



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
BIGGLESWADE



PARISH NEWS



Summer 2026

PARISH OF BIGGLESWADE.

Vicar:	Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong, The Vicarage, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT, Tel 01767 312243 vicar@standrewschurchbw.org.uk .
Licensed Lay Minister:	Rosemary Bentley: 313517 romybentley@aol.com .
Churchwardens:	Rosemary Bentley: 313517 Robert Butcher: 313789 wardens@standrewschurchbw.org.uk .
Organist:	Robert Butcher: 313789
Interim Choir Director:	Robert Butcher: 313789
Administration Assistant:	Sue Thorn: 01767 317207, secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk , Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00am-1pm. Notices for inclusion in the Weekly Pew Sheet to be emailed or handed in by Tuesday 11.00am.
PCC Secretary:	Harriet Shannon, 222152.
PCC Treasurer:	Vacancy.
Stewardship:	Adrian Maynard, 312347.
Parish Magazine Editorial Team:	Margaret Spinner: 315793, Sue Oldroyd: 310394, Mary Dominey: 312939, and Brenda Thorpe.
The Friends':	Vacancy.
Bible Reading:	Judith Thatcher 312588.
Mothers' Union:	Maggie McLoughlin 07866 506195 (text preferred). 1st Wed of the month @2pm.

LETTER FROM OUR VICAR.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6.21

During the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Bellringers AGM, it was our privilege to join members for Evensong in St Andrew's Church: representatives of numerous campanologists actively ringing in this Diocese, and beyond, gathered as we gave thanks for their skills, dedication and commitment. St Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his experimentation in early forging of bells in the 900's AD. For this reason, a Sunday near his feast day, 19th May, is annually chosen to promote Bell Sunday; a special day where the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life of the Church and mission within the community, is recognised and lauded as part of worship, outreach and celebration. It was most appropriate to worship within yards of our St Andrew's tower, home to the Ronald J Sharp Ringing Centre; with its 10 bells, such a wonderful centre for monthly learner practices, visiting teams of bell ringers, and importantly such a gift to our town as the bells provide a call to prayer, often for celebrations or poignant memories, not only on Sundays, but importantly for weddings and funerals, and many other community events. The bells in our towns and villages, help bring Church and Community together, strengthening relationships between God's presence, worshippers, caring, loving, societies. An affirmation of the importance of joyful sounds and harmonies emanating from our bell tower on so many occasions, and importantly an emphasis upon the need for mission and outreach in our town and wider community.

We are privileged to live in such a beautiful area of God's creation; may we never take for granted the opportunities to walk in

our parks, around the Green Wheel path and cycleways, or along the banks of the River Ivel, enjoying an abundance of flora and fauna, valuing bird song, diverse often unexpected meetings, or simply taking time for reflection and appreciation of God's wonderful Creation.

St Andrew's, our town's Civic Church, welcomes Councillor Jonathan Woodhead as Mayor of Biggleswade, re-elected for 2026-2027, and a supporter of numerous church and town events. We commend his chosen charities MAGPAS Air Ambulance and Biggleswade Baptist Church Food Bank during his second mayoral year; both offering support to our local community during times of need, and indeed life-threatening situations. The Town Council has also launched Biggleswade in Bloom 2026 — a celebration of gardens, flowers, wildlife and community spirit across our town. Our Church Eco Group, and numerous other contributions by residents, businesses, schools and other community groups, making Biggleswade brighter, greener, and more welcoming than ever this summer.

At St Andrew's we continue to be thankful for amazing support and heart-warming generosity; not only spiritually and financially, but also with unstinting, faithful, contributions including welcoming and fellowship, mission, time and talents. Our Biggleswade Deanery Project 2025-2026 supported Triumph Heart, a charity supplying life-changing wheelchairs for children and young people in Uganda; a significant part of the grand total, £2,056.12, included donations from members of our church family, including our designated Lent Giving 2026. Please note the visit by Teresha Clark Karahukayo, co-founder of Triumph Heart, who will be our guest speaker, Sunday 19th July, 10.00 am Parish Communion.

Opportunities to enjoy not only fellowship but support to wonderful charities is an essential, much valued, on-going aspect of life in our parish. The 41st Country Fayre, Saturday 19th September, will support the chosen charities: Cruse Bereavement Care and Home-Start Bedfordshire. Please ensure the date is highlighted in your diaries.

Last month we celebrated Generous Giving Sunday. We are thankful that the North Aisle Roof Project has now been successfully completed. We are confident buckets are no longer needed in strategic places whenever rain is forecast. After months, it was a great relief to witness the final strike of the external scaffolding recently. Such a significant project is costly; as with household finances, our outgoings, expenses including the cost of utilities, continue to increase monthly. Concerningly, analysis of our General Fund as of December 2026 indicates that present expenditure for 2026 is budgeted to be £10,000 greater than income. This will leave only £4,000 in the bank as a General Fund at the end of this year. By Easter 2027 the money may have run out.

With the reality of these projections, carefully explained on Generous Giving Sunday, we are challenged to ask, '**How Can we act now at St Andrew's**'

Be encouraged: everyone can make small changes, turn off unnecessary lights, do not waste water, bring an extra jumper!

A parting gift – could you leave a legacy to St Andrew's Church in your will?

Prayerfully review your own Regular Giving to Church– details available in church, or by contacting the churchwardens, or PCC Secretary.

Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong. Vicar, St Andrew's Church, Biggleswade.

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 21st June – Reggie Gary Andrew Hughes.

Sunday 21st June – Romeo Ray Dennis Hughes.

Sunday 21st June – Elias-Joe Frazier Hughes.



CONFIRMATION:

Sunday 14th June, by Richard, Acting Bishop of St Albans, Bishop of Bedford.

"Defend, O Lord, this your servant with your heavenly grace".

Heather Joan Morris.



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

Saturday 27th June – Michael Dean-Smith and Kerry McCormick.



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.

Thursday 26th March – Joan Elizabeth Walker.

Wednesday 15th April – Joyce Rita Prime.

Tuesday 28th April – Celia Irene Paterson.

Wednesday 29th April – Jacqueline Patricia Loveridge.

Wednesday 20th May – Nicholas Smithers.

Thursday 21st May – Steven Derek Wilson.

Wednesday 17th June – Richard Sidney Albone.

Friday 19th June – Jacqueline Elizabeth Pearce.



DIARY: SUMMER.

July.

Tue 7th		National 'Thank You Day'.
Fri 10th – Tue 14th		Church of England, General Synod, York.
Sat 11th	12 noon	Wedding – Christopher and Agnes.
Sun 12th		Sea Sunday.
	10.00 am	Parish Communion.
	12 noon	Holy Baptism.
Fri 17th		Academic year ends for our schools.
Sat 18th	7.30 pm	Bournemouth District Choral Society Concert at St Andrew's. 'Old World, New World'.
Sun 19th	10.00 am	Parish Communion, Guest Speaker Teresha Clark Karahukayo, co-founder of 'Triumph Heart'.
	5.30 pm	Taizé Worship. St Mary's Church, Cockayne Hatley.
Thur 23rd	7.00 pm	onwards – Summer Social Evening, Kings Reach Public House.
Sun 26th	10.00 am	Holy Communion, Commissioning Mafambisa Group 2026.
	12 noon	Holy Baptism.

August.

Sat 1st		Mafambisa Group depart to South Africa.
Sun 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Communion: <i>Order II Traditional BCP.</i>
	10.00 am	Parish Communion.
	12 noon	Holy Baptisms.

Summer 2026

Sun 16th		Mafambisa Group returns home.
	5.30 pm	Taizé Worship. St Mary's Church, Cockayne Hatley.
	6.00 pm	Holiday Club Preparation Service.
Tue 18 th – Fri 21 st		Holiday Club – 'Kingdom Builders'.
Sun 23rd	9.30 am	Parish Communion.
	11.00 am	Holiday Club Service and Barbecue.

Sept.

Sun 6th

Feast of God the Creator.

	8.00 am	Holy Communion, <i>Order II [Traditional] BCP.</i>
	10.00 am	All Together Parish Communion.
Sat 12th		Beds and Herts Historic Churches – Bike 'N Hike.
Sun 13th	10.00 am	Education Sunday, Parish Communion.
Sat 19th	10.00 am	to 3.00 pm Country Fayre.
	2.00 pm	Installation Right Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of St Albans at St Alban's Cathedral.
Sun 20th	5.30 pm	Taizé Worship. St Mary's Church, Cockayne Hatley.
Mon 21st		International Day of Peace.
Sun 27th	12.00 noon	Holy Baptism.

Oct.

Sun 4th

Harvest Thanksgiving.

Sun 4th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, <i>Order II [Traditional] BCP</i>
	10.00 am	All Together Parish Communion.

OUR VISION:

Christ-Centred, Welcoming,

Inclusive, Outward-Looking.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

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Parish Safeguarding Officer. (PSO).

Helen Tranter: safeguarding@standrewschurchbw.org.uk
07951 554484.

Church P.A.

Nick Gurney 07711 957122, nick@gurneyfamily.co.uk

Bell Ringers: Charlotte Smith 01462 700676,
Charlotte.m.smith@pobroadband.co.uk.

Brass Cleaning: Rosemary Jopson 313503.

Church Flowers: Lucy Dilley, lucydilley18@gmail.com

Chapter House Queries: Contact Sue Thorn 317207 or
secretary@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS.

Sunday School: Groups meet during the 10.00 am service on Sundays during term time.

Contact Emma Pallett 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com.

Uniformed Organisations – For all Girl Guiding please register first via: girlguiding.org.uk. They meet during term time.

Rainbow Guides:

‘1st Biggleswade’ (St Andrew’s) Meet on Wednesdays from 5.30 pm to 6.40 pm. Contact: firstbiggleswaderainbows@hotmail.com.

‘2nd Biggleswade’ Meet on Mondays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

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. Contact Babs Gurney, Leader.

Guides:

‘1st Biggleswade’ (St Andrew’s) Meet on Wednesdays from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Contact Rachel Calver.

Youth Groups:

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

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

14+: For young people in School years 9 & 10 meets on Thursdays 7.30 pm
Contact Emma Pallett on 319146.

Holiday Club: Runs for four days during the Summer Holidays.

Contact: Emma Pallett on 01767 319146 emmapallett@hotmail.com

Summer 2026

Visit the Church Website:

www.standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk



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St Andrew