



The Second Sunday of Advent

8 December 2024

Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion followed by Country Fayre presentation in the Chapter House

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Malachi 3.1-4 A refiner's fire
Philippians 1.3-11 Paul's prayer for the Philippians
Luke 3.1-6 The proclamation of John the Baptist

Zoom

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

6.00pm Sunday @6 Advent –Being Ready for Christmas

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.**

This Week

Monday 9 December

9.15am Leadership and Ministry Meeting

Tuesday 10 December

7.30pm Exploring Silence, St Peter's Church, Station Road

Wednesday 11 December

10.00 –11.15am Christmas Activity and Carols (*Service users only*) Biggleswade Day Centre

7.30pm Advent Group, The Ivel Room

Thursday 12 December

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

Readings:

Isaiah 41.13-20
Matthew 11.11-15
10.30 –11.30 am Warm Spaces
10.45 Advent Group, In Church

Saturday 14 December

10.00 –12.00noon Coffee Shop and warm spaces
10.00-12.00noon Wreath Making Workshop, St John's Room

Sunday 15 December The Third Sunday of Advent

10.00am 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

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk



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: Jackie Coyles, Chris Ebeling, Percy Doughty, Maureen Wade, Anita, Sally Wells, Shelagh Hizzey, Ian Pearson, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Val Scott, Maurice Darnell. **Continue to Pray for:** Jane Parker, Philip Pettit.

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 careworker: Khethiwe, Children: Alisha, Felicia, Lovemore, Fikile, Josphina, Willson, Nancy, Thandolwethu. www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk.

We pray for the souls of all the recently departed: 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. 9th James Donovan, 11th Martin Gray, 13th Ann Milton, 13th Stanley Morley.

Christmas Bazaar Many thanks to those that supported the Christmas Bazaar with donations, help before and during the day and those that spent their money so generously, it was all greatly appreciated. We enjoyed a very happy event, with a good number of visitors and we are pleased to say it raised £1,500 for Church funds. Thank you, *Anna, Claire and Andrew*.

Toy Service—Thank You! I would just like to thank everyone who kindly brought toys and gifts to last Sunday's service. I am delighted to let you know one of the founders of the Need project was at the Sunday Lunch and she has kindly taken them to the Need project in Stotfold who will now ensure they are given to those less fortunate in our local area. "Love thy neighbour", with thanks. *Lucy Dilley on behalf of the growth and mission committee.*

Country Fayre Presentation Following the 10.00am Parish Communion on **Sunday 8th December** there will be a presentation of cheques in the Chapter House from the Country Fayre. Representatives from both WaterAid and Noah will be on hand to receive their cheques and tell us a little about how the money will be used. *Chris Parker.*

Exploring Silence The next session is at St Peter's Station Road, at 7.45pm on **Tuesday 10th December** which aims to help people get into and explore a period of silence in their life. There's more information about what we hope to do at the website exploring-silence.org *David Hindle for Exploring Silence.*

Advent Group Our Advent reflection group continue, this week we are meeting on **Wednesday 11th December** at 7.30pm, in the Ivel Room. The Thursday group meets after Holy Communion service and coffee, starting at 10.45 am on **12th and 19th December** and the last evening session on 17 December. During Advent we will be guided by Rachel Mann's book "Do Not Be Afraid" for our study and reflection. This is the Archbishop of York's Advent 2024 book. *The Vicar and Growth and Mission Sub-Committee.*

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Wreath Making Workshop We are pleased to be offering a Christmas wreath making workshop again on Saturday 14th December from 10am—midday. This will conclude with a 'soup and roll lunch'. We are asking for a minimum donation of £10 towards church funds. There will be a sign up sheet on the notice board. If you have any appropriate small cones or greenery in your garden that you could spare, to extend the range of materials, we would be very grateful. Please bring these to church nearer the time. As members of the Eco group we are keen that as much as possible is locally sourced. If you would like more information, please do ask either of us....and come! *Thank you. Hilary and Vaughan.*

The signed minutes of the PCC meeting held on 24th September are available to read and are located on the noticeboard in the church foyer and on the website <https://standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk/who-are-we/pcc/> *Ruth Marshall-Jones, PCC Secretary.*

Reverse Advent Calendar This year the donations will go to the Baptist Church food bank because Preen are no longer distributing parcels, but passing them to the Need Project. The Baptist food bank closes from 20th December until 3rd January, so any donations for Christmas itself need to be in church by Thursday 19th or better still by Sunday 15th. Flyers explaining and giving suggestions are in the church and will be in the pew sheets we print. *Maggie McLoughlin.*

Nativity Tableau 21 December, 10.30am, Market Square. Please sign up to be part of this years Nativity Tableau. We need the characters, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus plus shepherds and Kings. We also need singers and musicians and people to help set up and clear up! We have a number of costumes that are used for this, stored in the attic: some of these are past their best and we need assistance to create some new costumes in order to add to the spectacle of the event. In particular we are looking for cloaks for the Kings, but other bits and pieces as well. If you are able to assist with the Tableau, singing, music or updating our costumes, please speak to Chris, Lucy, Vaughan, Peter or John on behalf of Growth and Mission Sub-Committee. Thank you, Please see the noticeboard.

Year's Mind 2025 Sunday 8th December is the deadline. If you would like to have a loved one remembered in our weekly notices, please complete the Remembrance of the Departed –Year's Mind Form and post it in the box provided at the back of Church. Thank you. *Mandy Anning, Parish Administrator.*

PCC Secretary Vacancy: Advance notice that I shall be standing down as PCC Secretary at next year's APCM having held the position for 8 years, 6 of them as a member of the PCC. The role of PCC Secretary is an important one and the primary responsibility of the PCC Secretary is to support the PCC Chair and ensure the smooth running of the PCC. If you are interested or would like further information, please do come and speak to me and I can fill you in on more of the detail and provide a job description. The role would suit someone who has good organisational skills, is efficient and pro-active. *Ruth Marshall-Jones.*

Biggleswade Town Council December Newsletter Please find the new edition of the Town Council newsletter <https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/newsletters/> featuring St. Andrew's Church outreach involvement at various events in our Parish. *Revd Liz.*

Future Dates

Monday 16 December	6.00pm	Carols on the Lawn
Thursday 19 December	6.00pm	Carol Singing, Kings Reach
Saturday 21 December	10.30am	Nativity Tableau, Market Square
Sunday 22 December	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Tuesday 24 December	Christmas Eve	
	6.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25 December	Christmas Day	
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 5 January	The Epiphany	
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Communion
	12.45pm	Sunday Lunch
Sunday 2 February	3.00pm	Candlemas

Saturday Morning Coffee Shop and Warm Spaces The number of venues in Biggleswade offering warm spaces this year has reduced. We are now getting people regularly on a Thursday and Saturday. Our coffee shop rota has a few gaps in it that we need to fill in order to maintain this service to the community. Please sign up on the notice board in the foyer so that we have a team looking after the coffee shop each Saturday. Thank you. *Chris Parker.*

Be alert to possible scam emails We are aware some members of our community have received emails from fake accounts purporting to be the Vicar's. Please be vigilant, particularly if an email is unexpected, asks for personal information about you or a church member, or involves financial information. Scam emails are often poorly written, with spelling errors and tend to be vague, for example asking for something from the treasurer rather than giving a name. This is not always the case, and some can be more sophisticated. Please check the email address if you are unsure. The Vicar's email address is vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk. For other church members, check they are using the email address you are used to or check the website.

MAFAMBISA PARTNERSHIP

We receive weekly updates from Hands at Work - from different communities via WhatsApp. If you would like to receive these I will add you to the WhatsApp group. Please text your mobile number to Chris on 07702 250776 or email on chris2parker@btinternet.com

www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk



Used Postage Stamps

Please keep collecting these for me to take to St. John's Hospice; it is important especially at this time that we give them all the support possible.

Gill Hibbert

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