



The Fourth Sunday before Lent

9 February 2025

<p>Sunday 10.00am Parish Communion</p> <p>Collect O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.</p> <p>Readings</p> <p>Isaiah 6.1-8 The Call of Isaiah 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 The Resurrection of Christ Luke 5.1-11 Jesus Calls the First Disciples</p> <p>Zoom Join Zoom Meeting: CLICK HERE Meeting ID: 861 3500 8616. Passcode: 599753 Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830</p> <p>12noon Holy Baptism of Jayden</p> <p>12.45pm Sunday Lunch</p> <p>6.00pm Sunday@6</p> <p>Private Prayer at St Andrew's Church. Please note our church is usually open for private prayer Monday - Saturday, 09.00 am - 4.00 pm.</p> <p><i>Revd Liz and Churchwardens</i></p>	<p>This Week</p> <p>Monday 10 February 12noon Bernard Gurney RIP, Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance</p> <p>Wednesday 12 February 11.00am Penrose Court Home Communion 7.30pm Communications Sub-Committee, The Ivel Room</p> <p>Thursday 13 February 9.30am Holy Communion, followed by coffee in Chapter House. Readings: Genesis 2.18-25 Mark 7.24-30 10.30 –11.30 am Warm Spaces 11.00am Funeral of Gary Watson RIP, St Andrew's Church 7.00pm 10+ Youth Group 7.30pm 12+ Youth Group 7.30pm 14+ Youth Group</p> <p>Saturday 15 February 9.30 –1.30pm Bell Peal 10.00 –12.00noon Coffee Shop, Craft and Chat and Warm Spaces</p> <p>Sunday 16 February <i>The Third Sunday before Lent</i> 10.00 am Parish Communion 7.30pm 16+ Youth Group</p>
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All copy for inclusion in Sunday Pew Sheets to be sent to **office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk** by **Tuesdays, 11.00 am**

office@standrewschurchbw.org.uk

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Requesting our Prayers: Lisa Ling, Thelma Holden, Percy Doughty, Maureen Wade, Anita, Sally Wells, Shelagh Hizzey, Ian Pearson, Ruth Atkinson, Angela Morris, Val Scott, Maurice Darnell. We continue to pray for: Joy Botterell, Maurice Darnell, Jo Chelley.

Mafambisa. We pray for the people of our partner community of Mafambisa, for the vulnerable and orphaned children, the care workers, the caregivers and all who support them. By name this week we pray for Care worker: Maria, and Children: Lucas, Sethu, Lebo, Isaac, Siphosethu. Please visit our blog at www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk.

We pray for the souls of all the recently departed: Gary Weston, Bernard Gurney, and for families and friends preparing for services of thanksgiving and celebration of life. We remember with prayers and thankful, privileged, memories those whose Year's Mind fall at this time: 9th Christine Hullah, 12th Allan Bliss, 15th Terry Morley.

Palm Crosses If you have a palm cross from last year, please may we ask you to return it to church as soon as possible in preparation for the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday.

New Mission Action Plan: Christ-Centred –Welcoming –Inclusive-Outward-Looking On behalf of the PCC, I am delighted to share with you all the good news that the PCC adopted a new Mission Action Plan (MAP) Website via this link: <https://standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk/who-are-we/mission-action-plan/> Revd. Liz –Vicar and Chair of the PCC.

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

Craft and Chat Our next session will be held on 15 February alongside Coffee Shop between 10am and noon. It will be good to see the usual faces but new ones would also be very welcome. Bring along any handicraft you are doing and spend time with other like minded people. We also welcome non crafters/ chatters to the group. *Anna Rutt.*

World Prayer Day, Friday 7 March, 7.30pm St Andrew's Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade SG18 0AT. You are warmly invited to an ecumenical service, this year's theme is "I made you wonderful". The service has been prepared from the Cook Islands and is based on the words of Psalm 139 woven together with people's stories. The theme invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We are all unique and special - and we should cherish all aspects of who we are and those around us as God created us, God knows us and God is with us. Members of Churches Together in Biggleswade, along with the Mothers Union at St. Andrew's will be leading and participating. As we take part in this service we will be part of a wonderful wave of prayer encircling the globe, praying with, and for, the Cook Islands and its people. The service will be followed by refreshments, and an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. A warm welcome is extended to all.

MU Lunch, 20th February 12.00 –2.00pm Soup and rolls. No set price, donate what you can. *Maggie McLoughlin.*

The Goma Care Point You will have seen on the news about the unrest and war in the DRC. Hands at Work have a care point in Goma which is now in the middle of a war zone. Please pray for the Hands at Work team there: Bindu, Zawadi, Denise, Jehosaphat, Bahati, Mutobe, Faraha, Shengi and Lorraine and we pray for all the children, their families, and the Care Workers. We pray for peace, stability, safety, for miraculous stories, for international intervention and for the local churches to be able places of safety for people. Thank you. *Chris Parker.*

The signed PCC Minutes for the meeting held on 19th November 2024 are available to read and are located on the noticeboard in the church foyer. Alternatively, they can be found on the church website <https://standrewschurchbiggleswade.org.uk/who-are-we/pcc/> Ruth Marshall-Jones, PCC Secretary.

The Big Blunham Book Sale Will be held on Saturday 22nd February 2025 10.00 am to 3.00 pm in Blunham Parish Church, MK44 3NQ. For further details please ring Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572 all day.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2025 - Advance Notice

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

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

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

- 9th March at St. Andrew, Biggleswade –Preacher: Rev Graham Buckle
- 16th March at St. Mary, Potton –Preacher: Ven. David Middlebrook
- 23rd March at St. Swithun, Sandy –Preacher: Rev Jodie Brown
- 30th March at St. Leonard, Old Warden –Preacher: Rosemary Bentley
- 6th April at St. Lawrence, Willington –Preacher: Rt Rev Richard Atkinson

Future Dates

Thursday 20 February	9.30am	Holy Communion
	11.00 –12noon	Bell Practice
	12.00 –2.00pm	MU Soup Lunch, Chapter House
Sunday 23 February	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday 24 February	9.05am	Leadership Meeting
Thursday 27 February	11.00am	Mantles Court Holy Communion

Lost Property Over the past couple of years we have acquired quite a large amount of lost property. These are displayed on a table in the Chapter House foyer for a month. Please look to see if anything there belongs to you. Anything not claimed by the end of the month will be given to a charity shop. *Mary Dominey.*

Mafambisa We are currently assembling our team to go to Africa in the summer (19 July to 2 August 2025) we are also starting to think about a team for summer 2026 - if you are interested in joining either of these teams –please speak to Chris as soon as you are able.

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

Diocesan Prayer for the Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing 2025

God of life and love,
pour out your blessing on our diocese as we
journey to your kingdom on the Emmaus Road:
where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;
where there is fear, establish us in love;
where there is discord, bring reconciliation and
healing:
that together we may be renewed in hope by
your Spirit

A Prayer for Spiritual Renewal 2025

Look graciously upon us, O Holy Spirit,
and give us, for our hallowing,
thoughts that pass into prayer,
prayers that pass into love,
and love that passes into life with you forever,
Amen.

Social Media

Keeping in touch with family and friends is something as a Church we are trying to undertake through the use of our social media platforms. The online sphere is another channel we are also able to use to be able to spread God's message. The platforms allow us to reach out to our community of faith, our local community as well as others who aren't as local. Please do contact Oliver Dilley or Jessica Mepham with any ideas, thoughts or content for the social media pages. In the meantime please continue to like, follow and share our social media accounts. *Thanks.*

Facebook: @standrewsbiggleswade Instagram: @standrewsbiggleswade

Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve, Holy Spirit make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage, for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus. Amen

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