

Keeping in Touch

Autumn 2025 Edition

Our Quarterly Magazine

From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate All Saints' Day, we give thanks for those Christians who have gone before us and for those who inspire us today. Yet in our Gospel reading from Luke on All Saints Day this year, we hear some rather puzzling words: *"Blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep, those who are hated."*

At first glance, we might wonder- does God really want us to live in poverty, sadness, or rejection? Surely not. The saints are not honoured because they were miserable, but because, despite their struggles, they were full of life, joy, and faith. The word translated as *blessed* – *makarios* – comes from the same root as "macro," meaning "large" or "abundant". It suggests fullness, contentment, and deep happiness. The saints, despite hardship, knew a joy that flowed from God himself. You cannot have a miserable saint! Each of the saints was different – look at our church windows and you'll see St John the Baptist, St Elizabeth of Hungary, St Martin of Tours, St Augustine, St Catherine, St Stephen, St Oswald, St Bede, St Francis, St Dorothy, and St Alban. All unique, yet they shared one thing: they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus.

Archbishop Rowan Williams once said that God calls us to be both human and holy – and that being human and being holy are really the same thing. Saints weren't superhuman. They were real people – ordinary, earthy, often flawed, but transformed by God's grace. Many of them struggled. St Francis knew poverty, Columba lived in exile, and St Teresa was discouraged by others. Yet they pressed on. St Paul writes, *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair."* The saints faced suffering with courage and hope.

They also lived as citizens of another kingdom – aware that they belonged to something beyond this world. They saw life through the lens of eternity and trusted that God's love held all things together. At heart, the saints knew they were imperfect, indeed broken – but they also knew they were loved by God. That love made them bold in mercy and generous in forgiveness. I often think of them like fireworks on a dark night – shining, sparkling, and bringing wonder to those around them.

As we remember the saints this month, may we be encouraged by their example. Faith isn't always easy, but it should be joyful and life-giving. Let us follow the saints in keeping our eyes on Jesus, in daring to be generous, and in discovering the joy of being fully human and fully alive.

With every blessing,
Andrew

Join us in Church every Sunday at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 6:30pm
Tuesday at 10:15
Monday-Thursday 8:45am Morning Prayer, south porch entrance
or Messy Church, 30 November 3pm in the Centre, adjacent to Church
All are welcome!

All Saints in Action



Congratulations to Adam Romanis on his 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood!

We celebrated with a special service that included an address from Bishop Paul Ferguson and topped it off with another significant event- Kaleb's Baptism!

Our prayers and warmest wishes to the whole family on this great day.

We had a busy summer full of a wide range of fun events with a little something for everyone! We'll recap a few:

- We brushed up on our Shakespeare with the **Handlebards** in August
- We hosted another rainy but successful **Farmers Market** in September
- We raised money for **MacMillan** with a coffee morning
- We welcomed **Board Gamers** in for pizza and fun
- We celebrated **Harvest** with a special service and food collection
- We had a church member lead a 4 week **Bible Study** in October
- We successfully relaunched our once a month **Messy Church**
- We welcomed children from six local **schools**

All Saints is a busy place. Check out our upcoming events further in this magazine, we would love to see you!





Exciting news from St Hugh's

The Friends of Wansbeck shops have been hard at work preparing a Christmas Fair, at St Hugh's Church on Saturday 22nd November from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

This event takes inspiration from the All Saints Christmas Fair, which will follow a couple of weeks later on Saturday 6th December in the Centre.

A selection of local traders have already booked their stalls, offering festive treats and gift ideas, including:

- Christmas decorations
- Rustic home furnishings (such as clocks, placemats, and more)
- Home crafts and knitted gifts
- A wood turner
- Candles and wax creations
- And more!

The Friends Group themselves will be running a tombola, raffle, and children's lucky dip sack, and are busy gathering prizes and small gifts to make these attractions extra special.

To add to the festive spirit, it is hoped that children from Regent Farm First School will be coming along to sing Christmas carols during the fair.

The event could use a few more volunteers on the day. If you can help out, please see Andrew. Thank you, we look forward to seeing you there to support our sister church!

Parish Boundary Change Complete

Following official authorisation from the Bishop of Newcastle, the All Saints parish boundary has been expanded to include the lucky residents of the St Nicholas Hospital Estate. We warmly welcome these newest members to our parish community and eagerly anticipate celebrating life events such as weddings, baptisms, and other milestones with them.



The Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE to become the new Archbishop of Canterbury

We pray for her as she begins this new and important phase of her ministry.

Did you know?

You can scan QR codes at each of our beautiful stained glass windows for some history and interesting information.

We spotted a visitor checking out the QR codes recently in church!



Replacing a boiler in a Grade II listed church building is not as easy as it sounds. Many thanks to Bob at Tri Tech Plumbing who recently installed our new boiler and pump. We will be warm this winter! Thanks also to the team that helped make this happen behind the scenes: Andrew Shipton, Lee Best, Peter Brown, Joyce Jennings, Christine Willoughby, and Dana Corso.

Trees for the Green

We've got a date for your diaries!

We have recently signed a contract with NE Community Forest agreeing to the planting of a selection of native trees at the West end of the green. The work is likely to take place on 17th January. We are in discussions to try and make this a community event involving as many people/church groups as possible. More details to follow soon.

Christine Willoughby

Upcoming Events

We have a very full calendar of exciting events leading up to Advent and the Christmas season!

- Farmers Market **Saturday 15 November 10am to 2pm**
 - Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark Wroe **Sunday 16 November 9:30am**
 - Messy Church in the Centre **Sunday 30 November 3:00pm**
 - Advent Carol Service and a very special Illumination of Angels, followed by mulled wine and minced pies **30th November 6:30pm**
 - Christmas Fair in the Centre **Saturday 6th December 11am to 1pm**
 - Carol Singing from Church **Tuesday 9th December 6:00pm**
 - Christingle Service with refreshments **Sunday 14th December 3:30pm**
 - Carol Singing at Gosforth Shopping Centre **Monday 15th December 2:00pm**
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Christmas Services at All Saints

Christmas Eve

- 2:00pm Children's Service
- 4:00pm Carol Service
 - Be aware that for Health and Safety reasons if this service reaches capacity please attend the 6:30 service
- 6:30pm Carol Service
- 11:30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 9:30am Christmas Communion

Sunday January 4

- 9:30am Epiphany Service

We warmly welcome all and look forward to sharing the joy and wonder of the first Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus with you!



Don't forget to join our easyfundraising campaign! Book your holidays, add your weekly shop and more...

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/all-saints-church-gosforth/>

Check your emails...

We will be launching a Parish Survey in the near future. This will be in a separate email. Please click the link to fill it out. This will help us form future plans!

From the Registers

Baptisms:

28th September 2025 Kaleb Noah

Funerals

8th August 2025 Richard Noel Sargent died 25th July 2025 aged 95

28th August 2025 Jennifer Margaret Russell Ward died 10th August 2025 aged 78

29th August 2025 Ian Stuart died 4th August 2025 aged 77

19th September 2025 Noreen Joyce Gray died 24th August 2025 aged 93

19th September 2025 Peter John Alan Hedworth died 30th August 2025 aged 79

26th September 2025 Gerald Alan Mace died 7th September 2025 aged 83

10th October 2025 Margaret Ann Stuart Appleby died 13th September 2025 aged 83

23rd October 2025 Anne Hastings Sadler died 9th October 2025 aged 77

Burial Of Ashes

11th August 2025 Joan Middleton

12th September 2025 Linda Anne Rowe

26th September 2025 Ian Stuart

St Hugh's

Baptism

26th October 2025 Macaulay George Berry

Support our Mission and Ministry



Thank you! Your donations are no small thing and help support not just our congregation, clergy, and historical buildings, but our continued mission and ministry in your community.

Scan the QR code to make a one-off donation.

Prefer to text? Text giving is now available! Just text **SUPPORTASC** with your donation amount to **70580**.
