

St Wulfram's Community

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

7th December 2025 Second Sunday of Advent



Service details for today:

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)

Celebrant: Fr Stuart Hadley

Preacher: Tom Stockwell (Ordinand)

9.30am All Age Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Stuart

Readings: Romans 15.4-13 and Matthew 3.1-12

Hymns: **As per order of service**

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Stuart

Preacher: Tom Stockwell (Ordinand)

Readings: Romans 15.4-13 and Matthew 3.1-12

Hymns: **AMNS 470, 24, 259**

6.30pm An Advent Service of Prayer and Song including Benjamin Britten's— A Ceremony of Carols

Officiant: Fr Stuart

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.**

FIRST READING: Romans 15.4-13

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.

GOSPEL: 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 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.'

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**

Please pray for:

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

Recently departed: Richard Hill (Dick).

Anniversary of deaths: Anne Hainsworth, Ian Nicholson, Bill Rhys, Ralph Proctor.

If you would like to add a notice to the Community news, the deadline for the next issue is: Thursday, 18th December 2025.

We have recently learnt that **Dick Hill**, a long standing member of our congregation has passed away. Our love and prayers are with him and his family at this time.

Soup Lunches - The next soup lunch will be held on Tuesday 9th December. We would very much like you to join us for the 12:00noon Eucharist followed by the lunch, alternatively just come to the lunch, and enjoy the fellowship. The soup will be served at 12:30pm and there is no need to book. There is no charge for the lunch, but donations are welcome.

Wulfram Tots, a group for pre-school children and their parents and carers, will break up for Christmas on Friday 19th December. The next session will be in church on Friday 9th January at 9:30am.

Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols'—please join us at 6:30pm on Sunday, 7th December when the choristers will lead us through an Advent Service of Prayer and Song including Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols'.

On Saturday 13th December two Christmas Wreath Making Workshops being held in church. To book your place for either the 10:00am to 12:00noon session or the 2:00pm to 4:00pm session please complete the online booking form via our website: [Christmas Wreath workshop](#) Tickets are limited to 20 people per session, and there is just a few places left. Tickets are £25.00 each.

Service of Prayer – from Saturday 6th December 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.

Christmas Flowers—the church will, as always, be 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: [Christmas Flowers 2025 | St Wulfram, Grantham | ChurchDesk](#)

Inclusive Church – Living in Love and Faith. Inclusive Church has produced an open letter for members of the Church of England. Please click on the link to read the letter and show your support. [LLF Open Letter – Inclusive Church](#) There is also a copy of the letter in church in front of the old parish office.

We will be making the Christingles on Monday 22nd 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.

St Wulfram's Sunday Lunch Group—For those who would otherwise be having lunch on their own and have a connection with St Wulfram's. The group meets at various local restaurants and pubs on the second Sunday of the month. For more information please email Jane Sharp: janesharp11@hotmail.com or telephone her on: 07775878369.

Carols in the Courtyard will take place at Grantham House again this year on Monday 22nd 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>

Lights of Love – service in church, Tuesday 16th December at 6:00pm - As the world readies itself for the joy of Christmas celebrations and festivities in the coming days, there will for many of us for whom this will also be a time when we are acutely aware of our loved ones who have died; those we have celebrated Christmas with in the past and who are no longer with us. We step away from the busyness of this time of year, to pause and to remember those we love but see no longer. In this service of carols and prayers, we light candles in memory of those who have died.

From the Registers for November 2025

Baptisms:

16.11.2025 William Michael Brookes

Weddings:

None

Funerals:

None



Church is the Environmental Champion - St Wulfram's Church has been named as the Environmental Champion winner in the Grantham Journal Business Awards 2025. The Award was announced on Friday 21st November and was collected on our behalf by Thea Hood. The independent judges noted that the St Wulfram's Church embodied the community and noted the commitment of 'passionate volunteers.' The Award marks the twin achievements of installing our solar panels (with substantial help from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and the modifications to our lighting fittings to take low energy (LED) lamps. So far this year, our panels have generated over 12,780 kWh of electricity of which some 2,880 kWh have been consumed in our building and over 9,900 kWh have been exported to the national grid. We are therefore already benefitting from this investment. I should like to thank everyone who has supported these initiatives including the Creation Care PCC Sub-group.

Epiphany 2026 - Our Parish Epiph-activity 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 3rd and 4th 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 3rd 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 29th so that costumes and parts can be organised. The Nativity will be during the 9:30am service on Sunday 4th January. laura.craddock@stwulframs.com

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 3rd January from 5:00pm-6:30pm in Church (following the Epiph-activity 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.craddock@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

Sunday 21st December at 9:30am will be a special service when we dedicate a 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 place an important work of art in our church.

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



Day and Prayer Intention	Church Calendar followed by events and services for the day
Mon 8th December <i>Our Flower Ladies</i>	Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 2:00pm Flower Ladies meeting at Grantham House 7:30pm-9:00pm Community Choir—meet in church
Tue 9th <i>The Fire and Rescue Service</i>	Feria. 9:00am Morning Prayer 12:00noon Eucharist 13:30pm Soup Lunch 6:00p Grantham Preparatory International School Christingle Service 7:00pm-8:30pm String Ensemble meeting at Grantham House
Wed 10th <i>Grimsby St Augustine — The Rev'd Father Adrian</i>	Ember Day. 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am-12:00noon No Coffee Morning today 2:30pm Cliffdale School Carol Service 7:00pm Women's Bible Study Group—meet at St John's Church, Spitalgate
Thurs 11th <i>The Dean of Lincoln - The Very Rev'd Dr Simon Jones</i>	Feria. 9:00am Morning Prayer 7:00pm ULHT NHS Carol Service
Fri 12th <i>The Abbey of St Wandrille</i>	Ember Day. 9:00am Morning Prayer 9:30am-10:30am Wulfram Tots meet in church 1:00pm-2:00pm Chair Yoga with Right at Home in church 5:15pm Choral Evensong with the Youth Choir 7:30pm Youth Group 5-7 meet at Grantham House
Sat 13th <i>St John's, Manthorpe and St John's, Spitalgate</i>	Lucy, martyr, 304. Samuel Johnson. Moralist, 1784. Ember Day. 9:00am to 11:00am Baby Clothes Carousel 10:00am to 12:00noon Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in church 1:00pm Service of Prayer 2:00pm to 4:00pm Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in church
Sun 14th <i>Our Parish</i>	Third Sunday of Advent. See page 4 for more details of today's services 7:30pm Youth Group 8-10
Mon 15th <i>The Diocese of St Helena - The Anglican Church of Southern Africa</i>	Feria. 6:00pm KGS Carol Service 7:30pm Community Choir meet at Grantham House
Tue 16th <i>All those we love but no longer see</i>	Feria. 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:15am to 11:30am LCC Coffee Morning in church 12:00noon Eucharist 6:00pm Lights of Love Service—see opposite page for more details
Wed 17th <i>Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS)</i>	O Sapientia. Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save The Children', 1928. 9:00am Morning Prayer 11:00am-12:00noon Coffee Morning meet in church
Thurs 18th <i>Our Verger and Serving Team</i>	O Adonai. 9:00am Morning Prayer 5:30pm King's School Carol Service
Fri 19th <i>The Abbey of St Wandrille</i>	O Radix Jesse. 9:00am Morning Prayer 9:30am Wulfram Tots meet in church 11:15am West Grantham Secondary Academy Carol Service 12:30pm onwards Christmas Flowers installed in church 5:15pm No Choral Evensong with the Youth Choir today
Sat 20th <i>St John's, Manthorpe and St John's, Spitalgate</i>	O Clavis David. 9:00am Men's Breakfast—meet at Kings Walk Café, Guildhall Street 10:00am to 1:00pm Coffee Shop open 11:30am Saturday Morning Recital with The Winter Singers 1:00pm Service of Prayer
Sun 21st <i>Our Parish</i>	Fourth Sunday of Advent. O Oriens See back page for more details of today's services

WHO'S WHO AT ST WULFRAM'S

www.stwulframs.org.uk

Rector: Rev'd Canon Fr Stuart Craddock 01476 569582 rector@stwulframs.com

Ordinand: Tom Stockwell tom.stockwell@stwulframs.com

Churchwardens: Mrs Jan Burrows 07745948720 and Mrs Mel Fletcher 07973699901
churchwardens@stwulframs.com

Readers: Nick Kerry 07971177781 Katy Castañeda 07594862071 katyjag@outlook.com

Director of Music: Dr Tim Williams choir@stwulframs.com

Parish Administrator: Elaine Chambers, **Parish Office:** 01476 561342 admin@stwulframs.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jeremy Lloyd 07538789348 safeguarding@stwulframs.com

Assist. Safeguarding Officer: Elaine Chambers, **Parish Office:** 01476 561342 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

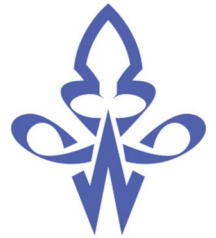
The Parish Office is based at:

Grantham House
45 Castlegate
Grantham, NG31 6SS

St Wulfram's Community

*Sharing God's love with everyone
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14th December 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent



Service details for today:

8.00am Eucharist (CW)

Celebrant: Fr Stuart

Preacher: Katy Castañeda

9:30am Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Stuart

Preacher: Katy Castañeda (Reader)

Setting: Murray, A new people's Mass

Readings: James 5.7-10 and Matthew 11.2-11

Lesson Reader: Andrew Spridgens

Intercessor: Sheila Knight

Hymns: As per order of service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Officiant: Fr Stuart

Responses: Radcliffe

Psalm: 12

Lesson Reader: Paul Davie

Readings: Isaiah 5.8-30 and Acts 13.13-41

Hymns: AMNS 31, 28

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: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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." 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.

POST COMMUNION:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please pray for:

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

Recently departed: Richard Hill (Dick)

Anniversary of deaths: Emma Townsend, Frank Wass, Frank Brooks, June Wheat, Hilary Lincoln.

Service Details for 21st December 2025

8:00am Eucharist (BCP)

9:30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Readings for 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25