



10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

BAPTISM OF CHRIST



Vicar: In Vacancy

Churchwardens:

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Readers:

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**NATIONAL LOCKDOWN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021** We were relieved during the November lockdown that our church was able to stay open if only for sessions of private prayer. Following the introduction of "tier 4" just before Christmas and the announcement this week of a third national lockdown the fact that we can have communal worship is a mixed blessing. A mixed blessing, because as individuals and collectively as a church, we have to decide how to balance the risk from the new strain of COVID with the blessing of still being able to meet together for communion.

As a church we can continue to promote safe practice such as hand sanitisation and social distancing and encouraging the enforcement of wearing masks. We must insist that people stay in their "bubbles" and do not mingle socially while inside in church. The background preparation of the church and its desanitisation continues. As individuals we must consider our own risk and whether it is safer to stay at home and not become a burden on the NHS particularly if we are advised to be "shielding".

We are in the minority of churches in our deanery that are staying open and that decision will be reviewed weekly depending on a variety of factors.

*Rob and Rosemary, Churchwardens*

**STAY AT HOME, STAY SAFE, PROTECT THE NHS**

**BAPTISM OF CHRIST 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 AT 9.00AM WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY**

**FACILITATED BY ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88529385304?pwd=SGRBcXFIMmRGaXI3UGhTT2djYkhWZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 2938 5304

Passcode: 906736

Also may be accessed by your landline: details below.

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

## **HYMNS**

O worship the lord in the beauty of holiness  
Be Still for the Presence of the Lord  
O Jesus I have promised

## **PRIESTS CELEBRATING THIS WEEK:**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2021      Sunday 10.00am      Rev'd Canon Grant Fellows  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2021      Thursday 9.30am      Rev'd Canon Lindsay Dew

## **BAPTISM OF CHRIST COLLECT AND READINGS**

### **COLLECT FOR BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

### **READINGS**

Genesis 1.1-5              The story of the Creation  
Acts 19.1-7                The people of Ephesus receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Mark 1.4-11                John baptizes Jesus in the river Jordan

If you should like **to receive the weekly news**, please could you inform Rosemary Bentley, by providing your email details. Naturally these details will not be used for any other circulation, unless permission is granted. As appropriate, please inform others about this innovation. Please contact Rosemary: – romybentley@aol.com / 01767 313517 [no answer machine] / 07885 431928 [accepts messages]

Please also note that funerals, limited to 30 worshippers, are still possible in church.

### **OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. We pray the people of Mafambisa, for the vulnerable and orphaned children, the care workers, the care givers and all who support them.

[www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk)

**Needing our prayers:** Louise Joy, Bernie Marron, Angela Morris, Betty Magill, Jo Chelley, Norman Staples, Philip Pettit, Rosamund Drakes, Anna Johnson, Anna Johnson, Patience and George from Mafambisa, Laura and Audrey from Mozambique.

**Continue to pray for:** Bobbie Ball, Fran Sharp and Joanna Friend

**The Departed:** Paul Fox

**The Year's Mind:** 10th Ivy Dilley, Ellen Lawson, 12th Stanley Smith, 13th Gilly Allston, 14th Angela Marson

*Please talk to the churchwardens to have names added or removed from the prayer list*

## **NOTICES**

**CONTACT** If you need to contact us for any reason; please do not use the office telephone, as this is not being monitored at the moment. Instead please contact us via:

[office@biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk) Thank you. *Jackie*

**NOTICES** Please keep in touch with each other and the church via the church website at

[www.biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk)

**COVID-19 RULES** Please observe the restrictions and regulations that are currently in place.

Full details are available in Church.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS** At the end of a most challenging year, it was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Christmas festival in our church. Sincere thanks to the Priests who celebrated Holy Communion with us, the team who prepared flower arrangements, the Advent wreaths, the Christmas tree, and Crib; an especial note of gratitude to those who masterminded and facilitated the wonderful flood lit Nativity in our churchyard. The tableau truly shared the message of the coming of the Christ-child to so many residents in our town, and beyond. Naturally, it was disappointing that we were unable to sing carols in church after preparations, but it was so special to participate in the Sunday School Nativity and nightly carols, via Zoom. Thank you. *Robert and Rosemary, Churchwardens.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021** On Sunday 2nd May, 10.00am the Bishop of Bedford will join us at St. Andrew's Church for a special service of Confirmation. Preparation for adults, and young people, will begin in a few weeks' time: initially it is likely to be via Zoom discussions, but we hope to eventually lead some sessions at St. Andrew's Church if possible. If you are interested in considering Confirmation this year, please contact the Churchwardens as soon as possible. At this stage this is simply a process of enquiry: there is no necessity to make a commitment at present. No previous experience required. *Rosemary and Robert, Churchwardens*

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS 2020** I am pleased to report that the Christmas Collections raised the sum of £900 to be split equally between Preen and Mind. Also that the Christingle service (held by zoom) raised the sum of £340 for the Children Society, to which the PCC will be adding £300 from its emergency fund making a total of £640. If you wish, there is still time to contribute, either in the collection plate at Church (in a marked envelope) or through the online giving sites accessed via links on the Church website. Thank you very much for your generosity in helping these charities and the valuable work they do. *Andrew Rutt, PCC Treasurer.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Due to the new Covid regulations now in place, our Sunday School is closed. *The Sunday School Team.*

**USED STAMPS** Please keep collecting these for me to take to St. John's Hospice; it is important especially at this time that we give them all the support possible. *Gill Hibbert*

**MAFAMBISA PARTNERSHIP** We are now getting weekly updates from Hands at Work - from different communities via WhatsApp. If you would like to receive these I will add you to the WhatsApp group. Please text your mobile number to Chris on 07702 250776 or email on [chris2parker@btinternet.com](mailto:chris2parker@btinternet.com)