch.

Pentecost.

Sun 24th 10.00 am Parish Communion.

6.00 pm Churches Together in Biggleswade
Evening Worship.

Trinity Sunday.

Sun 31st 10.00 am Parish Communion.

June.

First Sunday after Trinity.

Sun 7th 8.00 am Holy Communion, Order II
[Traditional]

10.00 am All Together Parish Communion.

12.45 pm Sunday Lunch.

Second Sunday after Trinity.

Sun 14th 10.00 am Confirmation, Admission to Holy
Communion and Parish
Communion. Presiding: Richard,
Bishop of Bedford.

REFLECTION by Paula Gooder

JESUS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

They said nothing to anyone.

The oldest manuscripts of Mark's Gospel end at verse 8. It is an odd and discerning ending.

Jesus died, and with him all hope of a world made new. But then a new day dawned and a young man, whom we suspect to be an angel, announced to the women that Jesus had risen from the dead and that for the first time in Mark's Gospel they should 'go tell'. Until this point in the Gospel, over and over again, people were told not to tell who Jesus was, but now this has changed. The women were to go and announce to the disciples what Jesus had said had come true, but overcome with terror, they fled and didn't tell anyone anything.

The ending is so odd that over history two alternative endings were supplied: a short and a longer ending to make up for what was missing. The problem is that they are clearly not by Mark. All we have is this odd, truncated ending.

And as we are left in the uncomfortable silence that follows verse 8, all we can do is take what we now know about this Jesus, Son of God, Messiah who died and rose again, and live in the light of it: living in the way we might wish the women and other disciples had lived, telling the good news of Jesus.

As we do, it might just dawn on us that this was Mark's point all along. . . and that we wouldn't know that the women said nothing to anyone if they hadn't told someone eventually.

THE EMPTY TOMB AND RESURRECTION APPEARANCES.

On the Road to Emmaus.

(Based on reflections on Luke 24).

As we walk away defeated and disillusioned,
Jesus meets us.

As we sling insults at one another,
Jesus stands alongside.

As we tell our stories of bemusement and betrayal,
Jesus listens.

As we stand gloomily,
Jesus waits, ever patient.

And then breaks in
walking with us
opening and explaining
accompanying, comprehending, unpacking

until the moment comes in an ever-familiar action
when we realize that the one for whom we waited
has been present all along. . .

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Rosemary Bentley 313517,
romybentley@aol.com
Rob Butcher 313789
robertdocbutcher@gmail.com
Lucy Dilley
lucydilley18@gmail.com
Peter Giles
peterdvgiles@gmail.com
Hilary Johnson 220533,
hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk
Claire Leeks 07484 684743,
claire.leeks@btinternet.com

Adrian Maynard 312347,
adriancmaynard@gmail.com
David Pilgrim 316877,
judapilgrim@btinternet.com
Andrew Rutt 313387,
andrew.rutt@btinternet.com
Harriet Shannon 222152,
harriet.shannon@gmail.com
Nettie van de Weerd 07767711353
wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

Deanery Synod Members:

Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com
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: Lucy Dilley, lucydilley18@gmail.com

Chapter House Queries: Contact Sue Thorn 317207 or
secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.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. They meet during term time.

Rainbow Guides:

'1st Biggleswade' (St Andrew's) Meet on Wednesdays from 5.30 pm to 6.40 pm. Contact: firstbiggleswaderainbows@hotmail.com.

'2nd Biggleswade' Meet on Mondays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. 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. Contact Babs Gurney, Leader.

Guides:

'1st Biggleswade' (St Andrew's) Meet on Wednesdays from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Contact Rachel Calver.

Youth Organisations:

'The Kitchen': School year 9 & above meet Sundays 7.30 pm.

Contact Emma Pallett 319146 – emmapallett@hotmail.co.uk.

10+ (Afters): For young people in School years 5 & 6 meets on Thursdays 6.00 pm. Contact Claire Leeks on 07484 684743 or

Mandy Anning – aamandy@aol.com.

12+: For young people in School years 7 & 8 meets Thursdays 7.30 pm

Contact: Peter Giles peterdvgiles@gmail.com.

14+: For young people in School years 9 & 10 meets on Thursdays 7.30 pm

Contact Emma Pallett on 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](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsBiggleswade)



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



St Andrew