



The Baptism of Christ

12 January 2025

Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion
Launch of the Diocesan Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 43.1-7 Israel's promised redemption
Acts 8.14-17 Philip preaches in Samaria
Luke 3.15-17, 21-22 The Baptism of Jesus

Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 861 3500 8616.
Passcode: 599753
Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

6.00pm Sunday@6

Private Prayer at St Andrew's Church. Please note our church is usually open for private prayer Monday - Saturday, **09.00 am - 4.00 pm.**

Revd Liz and Churchwardens

This Week

Monday 13 January

12noon Vicar and Churchwardens meeting

Tuesday 14 January

7.30pm Standing Committee, Ivel Room

Wednesday 15 January

Thursday 16 January

9.30am Holy Communion, followed by coffee in Chapter House.

Readings: Hebrews 3.7-14
Mark 1.40-45

10.30 –11.30 am Warm Spaces

12.00 –2.00pm MU Soup Lunch

2.00pm Plaque Unveiling Ceremony, Eagle Farm Road

7.00pm 10+ Youth Group

7.30pm 12+ Youth Group

7.30pm 14+ Youth Group

Saturday 18 January

10.00 –12.00noon Craft and Chat with Coffee Shop and Warm Spaces

Sunday 19 January The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Parish Communion

Vicar: Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong (01767 312243)

Churchwardens:

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

Nettie van de Weerd (01767 316214)

Parish Administrator:

Mandy Anning (01767 317207) secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

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Facebook: @StAndrewsBiggleswade



Instagram: @StAndrewsBiggleswade

All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to **office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk** by **Tuesdays, 11.00 am**

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

bookings@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

Requesting our Prayers: Thelma Holden, Jackie Coyles, Percy Doughty, Maureen Wade, Anita, Sally Wells, Shelagh Hizzey, Ian Pearson, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Val Scott, Maurice Darnell. We continue to pray for Cory Sherry, Joan Betts.

Mafambisa. We pray for the people of our partner community of Mafambisa, for the vulnerable and orphaned children, the care workers, the caregivers and all who support them. By name this week we pray for Care worker: Dudu, and Children: Lwandile, Surprise, Berlina, Constance, Maria, Prince. Please visit our blog at www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk.

We pray for the souls of all the recently departed: Bernard Gurney, Pamela Gustard, Shirley Neale, and for families and friends preparing for services of thanksgiving and celebration of life. We remember with prayers and thankful, privileged, memories those whose Year's Mind fall at this time: 13th Gilly Allston, 18th Kathleen Morley.

The Diocese of St Albans: Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025 <https://year.stalbansdiocese.org>

A Prayer for Spiritual Renewal 2025

Look graciously upon us, O Holy Spirit,
and give us, for our hallowing,
thoughts that pass into prayer,
prayers that pass into love,
and love that passes into life with you forever,
Amen.

From the Bishop of St. Albans: This special year is inspired by the Emmaus story in Luke's Gospel, where the risen Christ walks alongside two disciples in their confusion and doubt, listens to their concerns, and renews them in hope and love. The themes to guide us through this Year are lifting our eyes to God; enhancing spiritual and personal wellbeing; enabling spiritual growth to foster numerical growth. As we prepare for the year ahead, let us open the scriptures, break bread together, and seek the transformation that comes from journeying with the risen Christ. Together, may we lift our hearts and minds to God and embrace the hope and love of his presence. With my prayers and blessings, +Alan, Bishop of St Albans

From the Vicar: This Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing officially begins in our Parish on the Baptism of Christ, Sunday 12 January, when we will focus thoughts and prayers during our Parish Communion. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Jane Cart Trust and other grant-making bodies, there is an inspiring programme of activities throughout the year ahead which are being generously subsidised, with no funding drawn from parish share. Just a taster of what is on offer there is a wide variety of retreats and Quiet Days including a Poetry Pilgrimage Day, an Online Week of Guided Prayer, Walking the John Bunyan Pilgrimage Trail, interesting courses and exciting events. If you would like to talk through what is on offer or need any help to access the information please do ask Revd. Liz or Rosemary Bentley to guide you further. Full details and how to book can be found here: <https://year.stalbansdiocese.org>

Events

Retreats
Quiet Days
Pilgrimage

Wellbeing

Programmes
Support
Workshops

Ideas

Away Days
Walks
Groups

Diocesan Prayer

*God of life and love,
pour out your blessing on our diocese as we journey to your kingdom on the Emmaus Road:
where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;
where there is fear, establish us in love;
where there is discord, bring reconciliation and healing:
that together we may be renewed in hope by your Spirit
and be ambassadors of your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

At St. Albans Cathedral: Museum of the Moon Friday 3 January to Saturday 15 February 2025 As we start this Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025, the *Museum of the Moon* artwork by artist Luke Jerram comes to St Albans Cathedral for the very first time. Come and marvel at its beauty or join one of the many events and activities that will be taking place in the moonlight, including an Interstellar 10 concert, yoga sessions, talks, jazz concerts, and so much more! Details & tickets: www.stalbanscathedral.org/moon

Annual Mission Payments Each year we donate 10% of our income to mission through one or two charities, this includes our support for Mafambisa and an emergency fund. We would like to invite ideas for charities. Please put these on the plate at the back of church by 12 January - Thank you.

A special Commemorative Plaque Unveiling Ceremony to honour WWII Pilot Lt. Vance C.

Harney on Thursday, January 16, 2025, 1:45pm (Arrival) for 2:00pm (Service Begins) on Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade. This solemn occasion marks the 80th anniversary to the day of Lt. Harney's tragic crash near Biggleswade during his service with the United States Army Air Force's 8th Air Force, 356th Fighter Group, 359th Fighter Squadron. Following the ceremony, guests are warmly invited to join us for light refreshments at The Weatherley Centre. We look forward to welcoming you at this event. *Biggleswade Town Council*

CRAFT and CHAT; our next session will be held on 18th January alongside Coffee Shop between 10am and noon. It will be good to see the usual faces but new ones would also be very welcome. Bring along any handicraft you are doing and spend time with other like minded people. We also welcome non crafters/chatters to the group. *Anna Rutt*

Announcement of the Retirement of our Diocesan Bishop later this year. This week we received news from Bishop Alan announcing his forthcoming retirement as our Diocesan Bishop on 31 May, 2025. There will be plenty of opportunities to give thanks and to say our fond farewells, all to be announced in due course. Please do keep Bishop Alan, alongside Bishops Richard and Jane, and our Diocese in your prayers at this time.

Future Dates

Tuesday 21 January	7.00pm	Buildings and Grounds Meeting
	8.00pm	Growth and Mission Sub Committee
Thursday 23 January	7.30pm	Friends of St. Andrew's Trustees Meeting
Saturday 1 February	10.00am	Christingle Making, Chapter House
Sunday 2 February		Candlemas
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Family Communion, with Holy Baptism—baby Arleja
	3.00pm	Christingle Service <i>[donations for the Children's Society]</i>

Burns night –25 January We are planning a Burns night Ceilidh on the evening 25 January to include poetry, Scottish dancing, songs and a quiz - save the date –more details to follow!

Christingle 2025 Our Christingle Service 2025 will be held on Sunday 2nd February at 3pm. This service supports and celebrates the work of the Children's Society. There are candle collection boxes and also giving envelopes at the back of the church. These can be brought and handed in during the service on the 2nd.

Mafambisa We are currently assembling our team to go to Africa in the summer (19 July to 2 August 2025) we are also starting to think about a team for summer 2026 - if you are interested in joining either of these teams –please speak to Chris as soon as you are able.

Food Bank Many thanks to those of you who brought in Reverse donations. These have now been delivered to the Baptist Church. As Preen is still unable to distribute food I shall take any donations from the church to the Baptists from now on. They also get the donations from the supermarkets, so that might be easier for you to put something in there rather than bring it to church. *Maggie McLoughlin.*

The Big Blunham Book Sale Will be held on Saturday 22nd February 2025 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in Blunham Parish Church, MK44 3NQ, There will be an enormous selection of nearly new books - specialist and fiction sorted into categories. Homemade soup, homemade cakes, hot dogs, teas and coffees served all day. All profits to Blunham Church Fabric Fund. For further details please ring Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572

Social Media

Keeping in touch with family and friends is something as a Church we are trying to undertake through the use of our social media platforms. The online sphere is another channel we are also able to use to be able to spread God's message. The platforms allow us to reach out to our community of faith, our local community as well as others who aren't as local. Please do contact Oliver Dilley or Jessica Mepham with any ideas, thoughts or content for the social media pages. In the meantime please continue to like, follow and share our social media accounts. *Thanks.*

Facebook: @standrewsbiggleswade Instagram: @standrewsbiggleswade

Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve, Holy Spirit make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage, for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus. Amen

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