



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

PARISH NEWS



2023

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

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:	Robert Butcher: 313789 robertdocbutcher@gmail.com. Chris Parker: 07702 250776 Chris2parker@btinternet.com
Organist :	Robert Butcher: 313789
Interim Choir Director:	Robert Butcher: 313789
Parish Secretary:	Mandy Anning 317207 secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk All copies for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be emailed to: office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk by Tuesdays 11.00 am.
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 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

VICAR'S LETTER

*Worshipping God with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving with Love,
Welcoming All.*

“You received without payment, give without payment” (Matt. 10:8)

St. Andrew's Church Biggleswade has stood here as a witness to the love of God since the 13th Century. We are known and loved by many in Biggleswade, and beyond. The Friends of St. Andrew's Church is a Trust that was formed in 1986 to assist St. Andrew's PCC in its duty and responsibilities to care for the restoration and maintenance of our Church building. Most recently the PCC have launched a Heating Replacement Fundraising Appeal as we need to raise £200,000 to replace the old boiler and failing heating system. We must maintain the fabric of the building alongside continuing to offer a warm welcome to all. In this Parish News, you can find details of the ways you can donate to our Heating Appeal. Thank you for what you can give. We have so much to give God thanks for over these past years of financial support and good will, especially from the Friends, working alongside the PCC to “save the past for the good of the future”. Please do consider becoming a member of the Friends.

As the disciples, the first friends and followers of Jesus were named; they, and we are reminded that the basic calling for the Church is to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The early church was clear that it was fundamentally called to a life of discipleship. In a sense, everything else came later. The Great Commission of Jesus was to “Go... and make disciples of all nations.” It is, therefore, our Gospel imperative that the Church never loses sight of this.

In Matthew's Gospel (9.35-10.8) we can identify some key aspects of Christian discipleship. As Jesus travelled around Palestine, he was

moved by the need for hope and healing among those who were drawn to him. Jesus responded with compassion. It is with this deep-felt concern that Jesus called his disciples and sent them out to proclaim that God's reign was near; to heal, restore, cleanse, and liberate those to whom they were sent. They had no missionary box, no retiring collections in their pockets, no central or Trust Fund to draw upon, they went on their journey without material support: tired, hungry, sore-footed, they went on speaking the words of truth and offering works of mercy. For sustenance they relied on the authority of God, his appointment of them to do the work of God. He also reminded them that they would face and endure hatred, betrayal, opposition, and arrest, and yet endure all this with the help of God.

The call to be a disciple was never about the disciples themselves. Christian discipleship is always about engaging with and living for others. This is why the Church, as the community of disciples, is also sent out into the world. As former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple wisely noted, the Church always exists for its non-members, a truth that the Church often, sadly forgets. Church, while being a comforting and loving fellowship, should not become self-centred or inward facing. Rather, we are called to be Christ-centred and outward facing.

Please, do donate to our Heating Appeal, do consider joining the Friends of St. Andrew's Church, as together we seek to "save the past for the good of the future". And may we continue to be mindful that, we are all called to be Friends of God, drawn together as Church, a community of disciples, called to make a difference in the world, by the grace of God.

*The Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong
Vicar of the Parish of St. Andrew, Biggleswade.*

HEATING AT ST ANDREW'S

As you may already know, here at St Andrew's we are in the process of replacing the church heating system which has served us well for probably around 50 years.

This means that we need to install new boilers, radiators and a lot of piping to get heat throughout the church.

As we are sure you can imagine this is a very expensive process and so we have launched a heating appeal. We are busy arranging events, applying for grants, and have also set up a 'Sale of the System' whereby we are asking people to 'purchase' the different parts of the system, from boilers to radiators, pumps to manifolds, as well as piping by the foot.

You can contribute to this sale by picking up a small leaflet from the church entrance or by emailing

churchwardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

Originally formed as the Preservation Trust after a successful appeal to restore the Tower in the 1980's, the Friends of St Andrew's purpose is to raise funds to assist the PCC in the maintenance and upkeep of the church. To that end, over the last four decades the Trust has raised over £430,000 which has enabled the church to be in the excellent condition it is today; indeed visitors often make many favourable comments about the superb appearance of the church.

Some of the projects that the Friends have funded or helped fund include the impressive glass doors at both entrances; the lighting

and the organ restoration; the tower and clock; the south porch; the garden of remembrance; in addition to regular stonework repairs.

Anyone can become a Friend; you, your family members or people you know in our community or further afield who might have a connection with this church, or might just want to support it as an historic building. The annual membership is £10 (or £2 for children), you'll receive updates on the current projects that the Friends are supporting, and you may like to see your name added to the board of Friends on the north wall. As well as knowing that becoming a Friend will help maintain and beautify our church to God's glory for generations to come.

John Dilley – Chairman

HOLIDAY CLUB

REGISTRATION.

Holiday Club 2023 will take place from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th August. We are now open for registration for children and young people aged between 5 years and 12 years. In order to book places, simply follow this link or go to the church website: www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk and follow the link on the home page. If you wish to contact the Holiday Club team email on Holidayclub@standrewschurchbw.org.uk.

VOLUNTEERING.

Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to help during the week of Holiday Club, we couldn't run the week without you. We are still hoping that others will also volunteer, even if only for a couple of days. Please either follow this link to register as a volunteer or speak to Emma 07900 697945, Chris 07702 250776 or Sally 07932 760864. Thank you.

RETIREMENT OF COLIN DIXON – READER

Colin writes, "I have enjoyed doing what I can for St Andrew's but feel that I lack the energy to carry on. Despite my apparent boyish charm I have just seen my second Coronation and feel it is time to hang up my blue scarf. Thank you to all who have encouraged me as a Reader, particularly to Revd. Liz, Rosemary and Revd. Guy and to so many others who work hard for God and St Andrew's".

Colin Dixon

Colin requested that 'no fuss' was to be made of his retirement at St. Andrew's. With respect for his wishes, his last 'official' duties as a Reader were on Ascension Day, 18th May, 2023. We thank God for Colin's Reader Ministry, since 2006, and amongst us at St. Andrew's since 2012. We give thanks for much shared with us over the years, including his preaching and teaching, his pastoral care and friendship, his humour and his prayers, his time and his talents as he has faithfully served.

PRAYER FOR COLIN'S RETIREMENT

Eternal God, Creator and Renewer of life, you continually call us to a rhythm of work and Sabbath rest. In the Sabbath rest of retirement, may we discover new meaning for life and new opportunities for serving you. We offer thanks for Colin and his years of faithful service. In his retirement give to Colin, with Beryl, a new and fulfilling redirection of life committed to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rosemary Bentley 313517

romybentley@aol.com

Robert Butcher 313789

robertdocbutcher@gmail.com

Paul Daniels 316153

Paulj.daniels@btinternet.com

Vivienne Gayfer 225898

viviennejgayfer184@gmail.com

Hilary Johnson

hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

Rob Lackey 07885 966152

rob.lackey4@gmail.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

Nettie van de Weerd

nettievandeweerd@btinternet.com

Nicola Woodward

ghnst@yahoo.co.uk

Deanery Synod Members

Rosemary Bentley 313517 romybentley@aol.com

Hilary Johnson 220533 hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Nicola Woodward

ghnst@yahoo.co.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.