



Sunday 8th February 2026
Second Sunday before Lent

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

St Hugh's

11.00am Parish Communion

Thought for the Day

How are we to read the creation stories in Genesis today? With the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and *Descent of Man* in the 1860s and 70s, science and theology became locked in fierce combat as the church regarded these publications as undermining the "truth" of the Bible.

As far as the age and origin of the universe was concerned, Archbishop Ussher of Armagh in the 17th century had estimated the date of creation at 4004 B.C. presumably by calculating backwards through the OT record to Adam and Eve. This was easily shown to be absurd and able to be disproved by geological and other types of scientific investigation. As time has passed scientists have constantly moved on in their discoveries that the world is much older, more complex and more mysterious than had been supposed.

We would now accept that the creation narratives (and there are two separate ones in the first two chapters of Genesis) were written not as science, history or cosmology but as symbolic statements of faith and not literal descriptions. They were addressed to the question not of how the world came into being (which is science's job) but of why, and what it means to believe that God is somehow behind and also intimately involved in creation, that creation points beyond itself to something greater.

There are several significant repetitions in the story which strike us:

- God says of each thing created "let there be" which suggest the desire that every part of creation should be free to fulfil what it was meant to be in its unique identity
- After each act of creation God saw that it was good – or very good

This suggests the duty we should recognise to respect every aspect of creation and although human beings are set above creation we are facing the consequences today of having taken our role in "dominating" creation as a licence to exploit it for our own ends. We are at last beginning to recognise the need to change our ways before it is too late to protect the earth from irreversible harm.

Ruth Birnie

Bible Readings and Hymns:

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1, 2-3

New Testament: Romans 8:18-25

Gospel: Matthew 6:25 to end

Hymns

Processional	Green 339 Be Thou my vision
Gradual	Brown 173 Make me a channel of your peace
Offertory	Green 234 Christ whose glory fills the skies
Communion	Green 408 Love divine, all loves excelling
Recessional	Green 338 At the name of Jesus
Anthem	O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord – Tye

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 148 Hymns 436, 391, 485

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

Our love and best wishes to Enid Green who is 103 today.

The Winter 2026 edition of *Keeping in Touch* is now available. Please do help to deliver to a street or two near you. Thank you.

Please see the leaflet for our programme for Lent and Easter. There are sheets to sign up for the Lent Group.

The PCC met recently at a special session to discuss potential plans to upgrade the Centre. All agreed that the Centre needs improvement and with a couple of minor changes, have plans which we will be sharing over the coming weeks. The improvements include accessibility upgrades, like moving the kitchen into the space currently known as the Columba Room to make an allowance for a second large room on the ground floor. Delivering these upgrades will mean that we need to have a funding campaign to pay for the work. We will be sharing the proposed plans soon and will be arranging times for people to ask questions and find out more about what is proposed.

There will be a sale of secondhand books after the 9.30 service today Sunday 8th February. All proceeds will go to church funds. A chance to pass on all those books you've been reading over the holiday! *The Book Group*

MY LIFE IN MALAWI....is the title of Felicity Shoesmith's talk at the next Mothers' Union meeting tomorrow Monday 9th February - 2.00pm in the parish centre. EVERYONE IS WELCOME to come and join us - men and women. Refreshments will be served.

Men's Group this month will be a talk by Victor Spong entitled "Feeding Collinwood's Fleet (Maintaining Sea Power 1805 to 1810)". The meeting will be on 11th February at 7:30pm in the Upper Room.

Valentines by Candlelight *unfortunately the* The EverReady Band has had to postpone this concert. Refunds are available at Eventbrite.

The funeral of Thomas Childs will be on Monday 16th February at 12noon at West Road crematorium. We pray for Carole and Lesley in their loss.

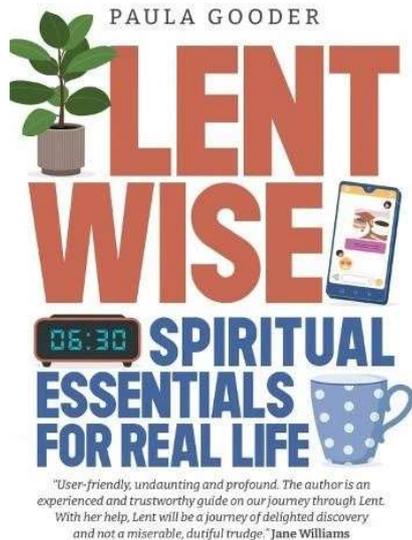
Our Ash Wednesday service of Eucharist with the imposition of Ashes will be on 18th February at 7.30pm.

Rocks, stones? Can anyone help? We are planning the next Messy Church session on Sunday 22nd February at 3pm, Jesus in the Desert. Does anyone have a collection of rocks they could lend us & then take away - to help children understand what being in the desert means? If so, please speak to volunteers who help at Messy Church - you could start with Felicity Shoesmith Lesley Atkinson, Luke Williams or clergy (of course). Thanks in advance!

During Lent . Each church in Christians Together in Gosforth will provide a simple Lent lunch on Wednesdays. A series of speakers are being invited to offer reflections at Sunday Evening Prayer on the theme *“The Heart of the Gospel.”*

News from St Hugh’s:

- Revd Ruth Birnie is leading worship today.
 - The first wedding at St Hugh’s for more than a decade will take place in July. Our best wishes to Emma and Jake.
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Please sign up for the Lent groups on Wednesday’s and Thursday’s. There are sheets at the back of the church. The booklets are £9. *Andrew*

Caring for Creation: Looking after the birds...

Some of you may have seen in the press that some of our garden birds are in decline, one reason being that diseases spread very rapidly when birds gather at feeding stations. It goes without saying that bird feeders should be regularly cleaned and old food removed, but if you’re not sure whether to keep putting out food for them, you could offer nesting material instead. Use the type of feeder designed for suet balls or peanuts, and fill it with natural materials such as grass or straw, dry leaves, moss, lichen, but avoid using lint from the tumble dryer (it may contain synthetic fibres), human or pet hair which may contain traces of shampoo, string or long strands of wool, or synthetic fibres such as acrylic or nylon. Put the materials out in early spring (February to March) so that the birds can find them in time to help build their nests.



The Eco Group

Mission of the Month for February

New to the UK Based in North Shields Baptist Church provide support for asylum seekers and refugees. churchestogethernorthshields.org

Weekly Small Group Events

Coffee and Conversation in the Centre Mondays from 10.30am – 11.30am in the All Saints Centre. Please come along and join our companionable group.

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

SING at the **Centre Tuesdays** from 2:30 in the Upper Room for refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you all. *Diana Lavin*

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.*

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



Sunday 22nd February
3.00 - 4.00pm

Theme: Jesus in the Desert

**Join us for a story, crafts
and food.**



in the
All Saints Centre
NE3 4ES

Tel 0191 2130450
for more details



ASH WEDNESDAY

18th February 2026
7.30pm



Sung Eucharist with imposition of ashes