



Sunday 14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Communion
3.30pm	Christingle in Church
6.30pm	Evening Prayer

St Hugh's

11.00am	Parish Communion
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Thought for the Day

Gaudete!

Rejoice! It's the third Sunday of Advent (pink candle day) when we focus on the one who personifies Advent: Jesus's cousin John. In today's Gospel, Jesus observes that whilst John is among the greatest of the human race, "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (Matthew 11.12) What can this mean? It sounds like Jesus is looking forward to the glory of heaven, which (through Christ) is the destiny of saints on earth. But that's a bit out of place at this point. Upon examination, there's another way of hearing these words: "the *lesser* in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." The context is that of tension and uncertainty about who Jesus and John actually are, in God's purposes and in relation to each other. John is in prison, and Jesus is doing nothing about it. He seems more interested in the village life of Galilee than in speaking truth to power in Jerusalem, never mind challenging Roman oppression. John challenges Jesus, "Are you the one we're waiting for, or shall we look for another?" Jesus responds (in the interpretation suggested here) "The lesser is greater," i.e. I may be your junior in age (by 6 months), and not such an impressive wilderness prophet, but with God, less is more! The junior is ahead of the elder (remember Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Joseph and his brothers), and remember "the first shall be last and the last first" (Mt 19.20 and 29.16), not to mention the Beatitudes ("blessed are the poor in spirit, the sorrowful, the meek ...") and the Magnificat ("he has put down the mighty ...") Here is much food for thought about the Kingdom, the mission of God and the Church. Does "small is beautiful" get us off the hook of doing anything about our world of injustice? Quite the reverse. It means that the small things that little (powerless?) people do are crucial to the movement of God's Kingdom. Whilst the privileged are also called to give their all - great John and Jesus the Messiah were both obedient to the call to sacrificial service. Advent calls rich and poor, high and lowly, educated and uneducated, young and old, to rejoice together in the reality of God's Kingdom!

Adam Romanis

Today we light our third Advent candle. Each candle in the Advent wreath reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. Please join in the prayer:

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.



An Advent Prayer:

The Light of Christ brings hope into our world
Hope to steady anxiety
Hope to calm fear
Hope to accompany illness
Hope to befriend loneliness
Hope to thwart Despair

Hope to reconcile hatred
Hope to forgive
Hope to be forgiven

Hope to dream of better times
Hope to encourage the future
Hope to rebuild what lies in ruins
Hope that God's Kingdom will come

Bible Readings and Hymns This Week:

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10

New Testament: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 31:2-11

Hymns

Processional	Green 5 Hark! a herald voice is calling
Gradual	Green 443 Rejoice the Lord is King
Offertory	Brown 174 Make way
Communion	Booklet page 11 Here is bread, here is wine
Recessional	Green 47 Hills of the north rejoice
Anthem:	The truth from above - R Vaughan-Williams

Please join us for tea and coffee after the 9.30am Parish Communion Service, in the All Saints Centre, adjacent to the Church.

Presiding this week:

8.00am Holy Communion

Presiding Revd Adam Romanis

Preaching Revd Adam Romanis

9.30am Parish Communion

Presiding: Revd Ruth Birnie

Preaching: Revd Adam Romanis

3.30pm Christingle in Church

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Psalm: 12 **Hymns:** 433, 408, 336

A warm welcome to you if you are a newcomer. Please complete a green Contact Card and place it in the box provided, or hand it to one of the clergy or churchwardens.

Children in church: children are always welcome in church, and there is a dedicated Children's Corner at the back, with activities available for them to use there or take to their pews. They are also invited to enjoy drawing and activity sheets at the table at the back in the baptistery. We

kindly ask that parents or guardians supervise their children both in the baptistery and in the Children's area.

Have you problems with mobility? Please let a steward know if you need assistance going up for communion, or would like communion to be brought to you.

Hard of hearing? If you use a hearing aid, please switch it to the 'T' position to use our loop system.

To gain access to the All Saints YouTube channel please go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/@allsaintsgosforth6306/streams>

Prayer and Worship

Sunday: Services at 8.00am, 9.30am and 6.30pm

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8.45am Morning Prayer in Church. Enter by South Porch

Tuesday's Holy Communion is at 10.15am in Church

Notices

Today, 14th December, our Christingle Service will take place at 3.30pm. All welcome

The traditional Christmas Fair, on Saturday last, could not have taken place without the huge input from both the stall holders and all helpers. It was good to see so many people perusing and buying from the stalls, drinking coffee and catching up with friends, all contributing to a lively happy atmosphere. We are pleased to announce we raised over £2300. A huge thank you to all who contributed in making another very successful Fair. *Francine Bain & Valerie Farthing.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joyce Jennings - praying for her recovery - and with her daughter Sally and son Philip. Andrew is able to take written messages and cards to Joyce if they are posted in through the office post box.

This week we are pleased to welcome to church Newcastle School for Boys—both the Junior and Senior schools—as well as Archibald First School for their Christmas services.

Our congratulations to Jean Buckley, who recently celebrated a significant birthday.

All welcome to join Gosforth Central Middle School as we sing carols in the Shopping Centre outside Sainsbury's on Monday 15th December at 2.00pm.

Help Needed we make the annual plea for people to act as stewards at the 4pm or 6.30pm Christmas Eve Carol services. It is an important task when we know that the Church will be very full. Volunteers please contact Louise in the office post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk, Tel 2130450.

Volunteers Needed for a Time-Limited Financial Task Group Although we have reduced our parish share to the diocese, the overall cost of running the church - combined with a decline in planned giving - remains a concern. We are therefore seeking volunteers to join a small, time-limited task group to review our current financial practices, identify areas for improvement, and explore new ways to raise funds in support of our ministry and mission. We hope this group will be able to bring forward suggestions and ideas by early March. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the clergy or Felicity Shoesmith. felicity.shoesmith@icloud.com

When leaving Church, via South Porch entrance, or the Centre, in the dark please exit through the Garden of Remembrance where it is well lit.

Sale of secondhand books: the total taken since September 2024 is £254.66, and all of this has been added to church funds. The next sale will be on Sunday 1st February so do sort out those unwanted books before then! Thanks to everyone who has donated books over the past few months, and for those who have bought them. Happy reading! *The Book Group*

The Bug Hotel - as some of you may know - is situated at the very back of the church green, in front of the fence. It was created by a group of Scouts a few years ago, and has undergone some refurbishment since then. It is now in need of a bit of an overhaul however, so if anyone has any bits of broken (clay) flowerpots, hollow plant stems, pine cones, sheep's wool or other **natural materials**, then please feel free to stuff it into any of the spaces to see the Hotel through the winter, and we can look at further work in the spring. Let's keep our little 6 and 8 legged friends warm and dry during the winter months! *The Eco Group*

Farmers' Market Sat Nov 15 We are constantly working really hard to grow the market for the benefit of All Saints and its mission. The next Market with the new licence will be **March 21, 2026**. If you feel you can ever make a small donation of time, a raffle prize, anything, please contact. Marian Cave or myself as soon as possible, we'll be so very grateful.
Thank You! . *Thank You! Diana Lavin, Marian Cave*

There is a rehearsal for Carol Service Readers on Monday 22nd December at 6.00pm in Church.

Christmas flowers will be arranged in All Saints Church on Tuesday 23rd December, starting at 11am. If you are interested in helping with Church flowers, do come along to see what we do. *Joyce Nutt*

At the Midnight Eucharist at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve, we welcome many visitors who may be unfamiliar with our services. We are looking for one or two people to act as churchwardens - welcoming worshippers and being a caring presence at the back of the church. The service usually finishes around 12:20am. **If you are able to help**, please speak to Andrew.

People's Theatre: 30 seats have been reserved for Thursday 22nd January to see *The Mirror Crack'd* by Agatha Christie. Please could you let Helen Poole know if you would like to go to this, or confirm with her if you expressed interest earlier. Payment is not needed yet.

Save the date! The Handlebards are coming back!

We are very pleased to confirm that the Handlebards (a travelling Shakespearian theatre group who transport themselves and all their gear by bike) are coming back to All Saints. They will be performing 'As You Like It' on **Wednesday 12th August 2026** on the church green. This has been a fantastic and well attended event over the past few years and we are delighted that they are returning. Tickets are already on sale on-line!

<http://www.handlebards.com/show/As-You-Like-It-All-Saints-Church-Gosforth/>

Rosamund Place and Claudia Newbegin

News from St Hugh's:

- Revd Adam Romanis is leading worship today.

Mission of the Month for December

West End Refugee Service (WERS) supporting asylum seekers in the west end of Newcastle by way of clothing, bedding and food parcels, working out of St Philip's Vicarage, Arthurs Hill.

www.wers.org.uk

Weekly Small Group Events

Coffee and Conversation Christmas Celebration Monday 15th December at 10.30am.
Everybody Welcome – come and join us all in the All Saints Centre

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Little Saints Pre-School Children and Parents/Carers Group Tuesdays 1.00 – 2.00pm in the All Saints Centre.

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SING at the **Centre 'Christmas Sing'** at St Hugh's – A big **Thank You!** to our singers who've not only practised hard for the past weeks but also prepared and presented some delicious refreshments for the attendees. We enjoyed a lovely end of season meal at Twin Farms and will now take a break until we meet again on **Tuesday 13 January** from 2:30. *Diana Lavín*

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Sew, Knit and Natter. This friendly group of knitters, ranging from the totally inexperienced to the very skilled, meets each Wednesday morning from 10-12 in the upper room of the Centre. There is plenty of knitting and nattering, with coffee and biscuits always provided. All are welcome. If you would like to know any more about the group, do ring me on 07474040267, or you can just turn up and see what we do. *Diane Henderson.*



Easyfundraising will add a £5 bonus donation for All Saints ...

...Your Christmas shopping could do more than tick off your list – it could give back to the cause you care about. **Please** speak to me if I can help you use the 'easyfundraising' app.

Diana Lavín

Donations



We now have a number of ways to donate to All Saints online:
By QR code. Simply hold your mobile phone camera over the code,
follow the link to your browser and follow on-screen instructions

Or go to:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8ecfe5b6-18c7-4179-aba0-2ebc43a82f7b>

Contact us

Vicar of All Saints and Priest in Charge of St Hugh's Rest Day: Saturday	Andrew Shipton	284 5540	andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
Assistant Priest Not available on Wednesdays	Ruth Birnie	284 1393	ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
Director of Music	John Lewis	07981 156751	jonnyonthekeyboards@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Joyce Jennings		
Churchwarden	Dana Corso	07909 456577	Dana.corso@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
Treasurer	Contact the Parish Office		
Safeguarding Officer	Kath Davies	07880 618911	kath.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Louise Waugh	0191 213 0450	post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

We welcome you to our Christmas Services and Events

Sunday 14th December

3.30pm Christingle service

Monday 15th December

2.00pm Carol Singing at Gosforth Shopping Centre

Christmas Eve

2.00pm Children's Service

4.00pm Carol Service*

6.30pm Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Christmas Communion

Sunday 4th January

9.30am Epiphany Service

**This is a very popular service and for Health and Safety reasons once Church capacity has been reached a welcome will be issued to the 6.30pm service.*

Coffee and Conversation

Christmas Celebration
Monday 15th December
10.30am



EVERYBODY WELCOME -
COME AND JOIN US ALL
IN THE ALL SAINTS CENTRE



Christingle Service



Sunday 14th December
3.30pm

Join with us in celebrating Jesus
as the Light of the World

All Saints Church, Gosforth Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

2.00pm Children's Service

4.00pm Carol Service

6.30pm Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Christmas Communion and Praise

