



ALL SAINTS

N O R T H A M P T O N

The Church of England
at the heart of Northampton

A Registered Charity, no. 1179960

WELCOME

Sunday, 7th December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

Some of our Parish Officers

Rector & Rural Dean of Northampton

The Reverend Canon Oliver Coss BScMAFRSASSC

Email rector@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

All Saints' Rectory: 70 Billing Road, Northampton

NN1 5DE *Rectory Telephone:* 01604 575448

Assistant Curate

The Reverend Nicolas Boisson BA

Email curate@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Ministry Experience Scheme Intern

Kerensa Matthews BA MA DipABRSM

Email intern@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Churchwardens

Mrs Alison Mills & Dr Robin Sheppard

Email wardens@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Deputy Wardens: **Tom Brown-Flowers,**

John Warr, Kim Zambo & Barbara Waterfield

Director of Music

Jem Lowther MA(Oxon) DipABRSMFRCO

Email music@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Parish Administrator

Katie Steel

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 10.00am-2.00pm

Email secretary@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Susan Galloway

payables@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Dr Robin Sheppard & Rachel Hewison

safeguarding@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk

Parish Office 01604 632845

This Sunday at All Saints' Church

7.50am Litany

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Reverend Oliver Coss, *Rector*

Preacher: The Reverend Nicolas Boisson, *Assistant Curate*

The Order for Holy Communion begins
on Page 236 of the *Book of Common Prayer*

CHORAL EUCHARIST at 10.30 a.m.

Celebrant: The Reverend Oliver Coss, *Rector*

Preacher: The Reverend Nicolas Boisson, *Assistant Curate*

Service from the Purple 'Choral Eucharist during Advent' booklet

Prelude:

Prelude on 'Winchester New' – William Lloyd Webber (1914–1982)

Music of the Mass:

Missa ad Presepiae, George Malcolm (1917–1997)

Hymns:

From the New English Hymnal: 5, 170, 7, 15

The Anthem:

Zion at Thy Shining Gates – George Guest (1924–2002)

*Zion, at thy shining gates Lo, the King of Glory waits, Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,
Strew thy palms before his feet. Christ, for thee their triple light, Faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display To proclaim thine advent day. Come and give us peace within,
Loose us from the bands of sin, Take away the galling weight Laid on us by Satan's hate.
Give us grace thy yoke to wear, Give us strength thy cross to bear, Make us thine in deed and word,
Thine in heart and life, O Lord. So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men.
We with all thy saints shall sing Alleluias to our King.*

Postlude:

Improvisation on 'Helmsley' – Laurence Caldecote (b. 1983)

Today we pray for our congregations, on Sundays, during the week, and our civic congregation. For Katie Steel, our parish administrator.

We pray for the sick and those in need, and among them: Francesca, Ivan, Christopher, Matt, Bob, Elliot, Barbara, Meg, Maria, Joan, Kate, Charlene, Jane, Julia, Jos, Isabella, Mark, Poppy, Wendy, Paul, Alan, Pauline and Helen.

We pray for the recently departed Jake, Olive, and Anne **and for those whose year's mind falls at this time.**

This Week at All Saints' Church

MONDAY 8TH DEC **12.30PM** **Mass** (*Lady Chapel*)
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of *Father Nicolas's rest day.*

Today, we pray for our musicians: for Jem Lowther (Director of Music), Laurence Caldecote (Assistant Organist).

TUESDAY 9TH **10.30AM** *Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre*

5.30PM Quinton House Carol Concert

6.00PM Advent Course: Women of the Nativity (*Grand Café*)

Today, we pray for the Servants of the Sanctuary, who serve the altars at All Saints' Church. For Bridget Paul, our Tower Captain, and for our bellringers.

WEDNESDAY 10TH 12.30PM Mass of Healing & Reconciliation *(Lady Chapel)*

Ember Day **6.00PM Choral Evensong (Nave)**

Plainsong Tonus Peregrinus

Plainsong R̃x.

Wood, *A Virgin Most Pure*

Psalm 113

Today, we pray for our Choristers, our Lay Clerks & Choral Scholars. For Jess Johnson, Vocal Coach

THURSDAY 11TH 10.15AM Standing Committee Meeting

12.30PM Mass (*Lady Chapel*)

6.00PM Choral Evensong (*Nave*)

Gibbons in F

Plainsong R̃x.

Appleford, *Lord Jesus Christ*

Psalm 73

Today, we pray for the Friends of All Saints' Music & Northamptonshire Choral Foundation

FRIDAY 12TH **12:30PM** **Mass** (*Lady Chapel*)

St Lucy, martyr

Ember Day

Today, we pray for the Cathedral Church of Ss. Peter, Paul & Andrew in Peterborough and The Very Reverend Christopher Dalliston (Dean), the members of Chapter, and the Cathedral staff and congregations.

SATURDAY 13TH *No Mass today*

St. John of the Cross

Ember Day

Father Oliver's rest day.

Today, we pray for the Archdeacon of Northampton, The Venerable Richard Ormston, and the staff of the Diocesan Offices

SUNDAY 14TH NOV **8.00AM Holy Communion (Nave)**

[illegible]

10.30AM Choral Eucharist (Nave)

Merbecke, *Communion Service*

Anon, Rejoice in the Lord Always

Morning Prayer is celebrated each weekday at 9am in the Chancel.

Evening Prayer, where not sung, is celebrated at 5pm.

The clergy invite you to join in these public recitations of the Divine Office.

Readings and Prayers for Today

INTROIT

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up we pray thee thy power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever.

THE ADVENT COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over

the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Here endeth the epistle.

or

This is the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings **Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19**

New Testament Reading

Romans 15.4-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here endeth the epistle.

or

This is the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3.1-12

The Lord be with you
All And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

or

The holy gospel is written in the third chapter of the gospel according to St Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

All Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.””

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise be to thee, O Christ.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, who didst send thy Son to redeem the world and wilt send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that when he shall come again, we may be found ready to greet him with joyful love and steadfast faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing ...



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Have you considered becoming a regular giver to our parish?

Regular giving helps us to financially plan, and keep our parish finances on an even keel. The best way to do this is to join the **Parish Giving Scheme**, which is a project funded by the Church of England that helps parishes to set up regular giving and process GiftAid claims, which help us add 25% to the value of your donation by applying to His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. If you're interested in joining, please find forms at the back of church. These can be returned to any parish officer – and thank you for generously funding our mission and ministry.

Giving via your mobile device

During our worship a collection is taken, but there's also a contactless giving device in church which can take your generous donation. If you prefer, you can scan the QR code here, and give via your Mobile Device. Please remember, if you can, to GiftAid your donation – and thank you for your generosity to the mission of our parish.



Sign up to the e-newsletter here: http://eepurl.com/ds_68b and receive early news of forthcoming events, pictures of past events, and a summary of our parish activities

PARISH NOTICES

Please keep handbags and personal belongings close to you, especially when receiving communion.



The code for the **toilets** in the Narthex is C01685. Please turn the handle to the left.



It is possible to receive communion with an **ultra-low gluten host**. Please speak to a sides-person.



Taking photos, videos or audio recordings during services is not permitted. Those wishing to make recordings or take photographs should contact the Parish Office.

On Wednesdays we'll continue to offer a **Mass of Healing and Reconciliation**. This will allow the opportunity for us regularly to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with the Holy Oil of the Sick.

A celebrity carol service in aid of **Maggies, Northampton** (the new cancer support centre at NGH) will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm. For tickets or for further information about this event visit: <https://northamptoncarolconcert2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

Fliers advertising our special services over **Advent & Christmas** are now available in church. Please distribute them with reckless liberality among everyone you encounter.

Requests for **confessions, pastoral visits, home communions, or spiritual care** can be made to the clergy. Email clergy@allsaintsnorthampton.co.uk.

The next **Coffee & Clean** is on Thursday 18th December at 10am. Thank you to all who keep our church so tidy and clean.

Thank you for your generosity to **Castle Hill Foodbank**. They continue to request children's cereals, long life milk, brown & white long grain rice and microwavable food. Thank you to Kim Zambo for transporting your donations.

Welcome to All Saints' Church. Today is the **Second Sunday of Advent**. Thematically, today focusses on the Prophets, who heard God's word and proclaimed it to the people.

Please speak to God and not to each other before worship begins. Please help us maintain an atmosphere of prayerful quiet as the church is made ready for worship.

Advent Course: The Women of the Nativity: Exploring the remarkable stories of Sarah, Huldah, Abigail, and Mary—guided by the insights of theologian Paula Gooder. We will explore how these extraordinary women shaped the biblical narrative and continue to inspire us today. Resources will be shared in advance. Sessions at 6pm in the Lady Chapel on: December 9th • December 16th • December 23rd. Contact Father Nicolas for more information.

Linda and Barabara will be running an **Advent Gift Stall** in the John Clare Lounge after mass today. Come and browse whilst having your coffee and biscuits. Money raised will go towards the cost of the Christmas tree.

A great thank you to the Wardens' Team for arranging this year's splendid **Christmas Tree**. We're inviting people to decorate the tree with gift tags with the names of our departed loved ones written on them. There are tags available next to the tree, and donations of £1 per name would be welcomed.

Lunchtime Live returns on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 13:10. Jem Lowther and Simon Toyne will perform a piano duet. Free to enter, with a retiring collection for the Friends of All Saints' Music.

The next meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** will be on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm. The Standing Committee meets next on Thursday 11th December. **Deanery Synod** meets next on 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm.