

# Welcome to Worship

**Advent 3**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## **Welcome to St Andrew's**

If you are a visitor or a newcomer, please introduce yourself. Before worship, the offering plate, Gift Aid envelopes and the Card Reader are opposite the entrance. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let the welcomer know. We serve tea and coffee in the Church after the 10.00am service, it's a good time to get to know people.

### **Today's Services:**

**8.00am**      Holy Communion

**10.00am**      Parish Communion

**Hymn:**      769      Rejoice! The Lord is King

**Collect:** O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Hymn:**           47       People, look east

**Gospel Reading:**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Sermon:**       Revd Linda Hunter

**Hymns:**       45       O come, O come Emmanuel  
                  452      Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
                  810      Thou whose almighty word

**4.00pm       River in Advent**

# Pray every day



*'By prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God' Each day we pray for our ministry, our Community and Wider Issues and Individual streets and areas of the Parish.*

- Sunday** The Parish Safeguarding Team: Mandy Norton & Richard Adams.  
Those who are suffering abuse, particularly domestic abuse.  
St Helen's Lane, Milkwell Estate, Synclen Estate.
- Monday** Alice Stephenson and her work as Sacristan.  
Burn Brae Lodge, residents and staff.  
The Cheynes Estate, Hallgarth Close.
- Tuesday** Ministry to the sick and housebound.  
All who receive Holy Communion at home.  
Charlotte Straker House, residents and staff.  
Chantry Estate
- Wednesday** All those who help regularly with services: readers, intercessors, sidespeople, chalice assistants and those making coffee.  
Riverhill Abbeyfield House, residents and staff.  
The Riggs, Willowdyke, The Potteries.
- Thursday** Brenda Ford our verger in her ministry through the occasional offices of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.  
Trinity Court, Primlea Court and Windsor Court.  
Glebelands, Old Vicarage, White Gates.

- Friday**            The River planning team.  
Corbridge Health Centre. Doctors, nurses and ancillary staff.  
Greencroft Avenue, Appletree Lane.
- Saturday**        Simon Hunter and his work with the church website and weekly email.  
Corbridge Youth Initiative.  
Princes Street, Princes Court, The Orchard.

**As part of our Take 5 marks of mission:** We pray for St Michaels Church, Byker: Developing the church building into 'The Lighthouse' worship, community and youth centre.

We pray for:

- the sick especially Carolyn Holmes, Joyce Walker, John Clark, Joan Cross, Marion Thompson, Bobbie Middleton, Michael Oswell, Pauline Bennett, Jack Hay, John McNamara, Irene Scobbie and Mike Wilson.
- the family and friends of Madge Howard, Joan March, Russell Cushing and David Andrews.
- Years Mind: Doris Duffy

**TEA & CHAT:** Tickets are available for the Christmas Tea on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the hub. There will be no charge, but tickets are required so we know how many people to cater for.

# Announcements

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS BOOKLET:** Have you picked up your copy of the Advent and Christmas Services and Events Booklet? Copies are available at the back of the church – do take one to give to friends and neighbours. Alternatively the booklet can be downloaded from the website [www.corbridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.corbridgechurch.org.uk).

**ADVENT COMPLINES AND ADDRESS:** (Night Prayer) Part of the spirituality of Advent is taking time out to be still and prepare our hearts for the wonder of the coming of Immanuel – God with us. Our evening Compline Service provides such an opportunity as in the choirstalls with the glow of candlelight we watch and pray.

David will lead the reflection on:

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

Gabriel brings an amazing message to Mary – Luke 1:26-38

**CHRISTMAS GREENERY:** We are looking for greenery for Christmas – in particular variegated holly, conifer and leylandii if you are able to provide any please contact Ann Prudhoe: 01434 632971. Thanks.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival. We had 126 trees on display which was fantastic, 11,289 people visited and we raised £14,000.

**HOME COMMUNIONS FOR CHRISTMAS:** If you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive communion over the Christmas period please let David or Linda know. Thanks.

**CHURCH CLEAN:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – 12 noon. We need some help to clean the church in readiness for Christmas. Please drop in if you are available to help. All cleaning materials will be provided. Coffee and mince pies too.

**HAY:** We need some hay for the crib and the crib roof - does anyone have any we can borrow, please? Thanks.

**STAMPS:** Please bring your used stamps to church and put in the collecting box at the back, near the vestry door. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Would you be willing to give a donation for Christmas Flowers. If so, there are donation envelopes available at the back of church. Thank you.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

#### **Advent 4 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Carols for All in the Churchyard: Come and sing popular carols in the open air with Brass ensemble. (45 mins) This will be held inside St. Andrew's if wet.

#### **Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December**

2.00pm Crib Service: An opportunity for families to participate in the wonderful Christmas Story portrayed through the crib characters in the wooden stable.

6.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols, with candlelight

11.00pm Midnight Communion – our atmospheric Midnight Mass as we welcome Christmas Day

#### **Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.00am Holy Communion at Halton

10.00am All Age Family Communion – a joyful Christmas morning service for all.

## Diary

<b>Monday</b>		<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30am	Middle School Carol Service	
11.00am	Middle School Carol Service	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30am	Church Clean – All Welcome	
7.30pm	Address and Compline - Gabriel brings an amazing message to Mary – Luke 1:26-38	
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
10.00am	Holy Communion	
11.00am	Visit to Little Tinklers Nursery	
2.30pm	Burn Brae Lodge Service	
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
2.30pm	Prayer Group	
4.00pm	Home Group	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30am	First School Carol Service	
1.45pm	Funeral – Joan March	
2.00pm	Whittonstall School Christingle	
7.00pm	Choir	
<b>Advent 4</b>		<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>
10.00am	Parish Communion	
3.00pm	Christmas Service at Whittonstall	
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carols for All in the Churchyard with Hexham Brass</b>	

## Contact details

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