



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
BIGGLESWADE



# PARISH NEWS



# Advent and Christmas 2024

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## PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE

- Vicar: Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong,  
The Vicarage, Shortmead Street,  
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vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
- Licensed Lay Minister: Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com
- Churchwardens: Chris Parker: 07702 250776,  
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Nettie van de Weerd: 07767 711353,  
wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
- Organist : Robert Butcher: 313789.  
Interim Choir Director: Robert Butcher: 313789.
- Parish Secretary: Mandy Anning: 317207,  
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All copies for inclusion in the Sunday Pew Sheets  
to be emailed to: office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk  
by Tuesday 11.00 am.
- PCC Secretary: Ruth Marshall-Jones: 316153,  
rmarshalljones@yahoo.co.uk
- PCC Treasurer: Andrew Rutt: 313387,  
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- Stewardship Recorder: Adrian Maynard: 312347.
- Parish Magazine Editorial: Margaret Spinner: 315793 Brenda Thorpe: 318568  
Sue Oldroyd: 310394 Mary Dominey: 312939
- The Friends: Contact: John Dilley 318030.
- Bible Reading: Contact: Judith Thatcher: 01767 312588.
- Mothers' Union: Contact: Maggie McLoughlin 07866 506195 (text  
preferred). 1st Wednesday of the month @2pm.

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## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It seems like no time at all since we published our Autumn Parish News, celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving and launched our Generous Giving Campaign 2024. Thank you for all the engagement with generous giving since then, it has been greatly appreciated. With the calendar year of 2024 drawing to a close, a new church year begins with Advent and Christmas soon knocking at the door. For those who follow the church's lectionary Advent 2024 means we begin to embrace Year C, the Year of Luke. Luke was an apostle and evangelist, a doctor and a writer. He recorded the good news of Jesus Christ in the Gospel which bears his name and in the Acts of the Apostles. These books bear witness to God's kingdom being worked out in human history, first through Jesus, then through his body, the church in the world. Luke focuses on the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized as God comes into ordinary lives bringing extraordinary promise, hope and transformation.

We have much to look forward to during the rich and deep season of Advent, and beyond. This Advent we are invited once again to set aside special time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ-Child. This year, our Advent reflections at Church will be focused on Rachel Mann's new book, "Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear". We hope this will be an encouraging resource for all who wish to journey together in reflection and prayer this Advent, looking towards the hope that Christmas brings.

There is so much to love about this time of the year, and there is further promise as a new year stretches out ahead of us. As we will turn a new, fresh page and step into 2025 it reminds me of the beginning of our new church year and the starkness of the Advent church, in contrast to the festive displays we'll encounter elsewhere. That starkness, that

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preparation, that watching and waiting are some of the many gifts that the season of Advent offers as we make space in our hearts for the true Spirit of Christmas to come.

A little child, a shining star,  
A stable rude, the door ajar,  
Yet in that place, so crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all the world was born.

*Anonymous*

I wish you a blessed Advent, a beautiful Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

*Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong*



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# DIARY:

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### December:

#### Sun 1st     **Advent Sunday**

6.00 pm     Service of Light

Mon 16th     6.00 pm     Carols on the Lawn at St Andrew's Church.

Sat 21st     10.30-noon     Nativity Tableau, Market Square.

Sun 22nd     6.00 pm     Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

#### **Christmas Eve**

Tue 24th     6.00 pm     Crib Service and Nativity

11.30 pm     Midnight Mass

#### **Christmas Day**

Wed 25th     10.00 am     Festival Holy Communion

#### **St Stephen, Boxing Day.**

NB. No Holy Communion.

### January 2025.

#### **Sun 5th The Epiphany.**

8.00 am     Holy Communion. [Order II traditional]

10.00am     Family Communion and Procession of Kings.

### February.

#### **Sun 2nd Candlemas.**

3.00 pm     Christingle.

#### **Warm welcome for all – usual pattern of worship at St Andrew's:**

**Sundays:** 10.00 am. Parish Communion, with Sunday School during term time, followed by coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House.

**Thursdays:** 9.30 am. Holy Communion, followed by coffee and fellowship in the Chapter House.

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## 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 17th November* – Evelyn Muthoni Slaney.

*Sunday 24th November* – Mollie Belle Challis.



### HOLY MATRIMONY:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
1 Corinthians 13.4-7.

*Thursday 28th November:*

Gary Dennis Hughes and Olivia Carol Wynn.



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## 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.

*Tuesday 8th October* – Eleanor Grainger.

*Wednesday 16th October* – Robert ‘Bob’ Tuthill.

*Thursday 31st October* – Betty Jane Wright.  
[Ashes at Stratton Way Cemetery].

*Friday 1st November* – Derrick ‘Del’ Frederick Kifford.

*Sunday 3rd November* – Jennifer Ann Baglin  
[Ashes in Garden of Remembrance].

*Thursday 14th November* – Allison Jane Mann  
[Ashes in Garden of Remembrance].



## CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christmas giving takes many forms here at St Andrew’s and there are a number of ways that we can give this Advent and Christmas.

### Rotary Shoe Boxes

Each year Mary Dominey runs the Rotary Shoe Box appeal and we manage to collect together a huge number of shoe boxes that Rotary distribute to children in Eastern Europe. Shoe Boxes donated by members of the congregation are brought to the Family Service in November and with the additional boxes made up by Mary and her

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team during the week before, a wall of shoe boxes was assembled at the Chancel steps before the long journey to Eastern Europe. The contribution from St Andrew's totalling 240 boxes this year.

### **Rotary Collection of Coats**

The Biggleswade Rotary Club are again collecting coats, that will be passed on to the homeless. It is amazing just how many coats seem to amass and this is an excellent chance to put them to a good cause. There is a box behind the noticeboard in the foyer.

### **Candles for Ukraine**

The candles that we use in church, as you know, gradually burn down until there is not enough candle to burn correctly. The stubs of the candles then get discarded to a box in a cupboard, seemingly for ever more. Jenny our Sacristan and husband Richard have been collecting these stumps together and they are now being recycled through Sandy Lions Club, to be used in Ukraine. Due to the war, there are many power cuts in Ukraine and families need candles to be able to see at night.

### **Toy Service – Sunday 1st December**

At our Family Service on 1st December we will be collecting toys that will be distributed as Christmas presents, locally through the 'NEED Project'. We would be pleased to receive new toys, that can be sent through to NEED.

### **Christmas Collections**

Across the Christmas period, all loose plate collections are given to charities selected to receive our Christmas Collections. It is also possible to donate to these charities by using the yellow envelopes and marking them 'Christmas' or by using the 'Give' button on the church website. This year's charities will be:-

- ◆ **The Kings Arms Project in Bedford**, which is based in Bedford and is tackling homelessness, displacement and Isolation in Bedford and beyond.



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- ◆ **Support for Gaza,** In Gaza, people are dying of hunger and disease, as well as injuries caused by the conflict. Food and clean water are desperately scarce. Ninety percent of the population are displaced, and more than 42,000 people have been killed. All your help is greatly appreciated.

*Vicar and Churchwardens.*

## **St Andrew's Biggleswade**

### **OUR VISION**

**Christ – Centered**

**Welcoming**

**Inclusive**

**Outward – Looking.**

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## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rosemary Bentley 313517,

romybentley@aol.com

Lucy Dilley

lucydilley18@gmail.com

Vivienne Gayfer 225898

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Judith Thatcher

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Netti van de Weerd 07767 711353

wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

### Deanery Synod Members

Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com

Hilary Johnson: 220533 hilary@vaughanjohnson.me.uk

### Safeguarding Officer

Helen Tranter: safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk – 09951554484

**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:** Parish Office 01767 317207.

**Chapter House Queries:** Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 or

bookings@biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Sundays 7.30 pm. Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 – [chris2parker@btinternet.com](mailto:chris2parker@btinternet.com) or Emma Pallett 01767 319146 – [emmapallett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emmapallett@hotmail.co.uk)

**10+ (Afters):** For young people in School years 5 & 6 meets on Thursdays 6.00 pm. Contact: Claire Leeks – 07484 684743 or Mandy Anning – [aamandy@aol.com](mailto:aamandy@aol.com).

**12+:** For young people in School years 7 & 8 meets on Thursday 7.30 pm. Contact: Peter Giles [peterdgiles@gmail.com](mailto:peterdgiles@gmail.com)

**14+:** For young people in School years 9 & 10 meets on Thursdays 7.30 pm. Contact: Chris Parker – 07702 250776 or Emma Pallett – 01767 319146.

**Holiday Club:** Runs for four days during the Summer Holidays. Contact: Emma Pallett on 01767 319146 [emmapallett@hotmail.com](mailto:emmapallett@hotmail.com).

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# Visit the Church Website:

[www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk](http://www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk)

or



@StAndrewsBiggleswade



@standrewsbiggleswade



St Andrew