



Weekly  
News

# All Saints Gosforth



## Sunday Services 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

9.30 am

Morning Prayer - *Live streamed to Facebook*

*The order of service for Morning Prayer can be downloaded from our website on the Worship With Us At Home Page.*

Evening Prayer

(Available on Facebook only at 6:30pm on Sunday)

*For both services please visit*

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsgosforth>

## From the Vicar

Dear All,

I had hoped that we could meet for Communal Worship during January, but with the announcements of many more COVID deaths and increasing numbers of infections together with evidence that increased mask wearing does not prevent contagion by the new variant, I have reluctantly concluded that our worship on Sundays should be online. Consequently, only those with a specific role in the broadcast should attend. I very much regret this, but I hope you will be able to participate online.

We continue to pray for all those affected by the pandemic, those unwell and their families and supporters. We also give thanks for the courage, skill and dedication of medical and nursing staff and all who are giving themselves generously to care for others in such anxious times.

Best wishes,

*Andrew Shipton*

**Readings**    Old Testament reading:    Genesis 14:17-20  
                    Gospel reading:             John 2:1-11

## Thought for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

In the miracle of changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana we can see, on one level, a response to a social crisis.

Whether it was because of the limited budget of the host or the greed of the guests, the wine had all been drunk. In those days not having enough wine would be much more than an inconvenience or an embarrassment, it would spell social disgrace. If the family were unable to meet the obligations of hospitality, this would be permanently shaming and would lower their standing in the community forever. It is against the background of this honour and shame culture that Mary requests the help of Jesus on the family's behalf.

On the surface, it is a story about Jesus' compassion for a family in trouble and his willingness to help them. But behind this human drama the writer of John's Gospel sees much greater significance. He begins his story, 'On the third day', and any mention of 'the third day' reminds the reader of the story of the resurrection. The water that turns into wine is drawn from the jars intended for the Jewish rites of purification, and so, from the rites of purification, comes the flowing new wine of the kingdom and of a new age. This is a miracle that speaks of joy and celebration, and hints at the messianic banquet to come at the end of time. The wine that flows offers not cleansing according to the law, but the joyful completion of creation through God's generosity.

The disciples saw this sign and believed in him. They 'got it' as we say today. They gave up everything not because here was a man who would be the source of free top quality alcohol for the rest of their lives! They saw in him the transforming truth of a new order.

*Andrew Shipton*

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 16 February** *Shrove Tuesday Online Quiz Night.* We are appealing for volunteers to arrange this. Please contact the clergy.

### **Zooms**

**Sundays** – *Parish Breakfast* – Sunday 24th January @ 11.15am. *Please contact Beverley Davies* [bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Tuesdays** @ 11am - *Coffee morning.* *Please contact Ruth Birnie* [ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Fridays** @ 11am – *Just Sing* – Why not zoom with us on Fridays? In the next few weeks, amongst other items, we'll be covering 60s songs. Newcomers are always welcome.

*Please contact* [dianalavin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dianalavin@hotmail.co.uk)

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## News

There will be a Confirmation Service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September at All Saints.

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*The PCC* have approved that the churchwardens investigate a fully-integrated streaming system. We have received a grant of £3,350 to assist with this but more funds will be needed. Meanwhile, our thanks goes to *Peter Mitchell* who has invested many hours using his equipment to keep us all worshipping together.

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Please see our new All Saints Magazine called '**Keeping in Touch**'. The January edition is out now. You can view it [here](#) or by accessing our website. You will see it's less formal than '*In Touch*' and will be more frequent depending on contributions. To send in an article of no more than 400-500 words please email [allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/in-touch-magazine](mailto:allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/in-touch-magazine) or pass to: Christine Willoughby, Dermot Killingley or Lesley Atkinson.

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*Alert re Covid Vaccinations* **Please note** that when attending for a COVID-19 vaccination you are required to bring with you your NHS number to have to hand, ready. This number can be found on any NHS correspondence you may have or from the NHS website.

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*Travel to your COVID vaccination centre.* Budget Taxis are giving the over 80's **free** rides to the vaccination centres from Gosforth. Quote "free taxi for Over 80's". One way only limited to 5 miles. *Please ensure you book 24hrs in advance.*

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## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH: AMNESTY LETTER JANUARY 2021.**

This month's case is a new 'Urgent Action' from Amnesty. It concerns the Moroccan human rights defender and academic Maati Monjib. See the specimen letter below for further information or go to his Amnesty webpage is <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/academic-arbitrarily-detained>.

As the postage for overseas letters shot up to £1.70 on 1st January, you may prefer one of the following alternatives to the expense and the inconvenience of going to the post office. The simplest option is to go to the link on the Amnesty website (see above) and follow the instructions there.

Alternatively, email the Embassy in London at [ambalondres@maec.gov.ma](mailto:ambalondres@maec.gov.ma) with your message based on the letter below. Or send a letter in the post to the Embassy on London, addressed to His Excellency Mr Abdesselam Abouddrar, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, 49 Queens Gate Gardens, London SW7 5NE.

*Specimen letter (feel free to put into your own words)*

Saad Dine El-Othmani  
Prime Minister  
Palais Royal Touarga  
Rabat 10070  
Morocco

Your Excellency

MAATI MONJIB

I am writing on behalf of the human rights defender and academic Maati Monjib. He was arrested on 29 December as he was eating lunch in a restaurant and has been in arbitrary detention ever since.

Maati Monjib has told Amnesty International that this latest bout of harassment and intimidation is due to his support to two imprisoned journalists and to a recent radio interview where he criticised internal intelligence for repressing political opponents.

I urge you to drop all charges against Maati Monjib and immediately release him. He is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association.

Yours sincerely

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## Prayer and Worship

*Next Sunday* (31<sup>st</sup> January) we will celebrate **Candlemas** and the Service will be a Eucharist.

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*Ash Wednesday* the service will be live streamed from the Church on 17th February at 7:30pm

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*Lent groups.* We will be running Lent groups via Zoom looking at themes from Rowan Williams' book 'Candles in the Dark, Faith, Love & Hope in a Time of Pandemic'. If you are interested in joining us for 40 minutes, beginning 24<sup>th</sup> February, please email the parish office so we can plan the sessions. [post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

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*Daily Hope* offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a free-to-use telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 –. Please let people know who might benefit – especially those who are not online.

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*Dial a Service* Why not try this feature? Any member of the congregation who can't attend church can simply dial a telephone number and listen to a service in full. The cost is the normal charge for your line. The number is 0191 8147244

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## Donations

*Donating to All Saints* - We are keeping a very close eye on the cost of running All Saints and have cut back on much spending, to minimise the impact on the budget set for the year. A very big thank you to all Planned Givers, who donate on a regular basis online. If you would like to join the scheme, please go to <https://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/stewardship>.

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*Cessation of Issue of Planned Giving Envelopes* - As nearly all those who were donating by Planned Giving envelopes have now changed over to donating by Standing Order, Planned Giving envelopes will not be issued this January.

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*Mission of the Month* - Each month any plate donations from our services are given to a nominated charity. All Saints' underwrite the donations so that each nominated charity receives 5% of our unrestricted income. During the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 donations for the Mission of the Month have reduced so dramatically that there has been significant additional expenditure in order to fulfil our underwriting obligation.

In order to manage the situation better, those not currently attending church services can make donations in the form of cash, personal cheques and CAF cheques for Mission of the Month by posting or delivering by hand to the parish office mailbox for the attention of the treasurer. Also donations may be made by online transfer into the All Saints' bank account with the name of the appropriate charity as a reference.

*NB* - any donations sent directly to the charities cannot be taken into account when considering All Saints underwriting guarantee.

*Thank you for your continuing support.*

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### *Charity of the Month*

The Charity of the month for January is **The Cedarwood Trust** - at present working with local food banks and outlets to provide free food and free meals to those who need it.

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## Support

All Saints pre-school and young people's groups are closed. If you are finding these times difficult and need support, and would like someone to have stroll with around the Gosforth Central Park, do not hesitate to contact Andrew Shipton on 0191 2845540 [andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk) or Beverley Davies 07989 145610 [bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

Since the start of this latest lockdown, we have been thinking how we best support each other. We are told that we are now entering a most dangerous phase and the coming weeks could be some of the most challenging we have faced over the last ten months. We would be pleased to be contacted for support or for just a chat about our experiences.

### **2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Mondays: 0191 284 1393 *Ruth*

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 07989 145610 *Beverley*

Thursdays and Fridays: 0191 2845540 *Andrew*

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## Contact Us

<b>Vicar</b>	Andrew Shipton	284 5540	<a href="mailto:andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	Beverley Davies	07989 145610	<a href="mailto:bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Ruth Birnie	284 1393	<a href="mailto:ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Hon Assistant Priest</b>	Rebecca Watts	285 9840	<a href="mailto:rebecca.watts@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">rebecca.watts@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth &amp; Children's Worker</b>	Jamie Donaldson		<a href="mailto:jamie.donaldson@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">jamie.donaldson@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Paul Wilkinson	236 8070	<a href="mailto:paul.wilkinson@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">paul.wilkinson@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Christine Willoughby	0773 3963660	<a href="mailto:christine.willoughby@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">christine.willoughby@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Fred Carr	01661 825863	<a href="mailto:fred.carr@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">fred.carr@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Kath Davies	7880 618911	<a href="mailto:kath.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">kath.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>
<b>Administrator</b>	Louise Waugh	0191 213 0450	<a href="mailto:post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk">post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk</a>

***The Parish Office is closed.***

***Thank you, for looking at our news today.***