



# All Saints Gosforth



## First Sunday of Lent 21st February 2021

9.30 am Parish Communion online - *Live streamed to Facebook*  
*The order of service can be downloaded from our website.*

6.00 pm Evening Prayer on Sunday

*For links to both services please visit*

[Worship with us at Home | all-saints-gosforth \(wixsite.com\)](http://all-saints-gosforth.wixsite.com)

### From the Vicar

Dear All,

The rules of the current national lockdown allow public worship to continue in churches and other places of worship. However, bearing in mind the seriousness of the situation, we have decided to close the church for all public worship (with the exception of funerals). So please, stay at home and join us online for services (details below).

We much regret this decision after working so hard to ensure worship is as safe as it could possibly be, and we know just how important attendance at church, fellowship and receiving communion is to many. At the same time, we have to acknowledge that the NHS is under great pressure and the way each of us can help is to stay at home, both to avoid the risk of infection and any accidents which might require hospitalisation. As we move into Lent we are imagining and planning for different scenarios, and are aware that as restrictions ease, people may need to re-build their confidence to venture out and mix with others again.

We are still very much a functioning church and 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*

<b>Readings</b>	Old Testament:	Genesis 9:8-17
	New Testament:	1 Peter 3:18-end
	Gospel:	Mark 1:9-15

## Thought for the day

In her sermon last week, Ruth talked about beginnings and endings. In today's Gospel we are brought back to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, back to his baptism with John. Mark begins his Gospel with only a few short verses preceding our reading today announcing 'The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ'.

Beginnings are strange things because they aren't actually beginnings for very long. They are the very cusp of something new happening, but once the thing gets underway then it is no longer a beginning. Endings are also strange; however they might happen. They can really only be an ending for a short time before they turn into a new beginning. John's ministry, in the way he understood it, had now ended and he knew that it would now take a different path. A new beginning.

As we enter Lent, we are at that very strange in-between time of not the beginning, not the end, but at a place of neither here nor there.

Our lives are full of beginnings and endings; therefore, we seem to be always in a state of neither here nor there. We spend most parts of our lives in the wilderness.

When He was in the wilderness, Jesus prayed, listened and discerned where his ministry would take him next. He went through internal temptations that we too face and if we're honest, succumb to sometimes. But isn't this where we can draw our strength? The God we meet as a baby in the manger, entered this human life, experienced our weaknesses and struggles and understands our need and dependency on God.

This Lent, I ask you to reflect on your own beginnings and endings, what have you learnt from them – how has your own wilderness experiences shaped your faith and relationship with God and those around you today?

*Beverley Davies*

## Upcoming Events

**Lent groups.** We are looking at themes from Rowan Williams' book 'Candles in the Dark, Faith, Love and Hope in a Time of Pandemic'. If you are interested in joining us for 40 minutes, beginning 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm please email the parish office [post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Café Church** 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11:30am

We are pleased to announce that our Café Church service will recommence at the end of the month. This service will be via Zoom and the theme is 'Mission Impossible'. All are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Beverley.

### **Zooms**

**Sundays** – *Parish Breakfast* – Sunday 21st February @ 11.15am.

Please contact Ruth Birnie [ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Tuesdays** @ 11am - Coffee morning. Please contact Beverley Davies [bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Fridays** @ 11am – *Just Sing* – We are now dipping into Gospel songs alongside our popular music genres through the decades, currently 'There is more love, somewhere'. We are hoping to extend our Gospel repertoire. Please try to join us.

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

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February The Funeral of **Heather Stanton** *in church at 10am*

*NB Numbers attending at these Services are restricted.*

## News

There will be a Confirmation Service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September at All Saints. This is an opportunity to take faith to the next level and recommit your life to God through Confirmation. There will be a course concluding with the Confirmation Service. If this is of interest to you, please contact Andrew, Beverley or Ruth.

**Happy News from the Glover Family** Some of you will remember our daughter, Louise who was baptised and confirmed, was an acolyte and subsequently married, at All Saints.

Our happy news is that on 4<sup>th</sup> February she gave birth to twin daughters who join her two older children, Charlotte (6) and Toby (3). The twins are called Philippa (Pippa) Alice and Imogen Eleanor and they are both very beautiful, though we admit that we are rather biased! Thankfully both mother and 2 tiny girls are doing very well and indeed they were home after just 24 hours.

Louise is still an active churchgoer, worshipping at St Michaels, Aynho, the village where they now live near Banbury. Their wedding at All Saints was an interesting ecumenical event, for her husband Chris is a Catholic, so a Catholic monk officiated at the ceremony alongside Genny Tunbridge. They continue the ecumenical theme; Chris splits his time between St Michaels, Aynho and the Catholic church in the neighbouring village of Kings Sutton, which itself meets in the Anglican parish church! And on some Sundays, Louise will join him there. Charlotte, their daughter, was baptised as a Catholic; Toby as an Anglican. We await their decision on how they proceed with their new twin daughters.

**Nick and Sue Glover**

**Perhaps you are looking for something take up rather than give up this Lent?** If so then you need look no further than **Tyne & Wear Citizens**. Our Congregation is part of this coalition of twenty six churches, mosques, schools, charities and a university collaborating to tackle injustices in our local communities. Through our membership you could join one of the Action Teams working on Safer and Equal Cities; Dignity & Diversity at Work; Climate & the Environment, or Mental Health. Or you could access a short course on Community Organising – the method behind UK Citizens which has roots going back to Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement. Go to <https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/tyne-and-wear/> for more information or give one of us a call and we'd be delighted to have a chat.

*Thank you, Andrew Cole (07949523016), Andrew Shipton (0191 284 5540).*

**Painting Auction.** The winning bid for the painting of the Remembrance Garden at All Saints by Elaine Gabriel was £100. The painting will be hung in the Parish Centre as soon as possible. Thank you to all who participated.

**For our younger members:** Please see a petal design at the end of the newsletter to colour in for Mothering Sunday to express our thanks to mothers and to all who give themselves generously. If these could be put through the post box of the All Saints Centre by midday 10th March these will be made into flowers and displayed on Mothering Sunday (14th March). A short prayer of thanks would also be welcome.

**Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 22nd February - 7th March** All Saints is a Fairtrade Church, we use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar at parish breakfast. Hopefully we will be able to get together again in the not-too-distant future, but meanwhile have you thought about using Fairtrade products when you join the zoom catch ups, (if you don't already that is)?

This year the Fairtrade Foundation are highlighting how the effects of climate change are affecting farmers and workers in the communities they work with. See <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/> or <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/fairtrade-fortnight> for more information. Please look out for the Fairtrade mark when you shop, the products may be a little more expensive but it means that the farmers get a fair and consistent price for their crops and a premium to invest in projects in their communities like schools, healthcare or sustainability projects.

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**Candlewax going free!** Would anyone like some wax with which to make fresh candles? We have some available ready for recycling - for instance a 1kg bag of white wax and a box of certainly 4 times that weight. These used ends of candles are not the right size for our candleholders in church and of course would need wicks. There are also several old pots of orange/beige candlewax from a past age of our church. I understand good candles can be made in a microwave, but please don't assume I'm right! For requests, please contact me by 'phone (2857244) or email [rosamundplace@btopenworld.com](mailto:rosamundplace@btopenworld.com).  
*Thank you!*

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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 go to *Peter Mitchell* who has invested many hours using his own equipment to keep us all worshipping together.

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**Please** see our new All Saints Magazine called '**Keeping in Touch**'. The February 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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**West End Foodbank** collection during Lent –an opportunity to leave food for the West End Food Bank. Sunday's Feb 21-March 21, 2pm-3pm

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## Prayer and Worship

**Lent Groups** (via Zoom beginning Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm) The book we have chosen to use this Lent is '*Candles in the Dark*' by Rowan Williams. The book is based on a series of daily reflections arising from messages posted in a church in Cambridge over the past year.

For the first of our weekly sessions, it would be good if everyone could read the first six chapters (pp 1-18). The titles of these chapters give an indication of the themes they address:

A change has begun  
A clearer vision  
Staying put  
All times belong to him  
Fragile trust  
We are not alone

These are the basis for some deep reflection on what has been happening to us over the past year and will resonate with many aspects of our experience. Perhaps we might think about some of the following:

- Are there aspects of the past year in terms of how we have been able to support one another that have laid the foundation for living more fully in the future?

- When much of what filled our life until recently has been removed, are there things we have been enabled to see more clearly (and will this help us in keeping Lent)?
- Have we learned the importance of engaging with what we have around us and not wishing for things to be different?
- Can we feel that God is with us in all circumstances however difficult?
- Have we come to realise that we are connected not only to other human beings but to the world as a whole?

I hope you will be inspired to think of other insights you have gained from reading these chapters. If you would like to join, please email the parish office [post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

Ruth Birnie

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### **Café Church 28<sup>th</sup> February (at 11:30am via Zoom)**

A service for all ages to explore our theme of 'Mission Impossible' for Lent. All are welcome to join us for this interactive and fun service. For the link or more information, please contact Beverley.

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### **Outdoor Church!**

The Clergy Team are investigating the possibility of holding services on the church green on Palm Sunday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day

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**The Church will be open** for 1 hour on Sundays during Lent both for prayer and reflection Sunday only, Feb 21-March 21, 2pm-3pm

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### **Sunday Evening Services in Lent**

A series of reflections entitled: "It made me think: breakthroughs in my understanding" is available on Facebook at 6pm on Sunday. *Please visit* our worship with us at home page on our website:

[Worship with us at Home | all-saints-gosforth \(wixsite.com\)](http://www.all-saints-gosforth.wixsite.com)

*The Reflection on 21<sup>st</sup> February will be by Andrew Shipton*

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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 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 does not have access to the internet can simply dial a telephone number and listen to a service in full with hymns. 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>.

### **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. It should be noted that any donations sent directly to the charities cannot be taken into account when considering All Saints' underwriting guarantee.

*Thank you for your continued support.*

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### **Mission of the Month**

Our mission for the month of February is **NIDAS**, a project run by Changing Lives. NIDAS (Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service) provides specialist accommodation and support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in Newcastle.

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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 perhaps to have a stroll with you 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 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.

