



# All Saints Gosforth



## The Feast of Candlemas 31<sup>st</sup> January 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>
Evening Prayer	Available on Facebook only, at 6pm on Sunday

*For both services please visit*

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

### 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.

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*

**Readings**    Old Testament:    Malachi 3:1-5  
                  New Testament:    Hebrews 2:14-end  
                  Gospel reading:        Luke 2:22-end

## Thought for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Today we celebrate Candlemas, when Mary and Joseph, following their religious customs travel to the temple, firstly so that Mary can be purified and confirmed as clean, and secondly, so they could present their first-born son Jesus.

It is here where we are told about two people who encounter the family as they enter the temple. It may not seem an out of the ordinary event in the first instance, after all, the temple was usually a busy place with lots of comings and goings. But we are told that this was a significant event for these two individuals named Simeon and Anna. We are told that they had spent their lives waiting, expectant, trusting that God will give them a sign that things are going to get a whole lot better.

I often hear people say that God seems to act when you least expect it. Simeon and Anna had been expectant for so long but when they see this very ordinary looking family, something inside them is stirred. They just *know* that with this young couple there is a special gift from God that is going to change the whole world.

We can spend our whole lives, waiting and searching for the things that we think will help us. However, quite often, it is God who seeks us out and comes to us where we are. This is the last of our Christmas celebrations. God comes to us, our light in our darkness, our Immanuel.

*Beverley Davies*

## Upcoming Events

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

### **Zooms**

**Sundays** – *Parish Breakfast* – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January @ 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 Andrew Shipton [Andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.shipton@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk)

**Fridays @ 11am** – *Just Sing* – Why not zoom with us on Fridays? Newcomers always welcome, currently including some songs from the 60s.

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

## 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 finishing with the Confirmation Service. If this is of interest to you, please contact Andrew, Beverley or Ruth.

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## ***News from far away countries impacted by the pandemic***

### **Rwanda**

The Rwandan government tightened restrictions on businesses and public activities on 4 January 2021 in response to an increase in cases of COVID-19 and related deaths. Compared to many countries, the numbers of cases (8,848 since March 2020) and deaths (105) are low, but half of all deaths occurred in December 2020. A curfew is in place from 8pm to 4am, and facemasks are required in public.

### **Burkina Faso**

Active COVID-19 cases in Burkina Faso rose in December 2020. The country is also facing a devastating humanitarian crisis. Escalating instability and violence have led to the internal displacement of more than 1 million people – at least half of whom are children in need of education assistance. Many are without clean water, food, shelter or medical care. Famine-like conditions have been reported, and aid workers say half a million children under age 5 are acutely malnourished. As the situation continues to develop, women and children are especially vulnerable to exploitation, violence and malnutrition.

**NB** Information from *Alison Beveridge*, North East Regional Partnerships Manager of Compassion UK who zoomed me on Tuesday last week. Andrew

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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 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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## **Prayer and Worship**

**Ash Wednesday** the service will be live-streamed from the Church on 17th February at 7:30pm. The beginning of Lent 2021 is merely weeks away, raising questions about how to approach Ash Wednesday especially when viewing the service from home. We have reflected on various practices including sending out packets of ash. We have concluded that it would be best to encourage signing from home using ashes of palm crosses from previous year. We do recommend that great care is taken when preparing the ashes. *Instructions to follow....*

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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 are able to 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 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.

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 continuing 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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## Toys for Toddlers

In ordinary times, young children benefit from trying out new toys in the various venues they might visit. However, current Covid restrictions mean that these opportunities are closed for the time being. So it is good that NAPI (Newcastle Action for Parents and toddlers Initiative) can now offer toy library loans to support families in providing a variety of play activities for their children. Toys can be borrowed by appointment from the toy library based in Heaton or can be home delivered if required. *For further information* tel 0191-265-6156 or visit [www.napi.org.uk/toylibrary](http://www.napi.org.uk/toylibrary)

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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

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