



***The United Benefice of Slyne with Hest St Luke
and Halton St Wilfrid with Aughton St Saviour***

7th December 2025

2nd of Sunday of Advent

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Readings

Isaiah 11.1–10

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 adders 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.

Romans 15.4–13

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 3.1–12

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 camels 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 to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will 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 comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Advent and Christmas Events and Services

Date and time	Event	Place
Tuesdays 12- 1 pm	Advent Lunches Soup, bread & cheese	Church Hall Slyne
Wednesdays 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th Dec 3.00 -4.30 pm	Advent hot chocolates Come and warm up with delicious drinks and seasonal goodies!	Church Hall Slyne
Saturdays 6 th , 13 th 20 th Dec 10 am - 4 pm	Advent Prayer spaces Come for some quiet time to de-frazzle, enter the spirit of Advent and reconnect before the Big Day! Prayer stations will be available.	St Wilfrid's Church
Sun 7 th Dec	Families@4 for Advent	Slyne Church Hall
Fri 12 th Dec 6 pm	Aughton Village Carol Singing	Aughton Village Green
Sun 14 th Dec 3 pm	Christmas Social – Afternoon tea and entertainment (tickets £10)	Church Hall Slyne
Sun 14 th Dec 5.30 -7.45 pm	Youth Café Christmas Party	Church Hall Slyne
Tues 16 th 7 pm	Aughton Village Carol Service.	St Saviour's Church
Thurs 19 th	Carol Singing TBC	Slyne with Hest
Sat 20 th 10 -1 pm	Big Advent Lego Build	St Wilfrid's Church
Sat 20 th Dec 10 am - 12	Christingle making workshop	Church Hall Slyne
Sun 21 st Dec 3 pm	Halton Village Carol	St Wilfrid's Church
Christmas Eve 3 pm	Crib service	St Wilfrid's Church
Christmas Eve 4.30 pm	Children's Activities	Church Hall Slyne
Christmas Eve 5.30 pm	Crib Service	St Luke's Church
Christmas Eve 6 pm	Carol Singing	Grounds of St Luke's Church
Christmas Eve 11 pm	Midnight Mass	St Luke's Church
Christmas day 10 am	Family Communion Family Communion] Family Communion	St Luke's Church St Wilfrid's Church St Saviour's Church

Please remember in your prayers:

St Luke's: Pat, Julia, William, Michael, Moya, June, Karen, Alice and Julie, Chris, Hazel, Revd John Gordon (URC) Liz.

St Wilfrid's: Katie Victoria, Marjorie, Margaret, George and Daphne, Ruby, Christine, Hilary.

May they and all those unable to be with us, feel the healing power of Jesus.

Village prayers. This week we pray for those who live and work Slyne Hall Heights; Bottomdale Road; Main Road; Orchard Close in Slyne with Hest and Arrow Lane in Halton and the people of Aughton.

Calendar of services and events

7th Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent	8 am 9.30 10 am 4 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Family Communion Families@4	St Luke's St Luke's St Wilfrid's Church Hall Slyne
Mon	2 pm	Knit and natter	Church Hall Slyne
Tues	9 am 9 am 12 noon	Morning Prayer Shining Stars Advent Lunches	St Wilfrid's Church Hall Slyne Church Hall Slyne
Weds	9 am 3 – 4.30 pm	Morning Prayer Advent Hot Chocolates	St Luke's Church Church Hall Slyne
Thurs	10 am 10.45 am 2 pm 4.30 pm	Prayer and discussion group Community Coffee morning Body and Soul Pre-school Christmas	Church Hall Slyne Church Hall Slyne Church Hall Slyne St Luke's
Fri 12th Dec	6 pm	Carol Singing	Aughton Green
14th Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent	8 am 9.30 10 am 11.30 am 3 pm 5.30 pm	Holy Communion Family Communion (Gift & Tree) Family Worship (Gift and Tree) Morning Prayer Christmas Social Afternoon Tea Youth Café Christmas party	St Wilfrid's St Luke's St Wilfrid's St Saviour's Church Hall Slyne Church Hall Slyne

Rector: Susan Seed – 01524 822128, revsusan.seed@btinternet.com

Priest: Helen Leathard

Lay minister: Martin Wakelin-07740933463, martin@racquetstringer.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officers: **St Luke's** – Ann-Marie Lynsay 07779155839

St Saviour's – Karen Swindlehurst 07894173315.

St Wilfrid's – Children: Christine Walmsley 07788646740.

Adults: Sarah Mainwaring 01524 811430