



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



PARISH NEWS

Holy Week and Easter



PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE

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VICAR'S LETTER

Journeying through Lent

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, and this year it fell on the 14th February, colliding with St. Valentine's Day. A timely reminder that if we are to nurture our love of God, we need to renew and refresh our passion for Him, and Lent is good time to do just that. The season of Lent has been marked over the years as a period of self-discipline, fasting and spiritual journeying. It is a period of penitence and self-examination, seeing ourselves from God's perspective. It is perhaps then not surprising that people don't always look forward to Lent. Words like sacrifice, discipline and self-denial are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured, rather than a time of grace, renewing our love for God and spiritual growth. Thinking about Lent like that gives us opportunity to realign our lives with God's values, it gives us a prolonged and focussed time to reflect and pray, to read the Bible and deepen our faith. The 40-day period is time enough to build in new habits and actions into our lives, which will have a lasting effect.

With ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel and Hamas and so much uncertainty in our world I am finding that there is a great deal of anxiety around about the future alongside many who are wondering without a guide, and much fear, and anger, and tiredness. Lent gives us as Christians an opportunity to give all these things, and more, back to God, in the hope of asking God to heal and restore all things in Him. It is also, as St. Paul reminds us, a time to recognise that our human experiences are common and that whilst heightened by our personal challenges or world events, are not unique to us but the difference is that our faith will endure (1 Corinthians 10.13).

Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, or a new opportunity to "return to God with our whole heart" and learn to be God's people once again. As you journey through this annual 'second chance' decide how you will use this time well. Be reassured as we know how the story ends, and that we have an enduring hope within us because Jesus has conquered death and brought forgiveness to us. We are forever Easter people who live in the light of the resurrection, and we can mark Lent because of his sacrifice for us. The rhythm of the spiritual and liturgical year is a helpful tool to remind us that there is a cost and a purpose to our faith, which is not about self-benefit and self-fulfilment but about generosity, servant-heartedness, and a simple, humbler faith.

As Christians, we have a message of hope for a better future and Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to

share the good news. This year we will be studying together a publication entitled, "Journeying through Lent" to accompany us on our Lenten journey. I hope and pray that this will offer new ways of thinking and bring new meaning to familiar Bible passages, so that, as Sally Welch the editor suggests, "you arrive at Easter refreshed and energised, ready to join in the cry: 'He is not here. He is risen!'".



Rev. Liz

DIARY:

HOLY WEEK, EASTER AND PENTECOST

Passion Sunday.

Sun 17th. 10.00 am Parish Communion.
1.00 pm The Mayor's Civic Service.

Palm Sunday.

Sun 24th. 9.30 am Altar Servers and Choir process from
St Andrew's to Market Square.
9.45 am Blessing and Distribution of Palm Crosses.
10.00 am Parish Communion to include dramatic gospel
reading – Mark.

Holy Week.

Mon 25th. 7.30 pm Compline and Address.
Tue 26th. 7.30 pm Compline and Address.
Wed 27th. 7.30 pm Compline and Address.

Maundy Thursday.

Thur 28th 7.30 pm Sung Eucharist and Foot Washing
The Watch until Midnight.

Good Friday.

Fri 29th 10.30 am Procession of witness from Dan Albone car
park to the Market Square.
11.00am Short Good Friday Service
1.30 pm The Liturgy of Good Friday:
St John Passion Reading,
Children's activities in the Chapter House.

Easter Eve.

Sat 30th. 8.00 pm Paschal Ceremony.

Easter Day.

8.00 am Holy Communion [Order II].
10.00 am Festival Parish Communion.

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

Sun 5th 10.00 am Confirmation and Admission to Communion.
 Parish Communion.

Ascension Day

Thur 9th 9.30 am Holy Communion
 7.30 pm Sung Holy Communion *with Incense*.

Feast of Pentecost

Sun 19th 8.00 am Holy Communion [Order II]
 10.00 am Parish Communion
 6.00 pm Pentecost Praise at St Andrew's.
 Churches Together in Biggleswade.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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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**

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.

'2nd Biggleswade' Meet on Mondays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm during term time. Contact: Joanna McMurray, 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 Sunday 7.30 pm. Contact: Chris Parker 07702 250776 – chris2parker@btinternet.com or Emma Pallett 01767 319146 – emmapallett@hotmail.co.uk

10+ (Afters): For young people in School years 5 & 6 meets on Thursdays 6.00 pm. Contact: Chris Parker (details above) or Claire Leeks 07484 684743 Claire.leeks@btinternet.com

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

Holiday Club: Runs for four days during the Summer Holidays. Contact: Emma Pallett on 01767 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com.

Deanery Synod Members

Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com
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Safeguarding Officer

Nicola Woodward: safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

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Bell Ringers: Contact: Charlotte Smith 01462 700676,
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Brass Cleaning: Contact: Rosemary Jopson 313503.

Church Flowers: Contact: Jan Gardner 313124.

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk

or



@StAndrewsBiggleswade



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