



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BIGGLESWADE

Christ-Centred – Welcoming – Inclusive – Outward-Looking



The First Sunday of Lent

9 March 2025

Sunday

10.00 am Parish Communion

Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11
Romans 10.8b-13
Luke 4.1-13

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

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

6.00 pm Deanery Evensong at St Andrew's Church
Preacher: Revd Graham Buckle, Rural Dean

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 10 March

7.00pm Lent Group I—Church

Tuesday 11 March

7.30 pm Standing Committee, Ivel Room

Thursday 13 March

9.30am Holy Communion,
Readings: Isaiah 55.6-9 Matthew 7.7-12

10.30 –11.30 am Warm Spaces

10.45—12.00 noon Lent Group I—IChurch

7.30 pm Deanery Synod, Blunham Church

Saturday 15 March

10.00 –12.00noon Coffee Shop and Warm Spaces

Sunday 16 March

10.00 am

3.00 pm

6.00 pm

The Second Sunday of Lent

Parish Communion

Civic Service—all welcome

Deanery Evensong—
St Mary's Church. Potton

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

Churchwardens:

Chris Parker (07702 250776)

Nettie van de Weerd (01767 316214)

Parish Office: 01767 317207

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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**

bookings@standrewschurchbw.org.uk



Requesting our Prayers: Nick Smithers, Lisa Ling, Thelma Holden, Percy Doughty, Maureen Wade, Anita, Sally Wells, Shelagh Hizey, Ian Pearson, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Val Scott, Maurice Darnell, Chris Parker, Clerestine Doughty. We continue to pray for: Bobbie Ball, Fran Sharp, Joanna Friend, James Etienne.

Mafambisa. We remember 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: Khethiwe, children: Alisha, Felicia, Lovemore, Fikile, Josephina, Willson, Nancy, Thandolwethu E Please visit our blog at www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk.

We pray for the souls of all the recently departed: 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:
12 Audrey Huckle

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2025

During this Diocesan Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025 it is good to confirm that Bishop Richard is planning to join us for Holy Week and Easter this year. 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. As you may already know Bishop Richard is currently Chair of the Church of England's work on disability, which includes a working group on Mental Health. In 2023, members of that group published 'Struggling with God – Mental Health and Christian Spirituality' by Christopher Cook, John Swinton and Isabelle Hamley. During Lent we'll be exploring the themes of mental health and Christian spirituality, wellbeing and resilience. This will then feed into the Bishop's teaching and preaching during his time with us during Holy Week and Easter. *Leadership and Ministry Team.*

Lent Study Groups, with Biblical Reflection and Prayer: This year we are running two Lent Study Groups which will be held in Church, starting the week beginning 9 March: Monday Evenings 7pm to 9pm on 10, 17, 24, 31 March, 7 April starting with a simple supper (donations welcome) and Thursday Mornings 10.45am to 12noon on 13, 20, 27 March, 3, 10 April, refreshments available in the Chapter House from 10.15am. Based on the book above, study materials will be provided as needed. It will be useful for our planning to have an idea of numbers, so please sign up on the list at Church. *Growth and Mission Sub-Committee.*

Mothering Sunday Daffodils. It has been a lovely and longstanding tradition at St Andrew's to share daffodils with the ladies in Church on Mothering Sunday. We would like this tradition to continue but this year we are looking for donations towards this lovely tradition. Any donation, no matter how small, can be given to the churchwardens or the PCC Treasurer. Thank you. *Nettie van de Weerd'*

"Saints Alive." We are currently planning a short musical/service "Saints Alive" for the Sunday@6 service on 11 May. We hope that people of all ages and abilities can contribute and enjoy this new opportunity for worship. There will be an introductory meeting in the chapter house on Saturday 22 March at 15.00 followed by tea. Come along and find out more, something for everyone to do! Contact us for more details. *Rob Butcher, Sue Thorn*



Deanery Lent Evening Worship 2025: Theme: The 'I am..' sayings of Jesus. Sundays 6.00pm. All are welcome. We look forward to a variety of guest preachers and simple refreshments are usually served after the service. A Retiring Collection will be taken for the Deanery Project 2025-26: 'Triumph Heart' in Uganda.

- 16 March at St. Mary, Potton –Preacher: Ven. Dave Middlebrook
- 23 March at St. Swithun, Sandy –Preacher: Revd Jodie Brown
- 30 March at St. Leonard, Old Warden –Preacher: Rosemary Bentley
- 6 April at St. Lawrence, Willington –Preacher: Rt Revd Richard Atkinson

Saturday Coffee Shop Rota. A new coffee shop rota has been put up on the board in the foyer. Please check when your team is doing the coffee shop and if, for any reason, you are unable to help on that particular morning, I would be grateful if you could swap with someone possibly from another team. Many thanks. *Nettie van de Weerd.*

Chris Parker Health Update. Chris remains in hospital following surgery on Thursday 20 February, and is pleased to receive visits from his family as he continues to make progress. Lord God, whose Son Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for Chris, and all in hospital at this time; surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Candles for Ukraine. Sandy Rotary have written to thank St Andrew's Church for our contributions to their Candles for Ukraine appeal. A total of over three tonnes have been delivered to Ukraine, including our donation of candle remnants and candles donated by members of the congregation. *Jenny and Richard Blackford*

Receiving Holy Communion A reminder that at present intinction of the wafer into the wine during the administration is not permitted at St. Andrew's Church. Receiving in one kind is a possibility, and observed by a number of our communicants.

Future Dates

Saturday 29 March	7.30 pm	Biggleswade and District Choral Society. Magnificat. Gloria
Sunday 13 April	9.45 am	Palm Sunday Liturgy of Palms—Market Square
	10.00 am	Parish Communion, including the Passion of Luke
Sunday 20 April		EASTER DAY

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 Parker as soon as you are able.

Food Bank Due to the state of their premises, Preen no longer operates a Food Bank, so any donations left in church are going to the Baptist Church. They get the supermarket trolley donations too. For updates on their supply needs you can use the app BanktheFood. Details on the website bbchurch.org.uk Maggie McLoughlin.

Spoofing. Please be aware that members of the congregation are receiving fake emails pretending to be from the vicar. These emails are part of a phishing scam. Please be careful to check that emails are from the Vicar and are genuine. The vicar's email address is vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk, phishing emails will appear to have either a name or "vicar" but the email address will be wrong. If you receive a suspicious email from someone else in church about an unexpected topic, please check with them by another method before doing anything. Phishing emails tend to be urgent in nature, stressing that they are in a hurry but often not saying why. If you receive a suspicious email, please let us know at websiteadmin@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

Diocesan Prayer for the Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025

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.

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.

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

Vicar: Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong (01767 312243)

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