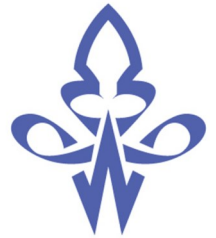


# St Wulfram's Community

*Sharing God's love with everyone  
in the heart of Grantham*

## 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent



### Service details for today:

#### 8.00am Eucharist (BCP)

*Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Francis*

#### 9:30am Parish Eucharist

*Celebrant: Fr Stuart*

*Preacher: Fr Francis*

*Setting: Murray, A new people's Mass*

*Hymns: As per order of service*

*Readings: Romans 1.1-7 and Matthew 1.18-25*

*Lesson Reader: Johnny DiMenna*

*Intercessor: Val York*

#### 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Officiant: Fr. Stuart*

### COLLECT:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 1.18-2.1

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### POST COMMUNION:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Please pray for:

**Those who are unwell:** Amelia, Christy, Terry, Reg.

### Recently departed:

**Anniversary of deaths:** Joyce Mills, Jamie Brown, John Hirst, Babs Ridgers, Dorothy Yates, Eddie Smith, Michael Pointer, Michael Moyler, Jeffrey Halstead, Frances Smith, Gene Green, Michael Basford.

If you would like to add a notice to the Community news, the deadline for the next issue is: Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.



**On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30am** we will be dedicating the new statue of Madonna and Child. This is an important service as we give thanks to God for Mary's part in the salvation of humanity in the birth of Jesus, it is also a significant moment in our history as we place an important work of art in our church.

The statue is being given to the church, by The Friends of St Wulfram's in memory of Jean Parker, of Madonna and Child and has been created by Nottinghamshire sculptor Peter Eugene Ball. The figure stands in the Lady Chapel replacing our current figure of Mary.

**We will be making the Christingles on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** between 10:00am and 11:00am in readiness for the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Please come along and help with the 'production line' for the Christingles. This is a fun activity for all the family.

**Carols in the Courtyard** will take place at Grantham House again this year on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7:00pm. Join us for an evening of Carols, sung by current and former members of our Youth Choir. Tickets are £12.50 and include mulled wine and mince pies. To book your tickets please follow the link here or go to our website: <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/odbMHuDTI>

**Christmas Flowers**—the church, as always, has been beautifully decorated with flowers for Christmas. If you would like to donate to the cost of the flowers and/or include the name of a loved one that is longer with you then please complete the form here by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: [Christmas Flowers 2025 | St Wulfram, Grantham | ChurchDesk](https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/ChristmasFlowers2025StWulframGranthamChurchDesk)

**Service of Prayer** – there will be a Service of Prayer held in church each Saturday at 1:00pm. This will be a short, informal service. If you have any prayer requests please contact either Fr Stuart or the Parish Office.

**Epiphany 2026** - Our Parish Epiph-ativity has become a bit of a tradition now and this Christmas will take place as part of our Epiphany celebrations on the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of January. All children and young people from our church family are invited to be part of this. We will have one rehearsal on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30pm-4:45pm, directly before the Epiphany Tea Party. If your child/children/young person would like to take part, please contact Laura with their names and ages before Monday December 29<sup>th</sup> so that costumes and parts can be organised. The Nativity will be during the 9:30am service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January. [laura.cradduck@stwulframs.com](mailto:laura.cradduck@stwulframs.com)

**Please note there will be no 11:00am Choral Eucharist on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Epiphany Tea Party** - we are having an Epiphany Tea Party this Christmas, celebrating the arrival of the Magi! This year's Epiphany Tea Party will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January from 5:00pm-6:30pm in Church (following the Epiph-ativity rehearsal). There is no charge, but we will be asking people to take tickets or register online so that we know how many people to expect. This is an event for all ages and in the past has been such a lovely celebration for our congregations, so please do come along. This is a 'bring and share' style event and a list for food donations will be on the board nearer the time. Please contact Laura for more info [laura.cradduck@stwulframs.com](mailto:laura.cradduck@stwulframs.com) Tickets will be available through the rest of advent and into Christmas from the Parish Office, after Parish Eucharist or via the following link: [https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/E\\_bhk9TTDB](https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/E_bhk9TTDB)

**The Christingle Crib Service** will take place on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help steward this very popular service to ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely. **There is a sign-up sheet on the notice board by the office in church, please sign up if you can be here to help.** There will be a full briefing for stewards at 3:00pm in readiness for the service to begin at 4:00pm.

**Joseph Beech**, our one-time Organ Scholar and now Sub Organist at Durham Cathedral, will give an Organ Recital together with Andrew Forbes, of Glasgow Cathedral, on piano for Grantham Music Club. This will be held in ChristChurch, Finkin Street on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30 pm. Tickets available on the door for non-members £15.00, Students free.

**Foundation Governor opportunities at the West Grantham Primary or Secondary Academies.** Our PCC has been approached by the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education enquiring whether anyone from our church community would be interested in taking on the role of foundation governor at either of the West Grantham Primary or Secondary Academies (which are part of the Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust). If you might be interested in finding out more, please speak to the Rector, who can put you in contact with the Board of Education.

**Christmas Cheer!** Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's appeal, helping local families when, for some, Christmas can be a burden leading to debt, stress and unhappiness. Thirty-three people donated this year, their donations were added to funds left over from the last collection, meaning we were able to help 15 local families.

We wish all at St Wulfram's a happy  
and joyous Christmas



Day and Prayer Intention	Church Calendar followed by events and services for the day
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <i>Nature Conservation</i>	<b>O Rex Gentium.</b> 7:00pm Carols in the Courtyard—see opposite page for more details
<b>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>The Diocese of Santiago (Philippines) - The Episcopal Church in the Philippines</i>	<b>O Emmanuel.</b> 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am-11:00am Making the Christingles—see opposite page for more details 12:00noon Eucharist
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Our clergy, staff and volunteers</i>	<b>Christmas Eve.</b> Parish Office closed 9:00am Morning Prayer <del>11:00am-12:00noon</del> No Coffee Morning today 4:00pm Christingle Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass
<b>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Those in prison and their families</i>	<b>Christmas Day.</b> 8:00am Said Eucharist for Christmas Day 10:00am Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day
<b>Fri 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Abbey of St Wandrille</i>	<b>Stephen, deacon, the first martyr. Bank Holiday</b> 9:00am Morning Prayer
<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St John's, Manthorpe and St John's, Spitalgate</i>	<b>John, Apostle and Evangelist.</b> 1:00pm Service of Prayer
<b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Our Parish</i>	<b>The Holy Innocents.</b> See page 4 for more details of today's services
<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Holton le Clay, Tetney and North Cotes</i>	<b>Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170.</b> Parish Office closed
<b>Tue 30<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Anglican Church of Canada</i>	<b>Feria.</b> Parish Office closed 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00noon No Eucharist today
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup></b> <i>The Armed Forces</i>	<b>John Wyclif, reformer, 1384.</b> Parish Office closed 9:00am Morning Prayer <del>11:00am-12:00noon</del> No Coffee Morning today
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026</b> <i>Grantham Local Mission Partnership— Lay Co-Lead: Mr Howard Jones Rural Dean: Rev'd Samantha Parsons Lay Chair: Mr Peter Chalk</i>	<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. Bank Holiday</b> 9:00am Morning Prayer
<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <i>The Abbey of St Wandrille</i>	<b>Basil the Great and Gregory o Nazianzus, bishops, teacher of the faith, 379 and 389. Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945.</b> Parish Office closed 9:00am Morning Prayer <del>9:30am</del> No Wulfram Tots today
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>St John's, Manthorpe and St John's, Spitalgate</i>	<b>Feria.</b> 1:00pm Service of Prayer 3:30pm-4:45pm Rehearsals for the Epiphativity—see opposite page for more details 5:00pm-6:30pm Epiphany Tea Party in church—see opposite page for more details
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Our Parish</i>	<b>Epiphany</b> See back page for more details of today's services

#### WHO'S WHO AT ST WULFRAM'S

[www.stwulframs.org.uk](http://www.stwulframs.org.uk)

**Rector:** Rev'd Canon Fr Stuart Craddock 01476 569582 [rector@stwulframs.com](mailto:rector@stwulframs.com)

**Ordinand:** Tom Stockwell [tom.stockwell@stwulframs.com](mailto:tom.stockwell@stwulframs.com)

**Churchwardens:** Mrs Jan Burrows 07745948720 and Mrs Mel Fletcher 07973699901  
[churchwardens@stwulframs.com](mailto:churchwardens@stwulframs.com)

**Readers:** Nick Kerry 07971177781 Katy Castañeda 07594862071 [katyjag@outlook.com](mailto:katyjag@outlook.com)

**Director of Music:** Dr Tim Williams [choir@stwulframs.com](mailto:choir@stwulframs.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Elaine Chambers, **Parish Office:** 01476 561342 [admin@stwulframs.com](mailto:admin@stwulframs.com)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Jeremy Lloyd 07538789348 [safeguarding@stwulframs.com](mailto:safeguarding@stwulframs.com)

**Assist. Safeguarding Officer:** Elaine Chambers, **Parish Office:** 01476 561342 [admin@stwulframs.com](mailto:admin@stwulframs.com)



#### WHEN WE ARE USUALLY OPEN

**Church open for private prayer:** Monday to Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm, and on Sundays from 10:30am – 4:00pm.

**Francis Trigge Library:** Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10:00am-12:00noon

**Parish Office:** Monday 10:00am-12:00noon. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm. Tel: 01476 561342  
Email: [admin@stwulframs.com](mailto:admin@stwulframs.com)

#### The Parish Office is based at:

Grantham House  
45 Castlegate  
Grantham, NG31 6SS



# St Wulfram's Community

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in the heart of Grantham*

## 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 The Holy Innocents



### Service details for today:

#### 8.00am Morning Prayer

Officiant: Nick Kerry (Reader)

#### 9:30am Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Clay

Preacher: Nick Kerry (Reader)

Setting: Archer, Lincoln

Hymns: **AMNS 37, 40, 42, 34**

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 and Matthew 2.13-18

Lesson Reader: Elaine Chambers

Intercessor: John Manterfield

#### 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Officiant: Nick Kerry (Reader)

#### 7:15pm Said Compline

Officiant: Nick Kerry (Reader)

#### COLLECT:

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 2.13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

#### POST COMMUNION:

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### Please pray for:

**Those who are unwell:** Amelia, Christy, Terry, Reg.

#### Recently departed:

**Anniversary of deaths:** Florry Cox, Linda Greenslade, Mary Baker, Monica Auckland, Binodini Onugha, Winifred Barnes, Gladys Gregory, Derrick Smith, June Bennett, Joyce Simpson, Bernard Manterfield, Edna Rooks, Doug Lawrence, Nora English.

#### Service Details for 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

8:00am Eucharist (BCP)

9:30am All-Age Eucharist for Epiphany

11:00am No Choral Eucharist today

6.30pm Evening Prayer

7:15pm Compline

#### Readings for 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Epiphany**

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12