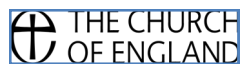




ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



PARISH NEWS



Summer 2024

PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE

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VICAR'S LETTER

Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself.

On the morning of June 6th, 2024, the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, it was very good to welcome Rosemary Bentley, our Licensed Lay Minister, back to active ministry once again. After what has been a personally challenging time for Rosemary, and it was a quiet, but important opportunity at our 9.30 am Holy Communion to give thanks to God for Rosemary's continuing recovery and for her resuming active ministry once again amongst us. As our opening letter for this summer issue of Parish News, I share with you Rosemary's Homily from that morning.

Rosemary writes: "Last Sunday, here at St Andrew's Church, it was a joy to see young Mia, and her nine-month-old baby brother Max to be baptised here this month (16th June), clutching, cherishing, beautiful colourful new toys during our Parish Communion. In Poland, since 1952, Children's Day, Dzień Dziecka, has been celebrated on 1st June. According to this 20th century practice, activities and festivities are organised for children by schools, towns, and families. This special day often includes presents – hence the new toys; but also, school field trips, and outdoor outings, whatever the weather, to mark and celebrate the beginning of summer, the new season. A special tradition which I'm sure many children in the UK would enjoy; but also an important reminder of the freedom and privilege we have to travel, and to learn from different nations and traditions.

A link with our friends in eastern Europe which thank God we have the privilege of sharing, significantly thanks to the events of D-Day 80 years ago which are being marked today. Many of us will have been following special coverage from Portsmouth, and the spectacular lightshow and armed forces vigil staged at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Bayeux War Cemetery, the beginning of celebrations for the 80th

anniversary of D-Day. On the day itself both in northern France, and here in the UK, acts of commemoration and remembrance continue. Poignant reminders to never forget those who fought and died so we might live in freedom and at peace. The success of D-Day relied upon sacrifice, the collaboration of many nations, and individual courage. Marking D-Day is a testimony which serves as a timeless symbol of the importance of unity, the value of peace, and the pursuit of freedom in the face of tyranny.

Challenges are not new. Jesus said to a scribe, “You are not far from the kingdom of heaven.” In the 12th chapter of Mark’s gospel, Jesus encounters several confrontational people who had very different goals, motivations in their lives: Pharisees, Sadducees, teachers of the law. Each group differently influenced by ambition, money, power, recognition, and, sadly, too frequently distracted away from the things of greatest importance. Jesus skilfully re-directs their questioning, indeed animosity, by emphasising the centrality of the two great commandments – to love God and our neighbours as the highest priorities in life.

Daily motivations may be diverse, often destructive, but Jesus’ message is crystal clear: whatever our goals, our ambitions, and desires, central to our life and most importantly Christian faith must be our sense of belonging to the kingdom of heaven. This is only possible if we put God, and our neighbours, at the heart of our daily lives, not only during acts of remembrance today, but throughout our earthly journeys”.

To conclude, one of the prayers from the 80th Anniversary of D-Day Service held in Biggleswade Market Square later that same day. O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, as we remember, teach us your ways of peace; as we treasure memories, teach us to hold onto hope; as we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, teach us to

work together for a better future; that your kingdom may come, your will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Liz Oglesby-Elong.

DIARY:

June:

Sun 30th. 10.00 am Parish Communion, Service of Thanksgiving, to include Blessing of our new heating system by Alan, Bishop of St Albans.
Followed by Celebratory Refreshments in the Chapter House.

July:

Tues 2nd 7.30 pm Bedford Archdeaconry service for Admission of Churchwardens.

Thur 4th General Election. (Polling Station in the Chapter House).

Sat 6th 3.00 pm Mothers' Union Tea Party. Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women.

Sun 7th 8.00 am Holy Communion.
 10.00 am Family Communion.
 12 noon Holy Baptisms
 3.00 pm East Beds Chamber Choir Concert.

Sat 13th 1.00 pm Wedding.

Sun 14th 12.45 pm Sunday Lunch in the Chapter House.

Sat 20th 1.00 pm Wedding

Sun 21st. 10.00 am Parish Communion, including Commissioning Team Africa.
 12.30 pm Parish Picnic. Chambers Way Recreation Area.
 5.30 pm Taizé Service, St John the Baptist, Cockayne Hatley.

Sat 27th.		Team Africa depart to Mafambisa.
Sun 28th	12 noon	Holy Baptism
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong Joint Choirs at St George's, Letchworth.

August:

Sun 4th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun 11th	6.00 pm	Holiday Club Preparation Service
Tue 13th – Fri 16th		Holiday Club
Sun 18th	9.30 am	Parish Communion
	11.00 am	Holiday Club Worship followed by Barbecue.

September:

Sun 1st		Creation Season Begins.
Thur 12th	7.00 pm	Parish Evening at Kings Reach Inn.
Sat 14th	2.30 pm	Wedding.
Sun 15th	12 noon	Holy Baptisms.
Sat 21st	10.30 am	Country Fayre

October:

Fri 4th		Friends' AGM.
Sun 6th	10.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving

St Andrew's Biggleswade

OUR VISION

worshipping God with joy

growing in faith

serving with love and

welcoming all.

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 14th January – Joel Ryker Watson.

Sunday 28th January – Aurora Giambalvo-Tinkler.

Sunday 28th January – Ayla Rose Giambalvo-Tinkler.

Sunday 11th February – Arabella Violet Walsh.

Sunday 14th April – Christopher Ronald Wheelhouse.

Sunday 21st April – Evie-Grace Kathleen Mynott.

Sunday 12th May – Clementine Poppy Kitcher.

Sunday 16th June – Max Mielniczek.



THOSE ADMITTED TO HOLY COMMUNION:

Sunday 5th May, by Richard, Bishop of Bedford.

Chizara Obiajulu ILoabchie.

David George Elong.

Munachi Jaden ILoabchie.

Prayer for, Confirmation and Admission to Holy Communion

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

THOSE CONFIRMED:

Sunday 5th May, by Richard, Bishop of Bedford.

Christopher Ronald Wheelhouse.

Jane Ellen Sharp.

Niah Ann Tranter.

Valerie Bennett.



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.

5th January – Derek Arthur Garner.

9th January Alice Florence Dunworth.

18th January – Norman Leslie Gurney.
[Service of Thanksgiving].

29th January – Sylvia May Rutt.

6th February – Joyce Louisa Jakes.

21st February – Betty Jane Wright.

26th February – John Pryor.

11th March – Vera Odell.

12th March – Paige Lucy Brown.

24th March – Norman Leslie Gurney.
[Ashes in Garden of Remembrance].

27th March – Donald Henry Pryor.

22nd April – Pauline Pryor.

29th April – Teresa Helen Stimson.

2nd May – Jennifer Doling.
[Ashes at Stratton Way Cemetery].

7th May – David James Rainbow.

16th May – Philip Norman Martyn Hickin.

22nd May – Morris John Pulham.

5th June – Richard Frank Walker.

19th June – Edna Harold.

21st June – Michael Shane Boness.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Nicola Woodward: safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

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

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

Brass Cleaning: Rosemary Jopson 313503.

Church Flowers: Jan Gardner 313124.

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. 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 on 01767 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com.

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

or



@StAndrewsBiggleswade



@standrewsbiggleswade



St Andrew