



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 10TH May 2026 at 11.45 am

Reports of the Activities and Organisations.



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DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT.

Diocesan Synod met three times in 2025 in March, July and October. The March Synod was the last Diocesan Synod meeting that Bishop Alan would lead before his retirement in May this year. He reflected on the 16 years of his time as Bishop of St Albans and gave thanks for everything that was going on at Parish, Chaplaincy and School level. He felt the diocese was a strong community with more in common than that which divides us. He emphasised that the process of choosing a new bishop needs to involve the whole of the Diocese from Parishes and Chaplaincies to Deaneries and above. The Deed of Delegation was approved, and Bishop Richard of Bedford will step up to carry on the Bishop of St Albans' work until the new Bishop is elected and in place. An Update on the 'Growing Younger and more Diverse' project was given by Bishop Jane. The Diocese has been preparing bids for a number of projects which it is on the verge of presenting to the Church of England. We were given a presentation about the Vacancy in See process and what this entailed for the election of a new bishop. An update from the General Synod debates on Living in Love and Faith/Prayers of Love and Faith was given. There was also an update from General Synod about Safeguarding.

The June Synod was held online via Zoom. Bishop Richard gave the presidential address and spoke about Bishop Alan's last service when he laid down his crozier, cope and mitre which marked the beginning of the Vacancy in See. During this time of vacancy, work still carries on in our mission, evangelism and outreach. An update of the work of the Vacancy in See was provided by the Very Revd. Jo Kelly-Moore. She thanked everyone who had taken part in the public meetings and sent in comments and information to produce the Statement of Need which the drafting group had drawn up. The

Annual Reports from the Committees had been circulated prior to the synod and these were accepted. The Annual Safeguarding Report was presented by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Jez Hirst and Mary Moroney, The Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel. A summary of the work of the Safeguarding team was given and how work is in hand preparing for the audit expected in 2027. An update was given on the Alban Way Project by the Revd. Dan Drew and Rachel Drury, the Alban Way Project Lead. David White gave a presentation about the Five-Year Financial projection where he stated that it was difficult to make clear projections.

I could not attend the October Synod, but the opening address was given by Bishop Jane, the Bishop of Hertford. She reflected on how since the earliest time, Christians have come together to debate and make decisions about current matters. She emphasised the need for kindness in our debate and in the way we treat everyone, and to be open to see the way God is moving us. The formula for Deanery Synod representation was discussed, as were the Fees for SMM, PtOs and Readers. There was a presentation about the Diocesan Budget and Stipend levels with a proposal to accept the changes, and then a review of the Diocesan Finances was presented. A further update was given on the 'Growing Younger and More Diverse' projects and on the bids for funding from the Church of England. An update was given on Living in Love and Faith and a presentation given by the Diocesan Board of Education. Information was provided about the Diocesan link with Linkoping in Sweden. The final presentation was about the Listening process taking place across the Diocese feeding into a broader Ministry Strategy. The way that this would take place was expanded and described.

Jane Gogarty.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT.

Deanery Synod met three times in 2025, in March, July and October.

The March Synod, held at St Edmund or St James Church, Blunham, began with Holy Communion. A report from General Synod was given. The Financial Accounts for 2024 were approved. An application for a grant was accepted along with the reinstatement of the Parish Levy which had not been collected for several years. The composition of the Diocesan Board of Finance has been changed so there is now no direct link to the Deanery, so a report is now provided.

The July Synod was held at All Saints Church, Upper Caldecote. Revd. Canon Dr Tim Bull attended and presented a talk on 'Living as a Human in an AI World'. Although a complex and detailed subject matter, the content of his talk was excellent and well received by those present. A Finance report was given and a grant approved.

The October Synod was held at St John's Church, Moggerhanger, where the speaker was Mrs Lucy Chapman, Head Teacher of Sutton, VA Primary School and a member of the Diocesan Board of Education. She explained the way the school ran and how they are involved with the local church and how families are encouraged to attend the weekly services. A report from General Synod was given. A Finance Report was provided which showed that so far £860 has been raised for the Deanery Project of Triumph Heart. This has another year to run before the proceeds are handed over.

Jane Gogarty.

CHURCH FABRIC AND GROUNDS.

Roof Works: During 2025 a great deal of time was dedicated in preparation for getting the North Aisle Roof repaired, although the actual work could not be started until the necessary architectural and legal documents were completed. This work continues to be in progress, and it is expected that the North Roof will be fully repaired during 2026.

Other work: We have continued to keep pace with the five-year programme of recommended works from our 2021 quinquennial inspection.

The following maintenance jobs were also completed:

- Garden shed roof re-felted.
- Some floor repairs done pending possible reordering.
- Some replacement of broken windows.
- A bench was repaired, revarnished and refixed.
- Some major work on trees where necessary.
- Small garden shed by The Courtyard taken down.
- Fence protection posts installed in car park.

Work parties: We continue to be very grateful to everyone who turns out for Saturday work parties. Over the year these have helped with the following:

- Leaf clearing and ground maintenance Spring and Summer.
- Pruning of trees.
- Clearing and cleaning of all rainwater hoppers, pipes and underground traps.

Gardening: Thanks to Jan Gardner who has been such a major support keeping her part of the garden well-cared for and in bloom, as she decided to retire from that job in December. Our thanks also go to Ros, Ruth, Paul, Neptune Pack, Vaughan and Hilary for regularly tending to their designated flower beds and borders and to all those who work to keep our grounds looking so beautiful.

Garden of Remembrance: Our Garden of Remembrance continues to be a much-used place of rest which is cared for by a small group of volunteers and new signage is now in place. A new hedge was also installed – following donations from the congregation - when it appeared in the summer that the old one was dead; also, a new bench was installed near the Garden Of Remembrance.

Nettie van de Weerd and Vaughan Johnson

SAFEGUARDING.

The role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) exists to ensure that St Andrew's Church, Biggleswade, is a safe and welcoming community for everyone — children, young people, and vulnerable adults alike. Safeguarding is not simply a compliance obligation; it reflects the values at the heart of our parish community. The finalisation, completion of a new Safeguarding Policy is an urgent priority.

Training is always ongoing, being recorded centrally via the Diocese of St Albans systems. All individuals who have completed training are encouraged to keep their PSO updated with progress to ensure good, accurate record keeping; in the past year safeguarding

updates have been encouraged and have increased. The Church of England is clear that ensuring Church Officers complete their required safeguarding training is a governance responsibility that sits with the whole PCC, indeed the entire community — not just the PSO alone, who is the first point of contact for any safeguarding matter within the parish, and diocesan support is available where needed.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer would like to thank the Vicar, PCC members, and all volunteers at St Andrew's for their continued commitment to making this a safe, inclusive, and caring church, taking responsibilities seriously. The Parish Safeguarding process reflects a caring community, being honest about where it needs to strengthen its practice and is committed to doing so. That is our aim at St Andrew's. Everyone has a role to play to ensure we have a safe church. Please raise any concerns with me, the Churchwardens and the Vicar.

I can be contacted by email – safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk. Or phone 07951 554484; all concerns will be looked at.

Helen Tranter. Parish Safeguarding Officer.

CHURCH CHOIR.

The choir continues to be an integral part of the regular worship at St Andrew's.

In 2025 the choir sang at all the main services and festivals, as well as some weddings, funerals and other events.

We are always keen to welcome children and adults to join us. There is no formal audition, or a need to read music, just a discussion with me to decide how a person's voice can fit in. We meet in church most Fridays at 19.30. At each practice we open with a prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of music and the opportunity to sing your praises.

We pray that you will be with us in all that we do. Be with us tonight and guide us in our desire to offer you our voices in your service, Amen.

My heartfelt thanks to the members of the choir who offer their time and talents regularly in this way

Dr Robert Butcher, Organist and interim Director of Music.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

The church continues to specifically support the Children's Society in two ways.

- 1) The annual Christingle service, the collection from which raised £380 in 2025
- 2) The boxes for regular giving which raised £554 when collected by me and opened in July 2025.

Anyone interested in having a collection box can speak to me

Robert Butcher.

SIDESPERSIONS AND WELCOMERS.

As a church that strives to welcome all, the Welcoming and Sidesperson teams have done a good job fulfilling this role throughout the past year. They have provided a warm welcome to everyone, greeting our regular congregation as they arrive at church, and giving information and assistance, if needed, to newcomers and visitors.

At the end of last year two more members of the congregation joined the teams, so we now have 17 Welcomers and 17 Sidespersons, with some members fulfilling both roles. However, there is always room for anyone who would like to join either or both teams. Both duties run from 9.30 am until the commencement of the 10.00 am Sunday services, and for half an hour before services at other times. The Sidesperson also needs to put books away and check that nothing has been left in the pews after the service. This year everything from a mobile 'phone to pieces of Lego have been found!

Once again, my grateful thanks to all those who have been part of the teams during the past year.

Mary Dominey.

HOME COMMUNIONS AND PASTORAL VISITING.

Monthly services for Home Communion continue, with worship at Penrose Court, Mantles Court, Beaumont Park residential care homes; and for an increasing number of individual homes, hospitals, hospices, as advised by family, friends and neighbours.

Once again in early December, Revd. Liz and I were also privileged to visit Penrose Court to officiate at a poignant service of thanksgiving, and seasonal carols, remembering the recently departed, and attended by families, friends and care home staff, followed by seasonal refreshments, and an opportunity for fellowship. At the end of March 2026, Penrose Court will say farewell to Mary Tolladay, longstanding Home Manager, who has been an inspirational and caring leader, valued not only by residents, but also staff, families, friends and the Kings Reach community.

Additionally, a significant number of our church family regularly visit former parishioners, neighbours, and associates, who value keeping up to date with life at St Andrew's, within our town and wider community. This is further facilitated by the possibility to join main Sunday morning Parish Communion via Zoom, which is an important link for more distant worshippers, not only for those residing in our Parish. As new possibilities arise to extend this ministry in our town, you are encouraged to join the team ministering in care residences, and to individuals in their homes; please contact the Vicar, or churchwardens, if you wish to be involved in training for this important aspect of ministry.

Likewise, we welcome notification of the names and contact details of the sick, lonely, or increasingly frail, who would value the opportunity to receive Home Communion particularly at Easter and Christmas and throughout the year, or a pastoral visit.

Rosemary Bentley.

FRIENDS' OF ST ANDREW'S.

The Friends' was established (originally as The Preservation Trust) after a successful appeal to raise money for the restoration of the tower in the mid 1980's. Its role is to support the PCC in the task of maintaining, preserving and restoring our parish church of St Andrew.

This year the Friends' strengthened their support for the Bike 'n' Hike, promoting and raising money for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches and our own church. Volunteers welcomed visiting bikers/hikers to St Andrew's during the second Saturday in September, with refreshments; and I undertook to cycle to all the Bedfordshire churches in our Deanery. Fortunately, the weather was kind (apart from a downpour while taking a lunch stop on Ickwell Green), and I received a friendly and supportive welcome at many of the local churches. To anyone who enjoys getting out on their bike, I would recommend taking the opportunity to do something similar this coming September, while raising welcome funds in sponsorship for our church.

On a Friday evening in early October, we held our AGM and social. After a brief business meeting we welcomed the Revd. Canon Robert Sibson to speak to us about the church's Millennium Window,

a quarter of a century since its installation. Robert was Vicar of St Andrew's and the instigator of the idea to mark the new millennium with the window project. He spoke about how the project came into being; the initial thoughts (which changed very little to the window we see today!); the technicalities of the planning; and the craftsmanship in producing and installing the leaded and stained window. Robert reminded many of us of the story and history of the design; our journey from originally being in Lincoln Diocese; Biggleswade's market gardening past and the buildings and landmarks of years gone by; to the central part of the window, the chalice of wine and the bread, and the central part they play in our faith and worship. It was a very informative, interesting and entertaining evening culminating in sharing fellowship over cheese and wine.

In the second week of October Rob Butcher organised a 'Play the Organ' day, this gave local organists (and budding organists) the opportunity to come and 'have a go' themselves. Rob encouraged several very accomplished players to come and play some of their favoured pieces to the gathered audience; in addition, some took their chance to play the instrument for the very first time. Refreshments, cakes and light lunches were served in the Chapter House during the day to raise money for the Friends.

The annual renewal Sunday in June last year, again attracted much support and new membership, both Life members and annual members. A reminder that anyone with an interest in the church can become a Friend, subscriptions are only £12 for adults and £2 for children; or £110 to become a Life Friend and the same amount to remember a loved one In Memoriam.

John Dilley

ST ANDREW'S BELLRINGERS.

The bellringers have again attempted to ring every Sunday for the morning service and, for the most part, been successful. Unfortunately, there are Sundays when numbers of the band are away and not so many bells are ringing. Do help us in our endeavours by coming and learning to ring.

The less experienced members continue to make good progress, and we run targeted practices for them from time to time. We also arranged a day's outing to visit some other Churches during the school summer holidays which included a pub lunch.

Yet again our school aged youngster is all set to take part in the Ringing World National Competition for Young Ringers, which is to be held in July in Nottingham, so we wish him good luck. He is making significant progress with his ringing so much so that he has rung two quarter peals in the last year to a very high standard.

Earlier this year we were delighted to welcome Nick Gurney accompanied by The Neptune Cub Pack for an evening visit to see the bells and a quick 'have a go session.'

As always anyone who would like to join us is welcome to come and have a look to see what goes on in the tower, bellringing is good exercise for both the body and the brain as well as being a very sociable pastime. Just come along on a Sunday or a Wednesday and have a look.

Charlotte Smith.

RONALD J SHARP RINGING CENTRE.

Again in 2025 the Ringing Centre was used for the well-established monthly learner practices.

These are held on the second Saturday in each month and comprise two sessions. The first is to teach bell handling on a one-to-one basis. The students here range from people having a very first try at ringing a bell, to those who can already ring and wish to improve their ringing 'style', and students wishing to develop further skills such as ringing a bell up and down.

The later session is for progression to ringing with other people/bells.

These sessions are very popular, and a booking system is run to ensure that those attending get maximum benefit.

As always, I thank the helpers for their incredible support of this project, St Andrew's Church for use of the facility, and especially the Mothers' Union for the excellent refreshments in the Chapter House.

Chris Williams.

SUNDAY @ 6.

The Sunday @ 6 service is held at 6.00 pm on a Sunday evening, normally on the second Sunday of each month. It focuses on themes from the Bible and everyday life; sometimes following the church's calendar, sometimes topical events in a relaxed atmosphere and style, and is usually lay led. Each service consists of hymns and

songs; time for confession and prayer; and often a thought or reflection.

The last year has included a service on Palm Sunday, picking up on the Lent course, thinking about our feelings and mental health – what were the emotions of those first disciples on the entry into Jerusalem and the week that followed; and what are our emotions during a modern Holy Week?

The summer saw themes based on Christian Aid material; a Pentecost Praise celebration with friends from other churches in the town; and Walking with God, around the 'Footprints in the Sand' poem.

The September service explored Encounters with God and proved to be one of the most poignant thoughts of the year as Chris Parker shared his experience of encountering God in the nights during his time in hospital earlier in the year.

The autumn focussed on care, Care for Creation and Care for Others; while December's service looked at the origin, meaning and singing of Carols. The new year provided further opportunity to celebrate Good News; and just prior to Lent we thought about the Joy of Waiting – waiting not as something passive but something active, as we prepare ourselves (individually and collectively) for Easter.

Sunday @ 6 has sometimes been described a perfect way to end your weekend and a great way to ready yourself for the week to come; why not come and share in a different style of worship?

Each service is followed by an opportunity to share and chat over refreshments in the Chapter House and get to know one another a little better.

John Dilley.

MOTHERS' UNION.

We have had a remarkable 2025. BC (before Covid) we started up with four or five members and that stayed about the same till last year when we finished the year with sixteen.

We had one Mothers' Union speaker, Kim Wilkinson, a previous Diocesan President; ate Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday; continued our monthly Bellringers coffee shop and lunches; met at the Shuttleworth and the RSPB in Sandy; celebrated VJ Day and had a presentation on the effects on Japan from Revd. Barbara who has family in Japan; joined in Mothers' Union special services for Lady Day and Mary Sumner, our founder; made MUmalade; and provided Christmas cake after the 9 Lessons and Carols (we'll make sure we don't run out of mulled wine this year); and set up a Christmas prayer tree. We helped with the catering after the funeral of our much-missed Mo, Maureen Sibley, who had joined us for many meetings. We continue to support Bedford Prison's visitors centre, particularly the children, and other charities, as well as the Mothers' Union projects in the Diocese.

A blessing for our group was the Quiet Day, led by our Revd. Barbara Ebeling. This enriched our spiritual life further, thanks be to God, and we will hold another in April on the theme of 'The Road to Emmaus'.

We welcome anyone to come and see what we do, and there's always cake to finish with (of course) and warm friendship. Mothers' Union starts with prayer and is all about God's love. We try to be his hands and feet in our world.

Maggie McLoughlin and Rosamund Drakes.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE.

One of the key actions this year was replacing the low-level hedge along the south side of the garden as the previous box hedge had died. Thank you to Rob for seeing this through and all who contributed on this work, it is looking much nicer now.

There were three interments of ashes in 2025. The digging of these and the maintenance of the area is carried out by a small group of volunteers. Peter maintains the records for the garden.

The Garden of Remembrance continues to be an important place for our church where relatives and friends visit where the ashes of loved ones have been interned but also where people sit to contemplate in the peace and quietness of the garden.

Peter Giles.

CHURCH WEBSITE.

2025 was the first full year of having Google Analytics to monitor web traffic. This has enabled us to better understand what attracts attention. The notices and seasonal pages (Christmas, Easter etc) get

the most hits. Typical one-off articles get between 20 and 40 visits, while the most viewed individual article visited was the Vicar's Safeguarding Sunday sermon with 186 visits. The analytics has also identified that bots from China occasionally try to gather information from our website. We ensure no confidential information is on there.

As we have taken the decision not to use cookies, identifying the precise number of people who access the website is difficult. However, around 600 unique devices visit the website each month. The church notices are downloaded around 50 times per week.

Lastly, and indirectly related, we have had several emails pretending to be the Vicar's. If you receive one of these, please forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk and let me know.

Peter Giles

COUNTRY FAYRE.

The Country Fayre took place on Saturday 20th September, and we were fortunate with most of the day staying dry which helps in so many ways. A staggering total of £6,000 was raised for our two chosen charities Willow Foundation and MS Trust, both being very grateful for these much-needed funds to enable them to continue with their good work. It was great to have the Willow Foundation support and promote the event within their shop here in Biggleswade.

This year's Fayre marked 40 years since its inception, and this was the theme for the exhibition held in the church. The exhibition took the format of a timeline over these years depicting national and local events and incorporated the many different charities that have been supported by the funds raised at the event. The Fayre has been

a major outreach opportunity. We know so many local people enjoy coming to what has become an important annual event in the town.

There were many participants in the Arena, from local schools, community groups including Tibbs Dementia Choir, Kathryn Tappenden Fitness and Emily Thornton School of Dance giving us a great selection of entertainment throughout the day and very much enjoyed with many people saying it was the best arena for many years.

There was the usual array of stalls that people could spend their money at and with the lovely weather people seemed to appreciate sitting and enjoying something to eat and drink and taking in the atmosphere.

So, another fantastic event, which as a committee we are grateful to all who give support in any way. We always welcome more help and support, so please do consider it if you feel you may be able to help this year in some way. . . we all have different gifts! 2026 Fayre is on Saturday 19th September, so please do put the date in the diary and if you are able to help it would be very much appreciated.

With Chris Parker being half of the original team that launched this much loved activity, his untimely death has left a very large hole, and energy and input has been lost on the committee, so please do ask if you think you may be able to offer your time and support in any way to make this years' Fayre a great success and ensure the two worthy recipients, Cruse Bereavement and Home Start UK get the support and commitment that the previous 50+ charities have received.

Lucy Dilley on Behalf of the Country Fayre Committee.

‘HANDS AT WORK PARTNERSHIP’.

Having started our partnership with ‘Hands at Work’ and the community of Mafambisa, back in 2015 following a youth visit to South Africa our relationship not only with the charity but with the local people within Mafambisa and other communities has really strengthened; 2025 excitingly saw another team head to South Africa and to the Mafambisa community.

Before going into some highlights from our partnership for the past year, a reminder of the incredible work that we can support. Mafambisa Care Point in the Clau Clau region of Mpumalanga, South Africa supports 70 vulnerable children from the community, in particular a nutritious meal each day, access to education and to basic healthcare. As a Church we continue to support 15 of these children through our annual mission payments, but this rises to around 45 children when individual donors from the congregation, from our church schools (St Andrew’s and Edward Peake) and others with a connection are added. We are very grateful for this, and we know that it makes a significant difference in Africa.

We were very fortunate to be able to send a team out to our partner community last summer – the team consisted of Noah Dilley, Adam and Pippa Wells, Rachel Smith, Nick Gurney and was led by Oliver Dilley and Alice Parker. Due to Chris’ health last year and awaiting his amputation surgery, he could not lead the trip and asked Oliver to step in – having visited twice before and as an advocate for ‘Hands at Work’. The trip was as amazing as all the others – although very sad that Chris could not be there and visit friends who he cared for so deeply.

Throughout the trip there were many amazing moments – from Pippa reuniting with Life, one of the children in Mafambisa who is a similar age. They met in 2024 and were very excited to catch up and learn more about each other and changes within the last year. Nick thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the care workers and service centre team and spent time getting to know about them and their lives but also when he spent a long while playing in the sand at Mluti (another local care point) moving the sand with trucks that we took to play with and building sandcastles. Rachel particularly enjoyed sharing words of encouragement from the Bible with the care workers and service centre team in the community to provide reassurance and support for the work they are doing. (For a full in-depth view of our trip visit <https://standrewslink.blogspot.com/>)

Things are constantly changing within these communities as problems are developing and changing. In 2024 it was noted that the new toilet block was being built which the team that year supported. The 2025 team was very pleased to see (and use) the finished toilet block and were tasked with painting it. We ensured it was adorned with the bright colours regularly seen within the ‘Hands’ communities. We also saw the works being undertaken at the care point by the church leader, Pastor Buwani, to increase the size of the church with new foundations in the process of being laid. Although we were thankful that the size of the Church needed to be increased, it did raise some concerns regarding the amount of space for the children – this is something ‘Hands’ is aware of and will address when it is needed and suitable.

‘Hands at Work’ are firm believers in the importance of team visits to partner communities and allowing teams to really build relationships and see the impact that this can have on both sides of

the partnership – as we have seen through the stories shared above. Not only is it good to build these relationships but also to see directly the positive impact that we are having within that community. When the mission partnership was set up by the PCC and ‘Hands at Work’ – the aim was to go deeper with the charity, to get involved and see the results of not only our giving but our visits and prayers for this community. ‘Hands at Work’ are allowing us as a community in Biggleswade to really go deep with our connection with Mafambisa through visits, regular updates from other communities, written updates from our partner community and to see that our monetary giving is being well used by those in desperate need. The idea of a true partnership/relationship we have formed with the community of Mafambisa, and its people is something that was so prevalent in the 2025 visit – we also got the opportunity to share this with the wider ‘Hands’ team at the Hub.

There is always opportunity for more people to contribute to the community through many ways – visiting is the most obvious but not always appropriate for everyone. So what can you do – sponsor a child, so that more vulnerable children in that community can access the essential services (there will always be another vulnerable child, the 71st not yet receiving support), support our teams, and continue to pray for our partner community of Mafambisa – the care workers, the children and the care givers alongside the whole ‘Hands at Work’ family who support them.

A final note:

Chris Parker had a huge passion for helping those on the edge of society and in particular working with children and young people and supporting them with their faith – values that also aligning with the charity ‘Hands at Work’. He worked tirelessly as an advocate for

the work of 'Hands at Work' through this church and beyond. This Mafambisa partnership is just one of Chris' legacies to St Andrew's and its strength and relationships formed can be attributed, in part, to him. Following Chris' death, I am hoping to be joined by another advocate for 'Hands at Work' from St Andrew's – please do get in touch with myself or Alice Parker if you think that you would like to support me in this role and we can discuss this further.

Oliver Dilley, Hands at Work Advocate.

SOCIAL MEDIA.

Throughout the last year, we have continued to see steady and regular growth across our social media platforms – both Facebook and Instagram – with lots of regular engagement from people across the community, some of those being within our Church Family. Our social media platforms are a great outreach to our local community and significantly aid with the work to promote upcoming events, services and specialist days.

I am very pleased to say that the feedback that we have received continually throughout this year has been positive (although always welcome – whether positive or constructive) and we have been successful in reaching many members of the town. With over 520 followers on our Facebook page and 330 followers on Instagram the growth has been continuous and a joy to watch over the past 12 months. This year, our most popular posts have included Holiday Club 2025, Country Fayre 2025 and sharing the publication from Revd. Liz following Chris Parker's death.

We also regularly respond to questions and direct messages regarding upcoming events within the church, availability of events and the building as well as how to contact certain members of the ministry team.

Like many other things, this does take up an awful lot of time and although it is thoroughly enjoyable there are many things you can do to help us as we continue this voluntary role.

- Let us know if you have anything you would like us to share.
- Send any pictures of any events, services or just the beauty of our churchyard to us so that we can share them.
- Volunteer to become a 'personal spotlight' – answer a few short questions about yourself and your relationship with St Andrew's Church.
- Share our pages and posts to your friends and followers encouraging them to like our pages.

You may be aware that we neither of us live within the parish and therefore anything that you can do to support us would be incredibly appreciated.

Oliver Dilley and Jessica Mepham.

socialmedia@standrewschurchbw.org.uk,

Facebook and Instagram: @standrewsbiggleswade

BRASS CLEANING.

We now have only four people on our Brass Cleaning rota, so once again, if there's someone out there who would like to keep our lectern shiny, now is your chance. Your turn would come round

roughly every six weeks, and you can access the church at any time, though I would advise you to check beforehand that there isn't a funeral or school service on. Please get in touch with me.

Rosemary Jopson.

ROTARY SHOEBOX APPEAL.

Last year after five years of filling shoeboxes for the Rotary Club, we experienced our first major change. Because of issues with importing customs, we were told that the contents of 2- and 3-year-old boxes **MUST** be brand new. As, in the past, I have bought a lot of 'as new' items at Boot Fayres, this obviously had an impact on the cost of producing our usual pre-school boxes. However, despite this setback, we managed to fill the usual amount of communal boxes, AND I have a substantial amount of cash remaining to carry over into this year. This is largely due to picking up free items at Preen, shopping at Boot Fayres and the generous donations of items and money from members of the congregation. Please consider picking up 'Free' items for me when you visit Preen.

Last November, 276 boxes were dispatched to the Rotary Club warehouse in Rochdale. Of these, there were our usual 60 + for each age group, namely, Young (2 - 5), Junior (6 – 11) and Secondary (12 +). There were 68 boxes filled by members of the congregation (slightly lower than our usual number). I also acquired 16 unfilled boxes from another parish. These were filled by me from our stock of goodies and credited to our donation. Interestingly for the last two years, just one box has failed to be returned.

Sadly, only 8 of our filled boxes were Household ones, so having surplus funds, I telephoned Nigel Danby in Rochdale, and he told me that a very low proportion of boxes are for households, so I made the decision to buy 30 boxes this Spring and to fill and send them as soon as I could. Should you decide to fill a household box this year, the category of contents is not so rigid. Almost anything useful can go in - particularly disposable items such as scourers, dishcloths, string etc. Also, such items as gloves, playing cards, note pads, pens etc.

Boxes for children should still contain something for hygiene, some school stuff, a couple of toys, a hat, a ball and a cuddly toy - But please **NO** liquid in **any** category of box.

If you like to buy throughout the year, please remember that Rotary shoeboxes are on the small side, so careful thought is needed about the size of items included. Please also note that teenage boys and the youngest children do least well in box numbers.

Last year cash donations totalled £130, for which I am truly grateful. Money was also raised from miscellaneous sales - £106, sales at BQS - £76, sale of jigsaws - £19.50, sale of used ink cartridges - £66.50 and the Christmas Stall - £113. Selling at Boot Fayres also raised £119 and my 'At Home' in the Autumn - £215. Our boxes were collected on Friday the 7th of November and I have now been informed that they again went to Romania.

Last year, the price of a shoebox was £2.50, and it looks as though they may be as little as £2.00 this year. Although I have started this year with a very healthy bank balance, I expect to run at least one Fund-raising event to embrace the extra cost of filling the 2- and 3-year-old boxes. Donations of items are always welcome as this will

help to stretch the funds. I have already started buying for this year's communal boxes and expect to order the flatpack boxes from Rotary during the summer term.

Thank you to all those who have continued to support the project by filling a box and to all those who have helped in any way to make last year's project such a success.

Mary Dominey.

ECO CHURCH.

St Andrew's registered with the A Rocha UK scheme on 6th January 2022. Since then, The Eco Group, with support from the Leadership Team, PCC and church family has achieved much. Since 12th May 2024 when receiving an A Rocha UK Bronze Award, St Andrews has continued to engage with climate change and environmental matters, sometimes figuring in sermons and more regularly in our intercessions. During 2025, Eco Church was involved in the following:

- **Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 (24th – 26th January)** - Encouraged participation and surveys submitted by members of this church.
- **Environment Sunday (1st June) and Churches Count on Nature** - Eco Group contributed by way of the intercessions and organising Sunday School for which the theme was God's Creation. There was a reading from Genesis and discussion on the parable of the mustard seed, Eco Church, water butts etc. The children participated in planting different types of seeds (peas, carrots, potato chittings) in different types of

soil and which also included planting-on small Brussel sprout plants. Mary Dominey talked about the various plants in the wildlife area on the south side of the churchyard. At the beginning of Sunday School, during the activity and then in church at the 'show and tell', the children read out short prayers based on 'creation'. The children took potted seeds home to nurture and see what happens together with a word search activity based on the environment.

- **Big Butterfly Count 2025** - Took place between 8th July – 10th August with at least one survey submitted.
- **Eco Church Survey.** - Launched in September and looked at change over 3 years and it asked about are we doing the right things. Seventeen responses to the survey, compared with 27 in 2022.
- **Cut your Carbon Month.** - Creationtide concluded on 4th October and during this month school children were encouraged to participate in November's 'Cut your Carbon Month'. An item added to Pew Sheet News also highlighted this event and encouraged the church community to do their bit for God's Creation.
- **'Wild' Area.** - Established on south side of the church two years ago and has been managed since. The character of this area is 'maturing' steadily, and the 'twig' boundary has been re-established to deter mowing.
- **Water Butt.** - Proposed on the south side of the church and received a faculty in 2025. Awaiting installation.

In addition, St Andrew's has recently registered for Biggleswade in Bloom 2026.

Peter Giles – Eco Group.

SERVERS.

The team of dedicated Servers have continued to support and enhance worship throughout the year. Their commitment is greatly valued especially for all the major festivals.

During the last year we have welcomed Sam and David Elong, David Franklin and Jane Sharp to the team and hope that this will give us more flexibility when people are away.

Sue Oldroyd.

OPEN THE BOOK.

We still present a Bible story for the children of Caldecote Academy on four or five Wednesday mornings each half term, so it means we must be there for 8.30am. We would love to have more people to join us in this very rewarding activity, so if you feel you can help, please speak to me or Sue Thorn. We would love to hear from you.

Rosemary Jopson

FOOD BANK.

We have received fewer items in the church collecting box this year. With the steady rise in food prices, this is hardly surprising, but I'm hoping it's also because people are putting donations into the boxes in supermarkets. We continue to support the Baptist Church food bank and had large amounts to deliver from Harvest and from

the Reverse Advent Calendar. Anna Rutt has joined me in updating needs using the 'BanktheFood' app. Thank you for whatever you can give and God bless you.

Maggie McLoughlin and Anna Rutt

PRINTING.

We continue to print on Friday mornings. Many hands make light work, and my thanks go to Christina Lawrence and Pat Sherwood-Saunders for their folding skills, and to Christine and others at the Saturday Coffee Shop for helping with folding and collating for larger service sheets.

Maggie McLoughlin.

SUNDAY LUNCH.

Monthly Sunday lunches have continued throughout the last year. They have been very well attended with over 90 people regularly sitting down. They have become so popular that we have needed to limit the list to 96. Lunches take an informal format, of a three-course roast dinner meal served to all for £10. Any monies raised are usually put back into church funds, or occasionally given to an agreed designated charity. Many of the attendees are people who do not worship at St Andrew's but may be on the fringe of the church. This is a great opportunity for outreach, and we often see some of these people support other events at St Andrew's, including services.

The appreciation for this activity is demonstrated by many of these people also helping with setting up the tables, drying up etc.

We endeavour to cater for many allergies or preferences including vegetarian and vegan. This initiative has now been going for over 15 years, and the kitchen team get some lovely comments from those who attend. We have purchased a plate warmer this year which has helped with heating capacity in the kitchen. PLEASE can we request that you do NOT sign up if are unable to attend the meal, we are finding that we are now having occasions where we have declined people due to health and safety (numbers) and then find that people don't turn up; which is extremely frustrating on many counts including having surplus food and denying someone else the opportunity to come. John and I took over the ownership of this activity last year whilst Chris was poorly, and we will continue to do so now (with particular thanks to the small band of dedicated monthly helpers). Thanks to those who support practically in any way, with what we believe is a great outreach opportunity and a way of following our Lord's example by eating a meal and sharing fellowship with others.

Lucy and John Dilley.

P.A.

Since the last report we have welcomed Jack Marron and Claire Leeks to the team which has helped in sharing the load. However, I am very much aware that the Thursday morning services and funerals are only covered by one PA Operator, which does need to be addressed.

A volunteer to help share that load would really be welcome. Full training and support would be given.

Thanks to Adrian for creating a guide of how to use the sound desk with step-by-step instructions, particularly on how to use the Denon unit with its Bluetooth and memory stick capabilities.

Our PA equipment delivers the spoken word in church and is an important part of our worship in that it makes services accessible. Not only the fact people can hear those leading our worship, but it also assists those who use hearing aids as well as those who join the service via Zoom.

The PA team will assist at most services as well as weddings and funerals, but the team goes beyond that and helps at outdoor events like Nativity Tableau, Country Fayre and services on the Market Square and our holiday club week.

I would like to thank all the PA Operators for their continued support during the year.

Nick Gurney.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served in the Chapter House following each Sunday morning 10.00 am service. Numbers vary from week to week but, there's usually a crowd. It's a great opportunity to speak to friends but also to people who may be either new to the church; or just visiting Biggleswade, giving them a warm welcome in a little more relaxed environment and also to get to know a little about them and what brings them to St Andrew's that day.

There is a small, dedicated team of people who help set up, serve and clear up after serving the refreshments, new helpers would be very much appreciated! The rota means that helpers are 'on duty' once a month and have a dedicated Sunday of the month. There are donation dishes out and monies raised go into the Church General Funds; thank you for your generosity. Thank You also to the team who give up some time for what I believe to be an important part of our outreach ministry here at St Andrew's. If you feel this is something you would like to help, I would love to hear from you, always in need!

Lucy Dilley (07800 577106)

THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE.

Coffee on Thursday morning is served after the 9.30 am Communion Service which follows our regular pattern of worship with readings, prayers, intercessions all read by individual members or groups. Our service includes a hymn which is sung most heartily.

We have a steady following each week of between 20-30 participants with most joining for refreshments in the Chapter House afterwards.

This is where our 'Coffee Club' starts, everyone enjoying lots of chatter, exchanging weekly news, sometimes chatting right through to when the serving team are ready to leave. Everyone's birthday is celebrated with singing 'Happy Birthday' led either by Colin or Rob at the piano and with the addition of birthday cake if some has been brought in.

No charges are made for refreshments just a plate for donations. Our customers are kind and generous and the money collected is paid towards the Church General Fund.

We have a small team of five volunteers and each week two will be on duty: setting out chairs and tables, making tea and coffee, serving, washing up and clearing away. We could never do this weekly without the help of all the volunteers, and we both thank them for their help which is greatly appreciated.

Each week one of us buys milk and biscuits to suit all needs as some require gluten and dairy free biscuits. The rota is arranged during this time.

There is always such a peaceful atmosphere at the Thursday service, and all enjoy the fellowship which follows. Why not join us, you will be made most welcome.

Janet Castle and Gill Hibbert.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH.

The small, dedicated team of people kindly decorated the church, including windows and entrances for the different festivals throughout the year which I know many people appreciate.

Jan Gardner who has coordinated the flowers in church for many many years, giving much of her time and financial support has stepped down from this role having moved away from the parish; and because of caring responsibilities. We Thank You Jan for all your tireless work over these years. You are and will continue to be missed.

I have taken on the role as coordinator but lack floristry skills, but with others help we will continue with floral and other creative windows at major festivals. Another of our longstanding volunteers has also now stopped due to her caring responsibilities so if there is anyone who would like to help with any type of arrangements I would love to hear from you. I have 'recruited' the Sunday School and the Mothers Union to adopt a window each which worked superbly for Christmas and thank them for this help and support.

I aim to always have fresh flowers at the entrance of the church as feel this offers a lovely welcome to all. Any financial donations are much appreciated, for the seasons of Easter and Christmas.

So many thanks to all who helped with either their floristry or financial gifts during 2025; I shall endeavour to ensure that we are able to continue this work within our church. Please do contact me if you can help in ANY way.

Lucy Dilley 07800577106.

ST ANDREW'S HOUSE.

10 COMPTON MEAD.

The PCC have, for many years, owned a property in the town to provide a suitable working/family home for housing a curate/assistant minister for the parish. In 2017 a recently built house at Compton Mead, overlooking Edward Peake School field, was purchased; with upgraded facilities and a base on the east side of Biggleswade. While we currently do not have a training curate the

house is being let, both to provide security at the house, and to obtain an income from the property until it is required for its intended purpose.

There is very little to report on the happenings at the property in the last year, the current tenants have been in the house now for more than five years and have recently requested to extend their tenancy for another twelve months. There have been no additional items of expenditure required on the house in the last year; and we have had another favourable report from the agents as its condition both internally and externally.

John Dilley.

CRAFT AND CHAT.

Craft and Chat is an informal get together for anyone to attend. We meet every 3rd Saturday in the month between 10.00 am and 12 noon during coffee shop in the Chapter House. If you have a craft project on the go why not bring it along and spend time with likeminded people or just come along and enjoy a chat. You will hear exclamations such as 'I've dropped a stitch' or 'I've lost count of rows' so I can assure you we are not all experts.

There is lots of chat, often laughter and there are always tea, coffee and biscuits on hand. We would love to see some new faces.

Anna, Janet and Gill

NEW DAYLIGHT. BIBLE STUDY NOTES.

The booklets are published three times a year – January, May and September and contain varied selections of readings focused on biblical themes, characters and seasons of the church year. There is a short Bible reading each day, a thought-provoking comment and a reflection or prayer.

The booklets are an invaluable aid to a daily routine of spending time with God and to grow in faith. The cost is £5.25 per copy or £6.50, per copy for a large print.

If you would like to receive your own copy, I would be pleased to help. A copy can be found in the Church foyer for you to have a look at.

Judith Thatcher.

BIGGLESWADE COMMUNITY CHOIR.

The Biggleswade Community Choir was originally formed in 2010 under the leadership of Yvonne Gray. The Choir was re-formed in 2022 under the direction of Simon Berridge and has since then performed at least two concerts a year.

In 2025 the choir performed two concerts with Northill Community Choir and Innominatum, one in July and one in December, both at All Saints Church, Upper Caldecote. The

Community Choir also sang at the Country Fayre in September and at the Christmas Lights Switch on in Biggleswade Market Square.

The Choir rehearses on a Wednesday evening from 7:30 pm until 8:30 pm in St Andrew's Church. New members are always welcome – Soprano's, Alto's, Tenor's and Basses, you don't need to be able to read music – just enjoy singing!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Simon Berridge on 07958 472310 or via email readysteadysing@gmail.com.

Ruth Marshall-Jones.

ZOOM.

We continue to broadcast the Sunday morning Parish Communion service by Zoom as some people are unable to attend church in person, and this provides a way for them to virtually attend the service. The zoom congregation is on average between 10 and 15 connections and some of the connections serve multiple people, as a couple of local care homes show the Zoom services for residents. We have had connections from as far afield as New Zealand and South Africa for various special services this year.

Thank you to the Zoom congregation for your support and patience as I have taken on running the zoom this year. Especially when we have the odd technical difficulty or unexpected hymn! Feedback is always welcome.

If you would like to join by Zoom, please use the following details (NB the meeting ID and passcode to these details changed in March 2026):

Meeting ID: 931 2877 4094

Passcode: 263739

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

Sally Wells.

LEPROSY MISSION.

We continue to have a few regular contributors using collection boxes and I thank them for their dedication in saving regularly. During August, I collect money to send to the Leprosy Mission and last year the total raised was £45.

Because the cost of producing collection boxes has escalated, the Leprosy Mission are now providing envelopes so please ask if you would like one. Should you prefer to donate online their website is: – www.leprosymission.org.uk.

Sue Oldroyd.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S GROUPS.

St Andrew's continues to offer a wide variety of groups for our children and young people. On Sunday mornings during our 10.00 am worship during term time we run our Sunday School which caters for children virtually from birth until early teens.

2025 saw four youth groups for young people running at church, three on a Thursday evening and one on Sunday evenings, for young people aged from the age of about 9 through to 18+, these are programme-based youth groups and give our young people and those from the community a chance to meet together in a Church setting with Christian leaders to do a variety of activities. At the end of each term, these youth groups meet for a youth activity, which is followed by a disco, barbeque or wide game depending upon the time of year. These groups currently cater for a total of about 36 young people.

St Andrew's now supports six uniformed groups of Rangers, Guides, Brownie Guides and Rainbows who meet regularly during term time and occasionally attend services like Christingle and Remembrance.

In the summer for four days, we run our Holiday Club that operates for about 160 children and gives a variety of activities, games and crafts wrapped up with singing and learning about characters and stories from the Bible. The theme in 2025 'Jungle Adventures' focused on Matthew's Gospel and covered such events as Jesus' birth and baptism, walking on water, all based upon a Jungle Adventure theme! The Week concluded with a Sunday service of praise, which brought together around 200 people for a service followed by a barbeque.

You will find reports within this booklet for most of these groups. Obviously to be able to run this level of youth and children's activities requires a large number of children and young people's workers so would like to express on behalf of St Andrews our thanks for all the hard work these people put in this vital outreach.

Emma Pallett.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

We have had a good time in Sunday School this year. We start each week altogether with prayers and enjoy a story based on the Bible reading for the day. This is usually a busy but joyful twenty minutes.

After our all age worship the children move to an activity based on the Bible reading. Our activities are based on age groups and have involved stories, baking, colouring, games and sports activities.

One of our looked forward to events by the children is the Crib Service. From October we all came together to begin practising for what was a great Nativity, enjoyed not only by the children taking part but by their parents, the congregation and wider Biggleswade community.

Emma Pallett.

HOLIDAY CLUB.

We welcomed 160 children into our church for a week of fun, learning and activities. Under the 'Jungle Adventures' theme the programme focused on awesome accounts from Matthew's Gospel. The group leaders created programmes of activities for all the children, from making candles to building their own boats and everything in between the children were taken on a journey of discovery through a variety of stories.

The children enjoyed four fun filled days at church. We started with all the children together in church for group worship which was met with the usual enthusiasm especially when singing all the favourite holiday club songs. The children then spent the rest of the day in their groups exploring further the theme of the day, finally all coming back together at the end of the day to hear more about what the teams had been up to and share their experiences and work from the day.

We also welcomed several outside companies to come and entertain the children, from a theatre group, circus skills workshop and birds of prey demonstration. All the children enjoyed these activities. Each group took part in the activities at specified times throughout the week. The week was rounded off with the holiday club service and barbeque on the Sunday. This was well attended by both those who attend church regularly and the family and friends of the children who took part in the week. It was an opportunity for the children to share their week with others and involve them in God's team. The sausages and burgers offered at the barbeque went down well and over 200 people shared in this.

We are well into planning this year's Holiday Club and are always looking for new volunteers to help with the week. If you feel you would like to join in the fun, please speak to Emma Pallett or Sally Wells.

Emma Pallett.

12+ YOUTH GROUP.

The 12 + Youth Group meets on Thursday evenings, normally at 7:30pm. It currently has six members, who attend every week, there is space for more if interested.

Activities in 2025 varied including craft events, bike rides and walks, bowling nights, baking and Gravity Active in Stevenage. If you are interested, please speak to me.

Peter Giles.

14+ YOUTH GROUP.

14+ Youth Group continues to bring much enjoyment to the children who attend. We have enjoyed many activities this year such as cooking, games and crafts along with some nights out bowling, night hiking and town quizzes.

This year we extended our Easter pilgrimage out to 14+ and those who came along had a great experience. This year we have welcomed Noah as a new group leader, and he has helped encourage the young people with new activities and enthusiasm.

Emma Pallett.

THE 'KITCHEN.'

'The Kitchen' meets regularly on a Sunday evening. The group enjoys regular games of 'CORKS' and other not so competitive games. We have also enjoyed nights bowling, played adventure golf and been go karting. Most of our evenings involve food in some way, from pizza, baking contests or just extensive chocolate tasting!

Several of the group took part in the Easter Monday Pilgrimage, walking the whole way from Biggleswade to St Albans including our traditional stop over at Kimpton for the night.

During the summer they played a crucial role in helping make the church's Holiday Club the success it was. Creating the stage and bringing everyone together with their singing and acting ability.

Emma Pallett.

1ST BIGGLESWADE ST ANDREW'S, RAINBOWS.

1st Biggleswade St Andrew's Rainbows have had a really fun filled year. We have a unit of 17 girls who are aged 4-7 years old, and we meet for one hour every Wednesday evening. Over the last twelve months we have enjoyed lots of craft activities, including: painting, bracelet making, card making and creating our own Christmas decorations. We have had two Promise Ceremony's this year and have enjoyed special activities to Celebrate: Mothering Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year, Earth Day, Remembrance Day and World Thinking Day.

We went on our first ever camping trip with Rainbows as part of the District Summer Camp and have enjoyed a cinema trip, a Sports Day and an Activity Day. The girls have earned lots of badges throughout the year and have had fun every week.

Liz Fulcher.

2ND BIGGLESWADE ST ANDREW'S, RAINBOWS.

Our unit meet on a Monday evening every week in term time for 4-7 yr old girls. We have been busy building dens, creating science experiments, making smores and working on teamwork.

The Rainbows enjoy completing interest badges on different themed skills and having lots of fun. We took part in the 2025 carnival, the Church Country Fayre and Biggleswade Remembrance Parade on the Market Square.

Every term we have a party to celebrate the girls' achievements and to say good luck to the girls moving on to Brownies. We are looking forward to visiting Woburn in 2026.

Jo McMurray – Hedgehog Leader.

1ST BIGGLESWADE ST ANDREW'S, BROWNIE PACK

In January we welcomed Imogen, Rhyleigh and Rosie, and played games, to get to know each other. We discussed feelings and how cruel words can make you feel. We made fir cone animals and attended the Christingle.

In February we learned that girls can do anything, and we invited some Inspirational ladies to come and talk to the pack. Amanda is an electrical engineer and was the only lady in her year at university and Revd. Liz, who told us about her calling to serve God. We attended the District Thinking Day pyjama party at Stratton school, and who doesn't want to see Brown owl in a Percy Pig onesie?

Isla ran an evening for us, for her Gold award. We sewed flowers on to our Brownie path, used for enrolments, and learned about the planets and the solar system. We also decorated tea light holders for Mother's day and made wooden flowers for Easter.

In April we welcomed Rosalie and Xanthe and Rosalie's mum Hayley as a Pack helper. We played Kim's game – to practice remembering things and made sock puppets. Grace led an evening for her Gold award, where we had to make towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

We went for a walk round Baulk Wood, Langford and collected grasses etc, to decorate Father's Day cards. Xanthe's Dad kindly brought their dog to Brownies so the girls could learn about dogs and rules about approaching dogs.

We visited the Fire station and learned about fire safety and how wet you can get using the hose pipes.

We finished the term with a parachute picnic party and said a sad goodbye to retiring Brownies, Ava, Sky, Imogen and Grace.

In September we said hello to Dora-Jane, Millie and Ava. We did a scavenger hunt around the Church grounds and made pictures with what we collected.

We made paper poppies and made edible sparklers and had hot chocolate. We learned the National Anthem, and how to hold the Pack flag. We walked to the War memorial to look at the poppy wreaths, and we sang the National Anthem.

We also took part in 'The Show in a Day,' where Scouting and Guiding members met at 9.00 am and by 7.00 pm put on a show!! It went well and the girls really enjoyed it and so did the audience.

Paige ran an evening for her Gold award, and for Christmas we made fabric decorations and paperclip angels.

I would like to thank all the Leaders and young Leaders, for their help and friendship, parents for their support, and of course the girls for making it all worthwhile.

Babs Gurney – Brown Owl.

1ST BIGGLESWADE ST ANDREW'S, GUIDES.

Our unit have 25 girls who are aged 10-14 years old and we meet for one and a half hours every Wednesday evening.

We have enjoyed so many activities this year in and out of the meeting place, including a Night Hike, Sports Day and an activity day for World Thinking Day.

A huge highlight this year was taking the Guides camping at Mollivers for five days in the Summer Holidays as part of our District camp.

During weekly meetings we have enjoyed pampering evenings, outdoor cooking, learning life skills and a special Father's Day BBQ.

Some of the girls also enjoyed helping to run the barbeque at the St Andrews Church Country Fayre.

The girls have all earned lots of badges. We have made lovely crafts and played a huge variety of games. Every evening has been different but equally filled with fun and laughter.

Liz Fulcher.

2ND BIGGLESWADE ST ANDREW'S, GUIDES.

We are a unit of 18 Guides aged 10-14 who meet on Tuesday evenings for 1.5 hours each week.

We took part in lots of exciting activities in 2025, including a sleepover at Climb Quest with 1st Biggleswade Guides, a summer camp and Christmas shopping trip. In our weekly meetings we've enjoyed a spa evening, learning crime scene investigation techniques whilst completing our Investigation badge, making S'mores, using the Chapter House kitchen for experiential cooking like pasta sauces, and playing Capture the Flag. We've also taken part in activities with other Scouting and Guiding groups in Biggleswade, including the District Sports Day (which we won!) and the Gang Show in a Day organised by Biggleswade Scouts.

We've awarded 11 Guides' Bronze awards, a Silver award and a Gold award - the highest award a Guide can earn! We look forward to completing more badges and handing out more awards in 2026.

Lorna and Amanda.

The Vicar and Churchwarden would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this year's Annual Reports.

I CAN HELP/JOIN.

This booklet of Annual Reports represents the varied life of our church and the wide-ranging talents and skills that people put to use to help others and the service of God.

If by reading these reports you would like to join one of the groups, be involved in some activities or volunteer for one or more tasks, please fill in your details below and pass it to the person who organises the activity/group or one of the Churchwardens.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Contact No:.....

Email:.....

Activity/Group/Tasks

.....

.....

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk



@StAndrewsBiggleswade



@standrewsbiggleswade

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Email: vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

CHURCHWARDEN:

Nettie van de Weerd.

Tel: 07767 711353