



Sunday 21st December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | Parish Communion |
| 6.30pm | Evening Prayer |

St Hugh's

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 11.00am | Parish Communion |
|---------|------------------|

Thought for the Day

King Ahaz of Judah (8th c BC) was a worried man when we meet him in today's reading from Isaiah. He was being approached by the rulers of Israel and Aram (now Syria) to join them in battle against the Assyrians who were threatening them but Ahaz, having faced hostilities from these two neighbours, thought it better to ally himself with Assyria. What has changed in international politics? The powerful look around for what they see as the best deal, which doesn't always work out as they had hoped. Judah escaped capture by the Assyrians during Ahaz's lifetime but fell later.

As often happened, the prophets became involved and gave advice on what they saw as God's will. In this case Ahaz was reluctant to listen as Isaiah advised him not to seek an alliance with Assyria but to put his trust in God, promising the birth of a child who would be a sign of the defeat of Israel and Aram. The words of this prophecy are familiar to us and Matthew uses them to refer to Jesus but originally they referred to a child whose birth was imminent. However, the point is that then, as at the time of Jesus, as now, God intervenes in unexpected ways in human affairs, through ordinary people, to bring about a new era.

Ruth Birnie

Today we light our fourth 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,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming.



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 7:10-16
New Testament: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18 to end

Hymns

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Processional | Green 11 O come, O come, Emmanuel |
| Gradual | Green 6 Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes |
| Offertory | Green 186 Tell out my soul, the greatness |
| Communion | Brown 274 Wait for the Lord (Taize) |
| Recessional | Brown 122 I the Lord of sea and sky |
| Anthem: | A Great and Mighty Wonder - M Praetorius |

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 Ruth Birnie
Preaching Revd Ruth Birnie

9.30am Parish Communion

Presiding: Revd Canon Andrew Shipton
Preaching: Revd Ruth Birnie

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Psalm: 113 **Hymns:** 297, 52, 339

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Christmas Communion

At St Hugh's

11.00am Parish Communion

Thought for Christmas Day

On Christmas Day we remember again that God came down to us in poverty in order to win our love. He did not arrive in comfort or splendour, but in a cold, dirty cowshed, wrapped in rags and laid in a feeding trough.

This Christmas message is mind-boggling: the ruler of the universe becomes a vulnerable human life. The one through whom all things were made is placed where animals eat. It is a story of extraordinary humility, and of real difficulty and risk. So God became human so that we might share in the divine. He did not remain distant or untouched, but entered fully into the fragility of human life. In doing so, he shows us not power as domination, but power as love.

The joy of Christmas is that we are invited to be touched by his loveliness and generosity. Christ comes to us not when life is tidy or calm, but right where we are — in our stress, our anxiety, and our weariness.

May we be deeply moved by the risk God took in making himself known to us, and may that wonder fill our hearts with hope and joy. And so, may we have a very happy Christmas.

Andrew Shipton

Lord Jesus, Light of Light,
You have come among us,
Help us to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the Highest.



*Joy to the
world*

Bible Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

New Testament: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Please follow the order of service on the separate sheet

Presiding:

8.00am Holy Communion

Presiding Revd Ruth Birnie

Preaching Revd Canon Andrew Shipton

9.30am Parish Communion

Presiding: Revd Canon Andrew Shipton

Preaching: Revd Katherine Vacher-Day

**The clergy and staff thank you for your Christmas cards and wish you all
a very joyful Christmas and very Happy New Year.**

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
There is No Morning Prayer or Tuesday Holy Communion

Notices

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.

Next week there is no Morning Prayer or Tuesday Holy Communion.

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.

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*

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*

The 9.30am service on the 11th of January will be followed by a Brunch in the hall.

Don't miss the 'Listening from the Heart' films which show bereaved Palestinian and Israeli parents in conversation. They bring a message of true HOPE to this desperate situation. Newcastle Quakers are screening them on **Thursday 15th January** at 6.30pm at Quaker Meeting House, 1 West Ave, Gosforth, NE3 4ES and also providing a shared vegan meal - all for Free! Register via Eventbrite or phone/text Janet Chapman 07484630984
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listening-from-the-heart-film-screening-tickets-1977830200371>

Tree planting 17th January As previously noted we will be planting a number of trees at the west end of the green (still leaving plenty of space for our outside activities). Tree planting will take place on Saturday 17th January from 10am – 12noon. We need some 20 volunteers to help with planting. If you are interested, please would you let me know, email cbwillas@gmail.com.

Refreshments and a warm space inside the church will be provided. Trees are being funded by the NE Community Forest, and the planting project is led by Northumberland Wildlife Trust. If you are interested in finding out more about what we and these organisations are doing, please do drop into church on the day. Trees will include: 8 trees of 100-200cm - e.g. Alder, Walnut, Rowan, Crab Apple, Lime, Field Maple, Silver birch. 15 'understory whips' of 40–60cm – e.g. Cherry plum, Wych elm, River birch, Yew, Hazel, Rowan. Whip extension to the existing beech hedge. We hope this will contribute to the attractiveness and biodiversity of the green for many years to come. *Christine Willoughby*

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 Canon Andrew Shipton is leading worship today

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Day

11am Parish Communion.

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 returns on **Monday 5th January** at 10.30am in the All Saints Centre.

Little Saints Pre-School Children and Parents/Carers Group returns on **Tuesday 6th January** at 1.00pm

SING at the **Centre** We meet again on **Tuesday 13th January** from 2:30 in the Upper Room. *Diana Lavín*

Sew, Knit and Natter returns on **Wednesday 7th January** 10-12 in the Upper Room of the Centre. 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*.

Dates for your 2026 Diary

- Youth Committee: Monday 5th January at 7.30pm in the Columba Room.
- Social Committee: Thursday 8th January at 7.15pm in the Columba Room.
- "Beyond the Blue Bin", a talk sponsored by the Eco Group: Saturday 10th January, 2–3pm in the church.
- PCC: Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Upper Room.
- Special PCC Meeting to discuss the development of the Parish Centre: Monday 19th January, 6–8pm in the church.
- Christians Together in Gosforth Service to mark the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Trinity Church on Sunday 25th January at 6.30pm
- 'Exploring Leading Worship': Thursday 5th February and Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm in the Upper Room with Nicola Denyer from Newcastle Diocese.



Easyfundraising will add a £5 bonus donation for All Saints ...
M&S have now increased their donation to **6%** every time you spend.
Last minute Christmas shopping??.

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 |

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



Epiphany Service



Sunday 4th January
at
9.30am
