



# **CIVIC SERVICE**

***“Taking Responsibility”***

**Sunday 20th March 2022  
at 3 pm**

**St Andrew’s Church, Biggleswade**

**Biggleswade Town Mayor  
Cllr Madeline Russell**

*A Civic Service will have people in attendance of all faiths and perhaps none at all. We hope that this service gives space for you to feel included even though it is essentially an act of Christian worship.*

# Welcome

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us today for our Civic Service.

It is a privilege to be Mayor of Biggleswade and the most enjoyable part of it is meeting so many people from the community and learning even more about a town which I should really know inside out since I was born here!

Everywhere people are working hard in many different ways to make this a good community to live in – and this was particularly apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic - and I want to focus on these unsung heroes with my theme of 'Taking Responsibility'. Everyone here is taking responsibility and doing their bit and I want to recognise that and say 'thank you'.

It is too easy to metaphorically 'walk by on the other side' like the priest and the Levite in the parable of The Good Samaritan. Sometimes people who do so then carp about what is not right or could be better in our town. Others of us try to be like the Samaritan and help our community in any way we can.

Biggleswade is growing very rapidly and we would be like King Canute and the waves if we just tried to stop the inevitable. However, there is much to do to try to ensure that our town develops in a sensible way and that those who move to Biggleswade become part of our wide and increasingly diverse community. You are all helping with that very big task.

## Thank you!

Cllr. Madeline Russell  
Biggleswade Town Mayor

## **Music During the Service Provided by**

Biggleswade and District Choral Society

Assistant Conductor: Anne Wright

Organist: Justin Waters

Processional Voluntary: Karg-Elert, 'Nun danket alle Gott',  
Recessional Voluntary: Widor, 'Toccata', Symphony for Organ No. 5

*The Offertory today will be donated to St John's Hospice*

## Words of Welcome    The Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong

**Hymn** *(during which flags and standards are presented)*

O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him in the height;  
Rejoice in his word,  
Ye angels of light;  
Ye heavens adore him  
By whom ye were made,  
And worship before him,  
In brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him upon earth,  
In tuneful accord,  
Ye sons of new birth;  
Praise him who has brought you  
His grace from above,  
Praise him who has taught you  
To sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!  
All things that give sound;  
Each jubilant chord,  
Re-echo around;  
Loud organs, his glory  
Forth tell in deep tone,  
And sweet harp, the story  
Of what he has done.

O praise ye the Lord!  
Thanksgiving and song  
To him be outpoured  
All ages along:  
For love in creation,  
For heaven restored,  
For grace of salvation,  
O praise ye the Lord!

**Reading**  
**Isaiah, Chapter 58**

**Cllr Madeline Russell**  
*Biggleswade Mayor*

# Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence praise,  
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow thee,  
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!  
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace,  
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!  
O still small voice of calm!

**Reading**  
*Matthew, Chapter 5*

**Ruth Bell, MBE JP DL**

**Address**

**The Ven. Paul Hughes  
Emeritus Archdeacon of Bedford**

**Biggleswade & District Choral Society**

*Be Thou My Vision*  
*and*  
*Irish Blessing*

*Both arranged by **Philip Stopford***  
*(Alumnus of Bedford School)*



## Prayers

The Revd Liz Oglesby-Elong

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come:  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory.  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

## Offertory Hymn

Thou whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray  
Let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love  
Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move o'er the waters' face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world far and wide  
Let there be light.

*Please stand for the*

## **ACT OF DEDICATION**

*Led by the Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong*

**O God, our Redeemer and King;  
we thankfully acknowledge that, to You and Your Grace  
we owe all we are and all we have;**

**You call us to live in Community and to serve one another  
in compassion and love.**

**Forgive us for when we have fallen short of this ideal.**

**We now offer to You, for whatever of life remains to us,  
all that we have and all that we are.**

**Take us and use us as You will in the service of others,  
and for the furtherance of Your Kingdom,  
that in all things Your Name may be glorified.  
We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Justin Waters**

*Sortie in B flat*

***Lefebure-Wely***

### **Hymn** *(during which flags and standards will be collected)*

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breath forgiveness o'er us,  
All our weakness thou dost know;  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Self denying, death defying,  
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

**Blessing**

**The Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong**

## **The National Anthem**

God save our gracious Queen  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen  
Send her victorious  
happy and glorious,  
God save the Queen

Thy choicest gifts in store  
on her be pleased to pour,  
long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.

Cllr Madeline Russell would like to thank you for attending and invites you to join her for refreshments in the Chapter House

A special thank you to the Venerable Paul Hughes for preaching, the Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong for officiating and to St. Andrew's Church for hosting us today.

