

Welcome to our weekly News and Diary from the parishes of Gateshead Fell, Harlow Green and Windy Nook

4th January 2026



At Epiphany we hear those wonderfully energising words from Isaiah: *“Arise, shine; for your light has come.”* It’s not exactly a gentle whisper, is it? It’s more like God giving us a nudge and saying, *“Up you get, it’s time.”*

Isaiah is honest about the world as he talks about darkness covering the earth. We don’t have to look far to recognise that darkness today: poverty and inequality that hold people back, many still fighting to have their voices heard, communities torn apart by conflict, and the growing impact of the climate crisis, especially on those who have the least.

And yet, into all of that, God says: *Arise. Shine.* The light we’re given isn’t meant to be tucked away, it’s the glory of the Lord, shared with us so that others can see it too.

In Matthew’s Gospel, the wise men follow a star, a small but persistent light, that leads them to Jesus, the light of the world. Epiphany reminds us that God’s light travels across borders and boundaries, and that when we follow it, it doesn’t just lead us to worship, but to action.

As churches, shining God’s light means standing up for justice. It means speaking out about the issues that keep people trapped in poverty. It means caring about inequality, women’s rights, and the impact of conflict near and far. It also means supporting and equipping churches around the world, making sure local faith leaders are encouraged and protected as they serve their communities and respond to crisis after crisis.

And shining God’s light includes how we care for creation. Climate action isn’t a side issue, it’s part of loving our neighbours, especially those whose lives are already being reshaped by a changing climate.

So at the start of this Epiphany season, maybe the question for us is simple: where is God asking *us* to arise and shine? How might our churches reflect the light of Jesus in practical, hopeful ways in our communities and beyond?

A small light can travel a long way in the dark. Let’s keep shining it together.

Rev Danie

Youth Group

Want a space where you can meet friends who wonder about God? Want a space where you can explore the big questions in life? Want a space where you can have fun?

Why not join our Youth Group for those in Year 6 and up?

Sunday 11th January

Sunday 8th February

Sunday 8th March The Pulse at Durham Cathedral

5pm - 6.15pm at St Alban's Centre

No charge for meetings - donations welcome.

Let Hazel (07467125803) or Rev Danie (07902477474) know if you are coming so we don't run out of snacks.



**Youth Group
Begins again this
week**



We are fortunate to have been given a youth leader (for 6 months to begin with) who is called Will Hoy. He has worked with Danie and Hazel on the Youth Camp and is now a qualified Youth leader working for reNEW North East charity.

Danie, Hazel and others will continue to support the Youth Group but we are always looking for new volunteers to make pizzas, serve drinks and join in the fun!

Let us know if you think you could help. Please also share with those you may know who have young people.

Look out for a fundraising day for the charity who are supporting us.

Join us at St Ninians for a sharing of food, faith and life.

As part of our vision for St Ninians that came from our Prayer walks we have decided to begin a monthly sharing. Come if you know about Jesus already, come if you have questions, come if you want to meet people and share. In other words all are welcome

We are aiming this at all ages and are aiming to do it each month building community and hope together.

All are invited and please do invite others.



Do you ever wonder
about who Jesus is?
How he relates to your life?

Join us at St Ninians, Harlow Green
on Sunday 25th January
from 4.30pm to 6 ish

We will be eating together, sharing
stories and exploring who Jesus is.

Bring food to share if you want to - but
there will be plenty if not.

What is happening across our parishes for the Week beginning Sunday 4th January

Sunday 4th January	8am: BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am: Service at St Johns 10am: Service at St Ninians 10.30am: Service at St Albans
Monday	7am: Morning Prayer at St Johns 1pm-2.30pm: Toddlers at St Albans Centre 1pm-3.30pm: Arts & Crafts at St Albans 4pm: Evening Prayer at St Albans
Tuesday	9am: Morning Prayer at St Johns 10am-1pm: Place of Welcome at St Johns 8.45pm: Mens Fellowship at Greencroft Club
Wednesday	9am: Morning Prayer St Albans
Thursday	9am: Morning Prayer St Ninians
Saturday	8.30am: Men's Breakfast at St Ninians
Sunday 11th January	8am: BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am: Service at St Johns 10am: Service at St Ninians 10.30am: Service at St Albans 12.30pm: Baptism at St Albans 5pm - 6.15pm Youth Group at St Albans Centre

Upcoming dates

Monday 12th January 7pm St Albans PCC

Tuesday 13th January Crafts at Place of Welcome

Saturday 17th January 10am Baptism Preparation

Monday 26th January St Johns PCC



We are Inclusive Churches which celebrate and affirm every person and do not discriminate. If we can do anything to enable you to enjoy worshipping with us more then please let us know.

Prayers you may want to use this week

Collect - 4th January - Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Parish Waymark Prayer

God of life - you make all things new. Revive your church in our parishes. Inspire our worship, release our gifts, and give us courage to follow where you lead.

Jesus, help us to know you better and draw us deeper into your presence. Fill us with your Spirit so we can share your love and hope with all, and walk in the world as beacons of your light. Amen.

Prayers for those in our community

For healing

Connor Buckley, Robbie Collins, Jenny Devine, Betty Elliott, Lindsay Forster, John Goodenough, Chloe Sproates, Geoff & Jean Lummas, Peter Russell, Simon Shaw, Karl & Christina Smith, Laura Wick, John Watts.

For those mourning

Especially the family and friends of Janet Currie and Beverly Brittle.

Our clergy team is:

Rector - Rev Canon Danie Lindley (07902477474),

Associate Priest - Rev Ken Coulson (07596534635),

Curates - Rev John Mayes (07791615821) and

Rev Elaine Grant (07356073876)

Rev Danie is off Monday 5th, and Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th January

Contact us on stalbanswn@gmail.com; stjohnsgf@gmail.com; stniniashg@gmail.com

This week we commit to praying for each other all month - in each church we put our names into a box and select a name, committing to praying for them as the month goes on. You may wish to let them know you are praying and ask if there is anything specific to pray for.