

## Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
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.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
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.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
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;  
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.

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.  
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.  
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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Prayers

### Those who are sick or in need

We pray for all those who are ill in mind, body and/or  
spirit, known, and unknown, to us and from within our  
community. We pray especially for:

*Audrey Littler, Anne Samuels, Doreen Shire, Jean Cook,  
Julie, Margaret Lambert, and Todd.*

### Those who have died

*Jenny Stopford, Norman Littler and Sylvia Fairhurst*

We pray for all those known to us and those from within  
our Parish who have recently died, and loved ones whose  
anniversaries are at this time.

If you would like to be prayed for yourself or a loved one,  
please talk to Sandra Green or the Churchwardens.

### Prayer after 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.

## Contacts

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## This week

Church is open every day until dusk or 5.00pm for  
private prayer or simply a place to be quiet.

**Today 2.00pm** Helsby Players perform Peter Pan

**Tuesday 16 Dec**

*There is no Tots worship this week  
– it restarts on Tues 6 Jan.*

**Wednesday 17 Dec**

**9.00am** Morning Prayer

**12.00 – 2.00pm** Wednesday Welcome

Christmas Lunch

Next one 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Thursday 18 Dec**

**9.00am** Morning Prayer

**Friday 19 Dec**

**9.00am** Morning Prayer

## Notices

### Christmas Tree and Christmas Flowers

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the cost of our lovely large Christmas Tree in Church which went up in time for *Ho Ho Helsby* last week.

If you would like to contribute towards flowers for Christmas please make an online transfer (Christmas Flowers) or use a White envelope and mark it Christmas Flowers.

### See how they love one another

At the heart of our church family as a sign of God's love for us is the ways in which we love one another. If we don't do that, then we are not being true to the gospel that we proclaim. Lots of love and care go on amongst the church family but done in an informal and sometimes unnoticed way. I wonder if there are people who sometimes need our care, prayer and concern but we don't know or notice them. We are trying to set up a small group to think about how we might address this issue of pastoral care. When you have a Vicar it is sometimes seen as their job. But in these days of vacancy we are reminded that it is the responsibility of us all. I often use the phrase – does this touch your heart? If this does, please speak to Michael or to Christine or Pamela. *Michael*.

## Christmas Services

### Sunday 21st December

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols  
*with Come and Sing Community Choir*

### Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service  
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas.

### Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Communion Service

### Sunday 4 January 2026

11.00am Epiphany Communion Service

**Next week: 21 December, 2025**

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 7.10-16;

Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

# Welcome

*to St Paul's Helsby*



*A Christ-centred Church,  
serving the local community*

**14 December, 2025**

## The Third Sunday of Advent

*We welcome as our Preacher today  
Revd Liz Shercliff*

### Collect and Readings

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 35.1-10*

NEW TESTAMENT *James 5.7-10*

GOSPEL *Matthew 11.2-11*



An induction loop is provided in the building for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use it please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

### Hassocks

Hassocks (kneelers) are stored at the back of church. Please feel to take one for your use and please put them back after the service.

HYMN TUNES	
PR	46
GR	569i
OFF	826
COM	56
FIN	38

### Safeguarding is a priority

As part of our Safeguarding Policy, we politely ask you DO NOT take photos/record during the service. Thank you.

**Website** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12605/>