



Weekly
News

All Saints Gosforth



Second Sunday of Lent 28th February 2021

9.30 am	Parish Communion online - <i>Live streamed to Facebook</i> <i>The order of service can be downloaded from our website.</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer on Sunday

For links to both services please visit

[Worship with us at Home | all-saints-gosforth \(wixsite.com\)](https://www.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) until the end of March. 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. 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. Please see below a proposed programme for Holy Week and Easter.

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 continue to care for others.

Best wishes,

Andrew Shipton

Readings	Old Testament:	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
	New Testament:	Romans 4:13-end
	Gospel:	Mark 8:31-end

Thought for the day

Today we reach a turning point in Mark's Gospel. Until Chapter 8, Jesus has been travelling around Galilee, teaching and healing. Now he goes south towards Jerusalem, well aware of the fate that awaits him there. Just before today's reading, Peter has confessed him to be the Christ. When Jesus starts to talk about what that might entail, Peter 'tells him off'. In reply, Jesus calls him Satan because he is tempting Jesus, putting forward the wrong priorities. Jesus reveals that there will similar consequences for those who follow him. The use of the word 'cross' indicates that the usual human priorities of safety and gain are secondary. We are to 'take up' our cross: grasp it, seize it and this is an active choice.

Responding to our own particular calling may well involve hard work and sacrifice. Is Jesus saying 'If anyone wishes to follow him, let them give without counting the cost'?

Andrew Shipton

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 an hour our next meeting is Wednesday March 3rd at 7:30pm please email the parish office post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Café Church 28th February at 11:30am

We are pleased to announce that our Café Church service will recommence this morning at 11:30am. This service will be via Zoom and the theme is 'Mission Impossible'. All are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Beverley for the link.

Zooms

Sunday Feb 21

Parish Breakfast @ 11:15. Please contact ruth.birnie@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Café Church @ 11:30. Please contact Bev.davies@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Tuesday March 02

Coffee morning @ 11am. Please contact andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

PCC Meeting @ 7:30pm

Wednesday @ 7.30pm Lent Group

Fridays @ 11am – Just Sing – We are continuing to dip into Gospel songs alongside our popular music genres through the decades, currently 'There is more love, somewhere'. We also join Burt Bacharach on his way to 'San Jose'. Next week you can 'Lean on Me'. You might find you enjoy the journey so please try to join us. Please contact dianalavin@hotmail.co.uk

News

There will be a Confirmation Service on Sunday 5th 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. Three candidates have already come forward.

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).

For our younger members: Please see a petal design at the end of the newsletter to colour in and add a message/prayer 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. This could be written on the back of the picture.

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.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH: AMNESTY LETTER FEBRUARY 2021

This month's letter can be sent as an email to Egypt or by post with a £1.70 stamp. Alternatively (or in addition), you can email their Ambassador in London or send a letter there by First or Second Class mail. For information about this case, see the main body of the specimen letter below.

Specimen Letter

Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawi
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Maninat al-Rehab
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt
e-mail: m.office@ppo.gov.eg

Dear Public Prosecuto**Ahmed Samir Santawy**

I am writing to protest at the arbitrary detention of Ahmed Samir Santawy, a researcher and master's student who was arrested on 1th February, subjected to enforced disappearance for five days and beaten and blindfolded by security forces while he was interrogated. On 6th February the Supreme State Security Prosecutors ordered his detention pending investigation into terrorism-related charges.

My concern is that Ahmed is now being held incommunicado in prison and that he has no access to his family or to lawyers. There is concern for his welfare, especially because of the lack of adequate medical care and the COVID outbreaks in overcrowded and unhygienic prisons.

I urge you to release Ahmed Samir Santawy immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience and request that you launch an immediate and impartial investigation into allegations that he has been beaten. Until his release, please allow him access to his family and to lawyers and adequate health care.

Yours sincerely

You can also write to the Egyptian Ambassador in London:

His Excellency Tarek Ahmed Ibrahim Adel
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street
London
W1K 1DW
egtamboff@gmail.com

A **huge** thank you to all who organised the Shrove Tuesday Quiz. 17 teams in all!
Well done to the winners!

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.
Thank you!

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.

Please see our new All Saints Magazine called '**Keeping in Touch**'. You can view the latest edition [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 or pass to: Christine Willoughby, Dermot Killingley or Lesley Atkinson.

West End Foodbank collection during Lent – an opportunity to leave food for the West End Food Bank on Sundays Feb 21-March 21, 2pm-3pm

Prayer and Worship

A Proposed Programme for Holy Week and Easter 2021.

<i>Palm Sunday</i> Mar 28	8.00am - Holy Communion 9:30am - Outdoor Service (<i>Procession round the Green</i>)		Evening Service 6:30pm <i>Stations of the Cross in church</i>
<i>Holy Week</i> Mon Mar 29	8:45am Morning Prayer		7:30 Recorded Compline & Address - <i>a reflection by a member of the congregation</i>
Tues Mar 30	8:45am Morning Prayer		7:30 Recorded Compline & Address – <i>a reflection by a member of the congregation</i>
Weds Mar 31	8:45am Morning Prayer		7:30 Recorded Compline & Address – <i>a reflection by a member of the congregation</i>
<i>Maundy Thurs</i> Apr 01	8:45am Morning Prayer		7:30 The Last Supper <i>Holy Communion in Church followed by a Vigil</i>
<i>Good Friday</i> Apr 02	10:00am Family Service (<i>outdoors</i>)	2:00pm The Last Hour <i>'The cost of Love' – reflections around The Cross.</i>	
Holy Saturday Apr 03			8:00pm The Easter Vigil (outdoors on The Green). <i>'God acts in the Darkness'</i>
Easter Day Apr 04	08:00am Holy Communion 09:30 Parish Communion (<i>Celebration on The Green</i>)		6:30 Choral Evensong

Lent Groups (via Zoom) Wednesday 3rd March at 7:30pm reading '*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.

Leading on from our session last week, we will be looking at the next 6 chapters:

- Life beyond lockdown
- A steady solidarity
- Ascension Day
- We are not God

- Keep yourselves from Idols
- The problem with statues

These are the basis for some deep reflection on what has been happening to us over the past year and in the coming months with the pathway out of lockdown being recently announced. The chapters also reflect our own personal experiences of worship in isolation.

This week we will look at each chapter individually. Last week we agreed Rowan's readable and digestible reflections feed easily into our discussion. This week we may want to think about:

- The way our society has changed in the past year – has this hindered or helped new opportunities?
- Whilst some people and organisations are striving to be seen and heard, who are the unseen heroes working steadily in the background, unannounced and unassuming – why are they so important to both our everyday living as well as our faith and worship?
- Do we set ourselves unrealistic expectations? Why do we do this?
- What are we holding on to that prevents us from moving forwards?

I am sure after last week's session and reading these coming chapters, you will be inspired to share your own thoughts and reflections. If you would like to join, please email the parish office post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Café Church today 28th 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.

Outdoor Church!

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

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

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://all-saints-gosforth.wixsite.com)

The Reflection on 28th February will be delivered by Vic Spang

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.

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

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.

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.

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Ann Shaw and her family with the loss of Bill. Bill's funeral will be on Monday 8th March at 10am. Unfortunately numbers are restricted but the Service will be live streamed onto the All Saints' website.

May Bill, *'Rest in peace and rise in glory'*.

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 or Beverley Davies 07989 145610 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*

Contact Us

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

The Parish Office is closed.

Thank you, for looking at our news today.

