



Sunday 23rd February 2025
Second Sunday before Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Faith @4 in the Centre
6.30pm	Evening Prayer

For live and recorded services please visit
allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

At St Hugh's

11.00am Parish Communion

Thought for Today

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 to be 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 and that planet earth is only one of millions of galaxies.

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. Our task now, in the face of threats to the environment, is to act responsibly towards creation as stewards and not to dominate but to preserve.

Ruth Birnie

Old Testament: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15 to end

New Testament: Revelation 4

Gospel: Luke 8:22-25

8.00am Holy Communion

Presiding Revd Ruth Birnie

Preaching Revd Ruth Birnie

9.30am Parish Communion

Presiding Revd Dr Miriam Jones

Preaching Revd Ruth Birnie

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 Turn Thy Face from my sins - Attwood

Please stay for tea and coffee after the 9.30am Parish Communion Service

4.00pm Faith @4 in the Centre

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Psalm: 33 **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 very welcome in church, and there is a dedicated Children's Corner at the back, with activities available for them to use there or take back to their pews.

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 – Thursday : 8.45am Morning Prayer in Church. Enter by South Porch

Tuesday's Holy Communion is at 10.15am in Church

Notices

Book sale - there will be a sale of secondhand books in the Centre following the 9.30am service. All proceeds to church funds. *The Book Group*

Faith @4 is at 4.00pm in the Centre this Sunday afternoon, 23rd February. Over the next few months we will be exploring the stories Jesus told; this week we begin with the parable of the lost coin.

Choral Evensong with a short address is today Sunday at 6.30pm in the church.

Peter Brown has been honoured with an invitation from His Majesty King Charles III to receive Maundy Money at Durham Cathedral this Maundy Thursday. These specially minted silver coins are given in recognition of distinguished Christian service to churches and communities. Our congratulations to Peter.

The Winter Edition of Keeping in Touch is now available on our website and there are paper copies at the back of church.

Holy Communion is on Tuesday, 25th February, at 10.15am. The church is warm, offering a space for peace and quiet.

Film Night Friday 28th February showing at 7.15pm **Bruce Almighty** - please see poster.

First Aid at church events. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve as the designated First Aider at church events. If you would be willing to be trained for this role and be available to help at various church events throughout the year, please could you let me know via email or text message. PCC is prepared to contribute to the costs, so please don't let this put you off. Details of where and when the training will take place to be determined once expressions of interest have been received. Thank you. *Miriam Jones.*

Mission of the Month for February Tyneside Welcomes, a local charity run by a small group of volunteers on Tyneside with no single political or faith-based affiliation. Their aim is to take on the responsibility for resettling Syrian refugee families on Tyneside through a Government approved Community Sponsorship scheme.

Please note that cash on the plate goes to our Mission of the Month, money put into the yellow envelopes goes to pay for the work of All Saints. Thank you!

Art and Craft workshop - Saturday 1st March, 2.45 - 4.00 pm. All ages welcome. *(Thank you to all those who donated buttons - we have plenty now for all our Art & Craft work for some time to come!)*

Family Quiz Night with Pancakes! Have you got your ticket yet? Are you part of a team? If not, we can arrange some scratch teams on the night, but why not bring along members of your group - and there are plenty of active groups at All Saints! Or maybe you might like to bring a team from your family? More details on the flier at the end of this Newsletter. *Social and Events group*

Our next **Fellowship Lunch** is on **Sunday 2nd March 2025** at 12.00 in the Church Centre. If you would otherwise be eating alone, please do come and join us for a light lunch and some good company. You would be most welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Pauline Gallacher

World Day of Prayer This year's service will take place in church on **Friday 7th March at 1.30pm**. It has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands - a New Zealand territory in the Pacific Ocean. The theme is 'I made you wonderful' (from Psalm 139). These WDP services are for everyone - men and women. Refreshments afterwards at the back of church.

Farmers' Market, March 15

Please help if you are able. We'd like:

- Stall helpers for Gardening (short shifts 20-30m please, free hot drinks!)
- Donations of plants/bulbs/pots/tools

If you have anything to offer, please can you let us know first.

Thank you! *Diana Lavin, Marian Cave*

People's Theatre trip - we have two spare tickets for the performance of *Pygmalion* on Thursday 20th March, 7.30 pm. If you would like to go please contact me.

anncross060@gmail.com

All Church of England Parishes across the country are required to prepare a **new electoral roll** this year. This means that everyone on the existing roll will need to re-apply in order to be included: names are not automatically carried over onto the new roll.

You will see a notice near the main door of All Saints which is to be displayed at least two months before our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 11th May. During this time anyone leading services is to make an announcement that the new roll is being prepared and all reasonable efforts should be made to contact those on the existing roll so that they are able to re-apply.

Applications are made by filling out the form, available at the back of church. The preparation of the roll needs to be completed by 20th April and the completed roll will be put up near the main door on the 27th April so any corrections can be made.

Easter is late in 2025! This year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on 5th March. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 13th April. Easter Day falls on 20th April (and this is one of the years when the date is shared by the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches). Trinity Sunday, concluding the first half of the Church's Year, falls on 15th June.

Community Organising Since November, I have been participating in a national community organising course, with the hope of using this approach, among other things, to encourage church growth. The aim is to further develop a relational culture at All Saints, fostering listening both within the church community and in the wider community, alongside bottom-up planning.

A key aspect of this process involves one-to-one meetings, typically lasting about 40 minutes. In these meetings, each person shares something of their story, passions, significant relationships, and gifts, while also listening to the same from their conversation partner.

Andrew Cole and I will be sharing more about this in the months to come. *Andrew Shipton*

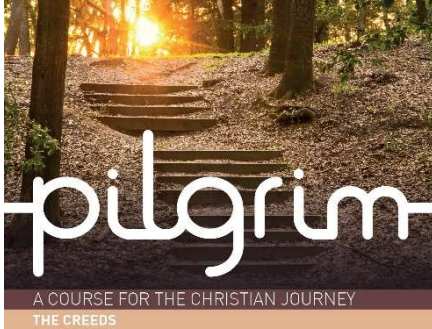
Update from Tyneside Welcomes - our Mission of the Month for February

Firstly, thank you again for the moral, practical and financial support that All Saints has given to the Gosforth Branch of Tyneside Welcomes over the past four years. Without it we would not have been able to resettle a Syrian family from uncertain and unstable circumstances in Turkey to the safety, security and opportunity of Tyneside. They arrived in June 2022, and you might think that we would be ready to move on to finding another family to resettle. Whilst the amount of hands-on help needed to guide the family through resettlement, language courses, benefits, school places, health needs etc has diminished, we still need to be there for them and there are some tricky months ahead. The two-year tenancy which we obtained is due to expire in June, so we are faced with the reality of the housing crisis. It is likely that the family will need to move to local authority temporary accommodation (though hopefully they will avoid having to go into B&B) before finding a permanent tenancy. We want to be there to support them through all of the likely disruption.

If this all sounds a bit downbeat, I need to emphasise the positives arising from the work of Tyneside Welcomes. Firstly, when we see the destruction, fear and displacement from the various wars which visit our TV screens every night, we can think at least there is one family rescued from a similar trial. Secondly, having managed clandestine border crossings from war-torn Syria to Turkey, and survived major earthquakes, this family are incredibly resourceful, so the prospect of temporary accommodation is not going to phase them, and it has been a privilege to be part of their journey. Last but not least come the volunteers (some from among our congregation and many from our friends at St Charles) who have shown such dedication and generosity with their time and effort, whether it be wrestling with online claim forms or accompanying someone to a school visit or even a hospital appointment on Christmas Eve. It does your heart good just to see such quiet service.

As to the future, the other family Tyneside Welcomes support is facing similar housing problems so it is difficult for the trustees to determine the next step: will we seek to sponsor another refugee household? Or, in view of the considerable difficulties created by the current housing crisis, should we change direction and develop new ways of working with refugees and asylum seekers? Our finances are quite healthy, and while this year's donations for mission of the month will help with the inevitable expenses for families moving house, we will need to have a clearer plan if we are to ask for your support in future years. *Andrew Cole*

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2025.



This year, as we journey through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, our focus be on God!

In particular, we take the opportunity to reflect on an important historical milestone—the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

This was the first time bishops from across the Christian world gathered to discuss the nature and identity of Jesus, affirming His divine and human nature.

The Lent course from the pilgrim Series will hopefully deepen our understanding of the Creed and the role of creeds in the life of the Church. It's easy to use and lead - no expertise is required only a willingness to explore and engage with what we affirm each Sunday'. If you would like to join a group or offer a venue to meet or lead a group, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church. *Andrew*

Regular Meetings

Coffee and Conversation in the Centre Mondays from 10.30am – 11.30am in the All Saints Centre returns on the 3rd March. Please come along and join our companionable group.

Little Saints Pre-School Children and Parents Group Tuesdays 1.00 – 2.30pm in the All Saints Centre returns on 4th March.

SING at the **Centre** We are taking a half-term break this week, but we'll be back on Shrove Tuesday (March 04) when, as you'd expect, our refreshments will be... yes, Pancakes, from 2:30 as usual before we sing from 3 – 4, in the Upper Room. Please feel free to join us if you want to revisit Mamas and Papas, Elton John, and a bit of 'Blue Moon'.

Singalong Valentines last week – a big '**thank you**' to those parishioners who came along to join Philip Cussins' residents and others on this special occasion. We are looking to repeat this well-being event in July and again in early December - dates to follow. *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.*

News from St Hugh's –

- Revd Dr Miriam Jones is leading worship today.

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 Curate to All Saints and St Hugh's Rest Day: Friday	Miriam Jones	07474095190	miriam.jones@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	Nick Glover	285 6594	Nick.glover@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk
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

FILM GROUP

Friday 28th February
showing at 7.15pm

The Upper Room, (All Saints Centre)

**This month's film is
Bruce Almighty**

This film has been described as a "side-splitting comedy that proves beyond a doubt that heaven has a sense of humour." Despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston), local TV reporter Bruce Nolan (Jim Carey) doesn't think that the world is treating him fairly. Then, after his worst day ever, Bruce angrily rants against God for ruining his life and mismanaging the universe. So God (Morgan Freeman) responds and endows Bruce with all of His powers to see if Bruce can do a better job. All hilarity breaks loose when a little divine intervention lets Bruce spend a week playing God.

All welcome, do bring a friend.

Entrance is free, but a donation (suggested £1.00) is invited towards costs.

**All Saints
Gosforth**

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

SAT 1ST MARCH

6.30 - 9.00 pm

PANCAKES AND SOFT DRINKS
PROVIDED

BYO wine or beer

No charge but ticket
entry only, from:

All Saints Centre, Linden Road,
Gosforth
0191 2130450

post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

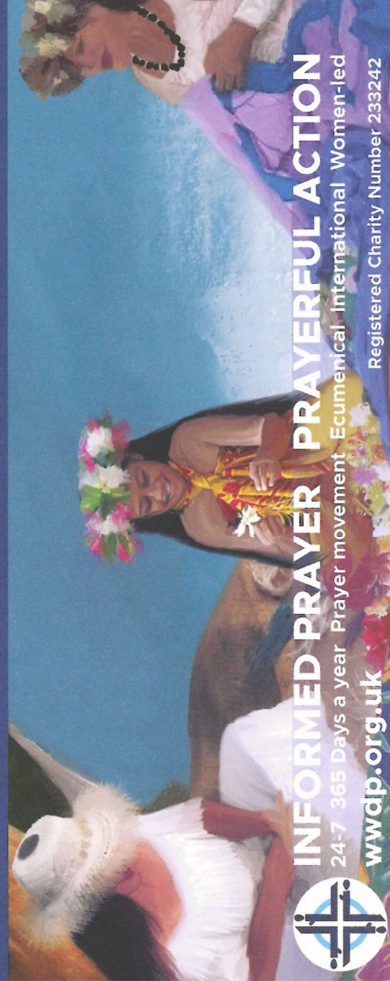


All Saints Church
West Avenue, Gosforth

1.30pm

Refreshments

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
www.wdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 233242

*Spring
is on its
way!*

Come along and
have fun with

*Art &
Crafts*

ALL AGES
WELCOME!

SAT. 1ST
MARCH
2.45 -
4.00 PM

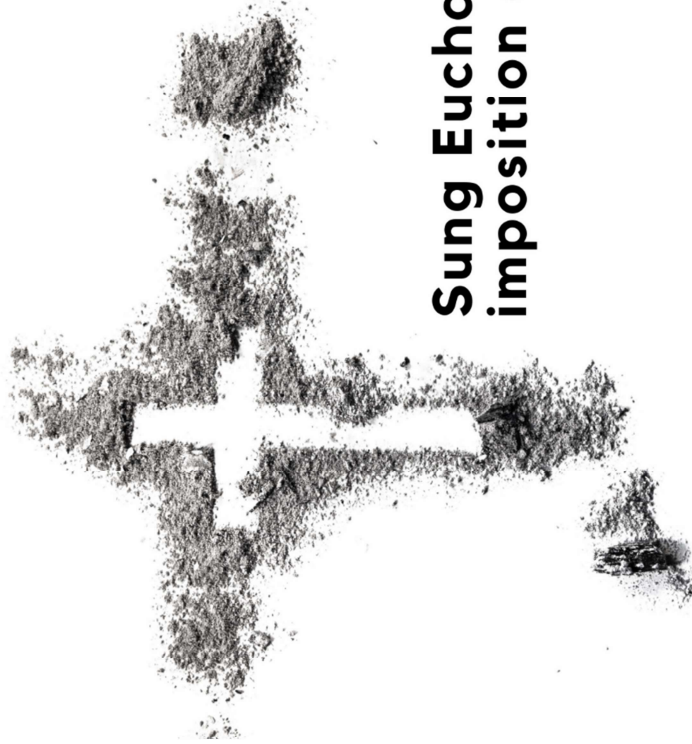
All Saints' Centre
Linden Road,
Gosforth

0191 2130450

Ash Wednesday

5th March 2025

7.30pm



**Sung Eucharist with
imposition of ashes**

All Saints Church, West Avenue, Gosforth, NE3 4ES

Gosforth Farmers' Market, March 15, 2025



We're back! We have your favourite foods including pies, cheese, bread, beer, rare breed lamb & pork, honey, bakes (incl GF), hummus, fermented sauces, jams & chutneys, gardening, recycled kitchen/tableware, soaps/balms, art glass to name just some. Church is open throughout with local musicians and more stalls.

***This isn't just any market; it's a quality market
because it's just for you!***