
Glossop Parish Church of All Saints Newsletter: January 2026

Give us the expectant hope that this damaged earth will be healed of its pain and restored to wholeness.

Come among us to judge the world with righteousness and to change both hearts and minds.

Refine our priorities, so that we may turn away from exploitation towards the nurture of creation.

Diocese of Newcastle

Vicar's Voice

The ancient Romans worshipped, among their many gods, a god of doorways named Janus. He was depicted with two faces: one looking back and the other looking forward. Janus was the god of beginnings and endings, thresholds and transitions. From his name we get both the month of January and the word janitor—the keeper of doors.

As we enter a new year, we too find ourselves standing on a threshold. Like Janus, we look back at the year that has passed and forward into the year that lies ahead. For our world, the past year has been marked by uncertainty and concern, with events that have left many feeling anxious about what the future may hold. As we look ahead, we may do so with a mixture of hope and apprehension.

But what of our own lives? What have we learned from the months just gone? How have we grown, struggled, or been changed? And what might this new year hold for each of us personally?

The ancient Romans sensed a deep human need for new beginnings, and that longing still lives within us today. We yearn for a fresh start, for renewal, and for the hope that tomorrow can be better than yesterday.

As Christians, we step into the new year not alone and not uncertain of God's presence. We trust in the God who has carried us through every joy and every trial of the past year, and who walks faithfully with us into the days ahead.

Services

Sunday 4th January

Epiphany - Foodbank Sunday - Family Eucharist 10.30 am

Wednesday 7th January

Mid-week Eucharist 9.30 am

Sunday 11th January

First Sunday of Epiphany - Family Eucharist 10.30 am

Wednesday 14th January

Mid-week Eucharist 9.30 am

Sunday 18th January

Second Sunday of Epiphany - Family Eucharist 10.30 am

Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

Wednesday 21st January

Mid-week Eucharist 9.30 am

Sunday 25th January

Third Sunday of Epiphany - Family Eucharist 10.30 am

Wednesday 28th January

Mid-week Eucharist 9.30 am

Home Communion: If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion in their own home, please contact a member of the ministry team.

Epiphany January 6th

Why Is January 6th Called Epiphany?

January 6th is known as Epiphany because it marks the day Christians celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning 'appearance' or 'manifestation'.

According to Christian tradition, this is the day the Three Wise Men, or Magi, visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, guided by the star that symbolised divine light.

Bells ring out for Epiphany - 4th January - quarter peel 3.00pm

On the afternoon of Sunday, January 4th, the Sunday nearest to the Feast of Epiphany, our bell ringers will attempt to ring a Quarter Peal, conducted by Fr. David. A Quarter Peal is "a notable performance, publicly recorded in *The Ringing World*" and requiring 1260 changes without mistake! Most take 45-50 minutes to complete. If the band of six ringers is successful in the attempt this will mark the first time in probably half a century, and possibly in more, that a predominantly home-grown band of ringers from our tower has attempted this feat.

December saint

I've chosen St Lucy for our December saint, again because we know quite a lot about her. She was born in 283 AD, in Syracuse, Sicily, to rich and noble parents, but her father died when she was just 5 years old, leaving her and her mother Eutychia, without a protector. The story goes that her mother, who had health issues, and who was unaware of Lucy's Christian commitment, arranged for her to be betrothed to a young man from a wealthy but pagan family.

Meanwhile Eutychia was persuaded to go on a pilgrimage which resulted in her being cured. Lucy having vowed her virginity to God, wanted to give her Dowry away instead of getting married. Her suitor, hearing of this accused her of being a Christian and she was executed during the Diocletianic persecution.

In some accounts she has her eyes gouged out before she is executed and for this reason, she is the patron saint of the blind.

Her name Lucy, shares a root (luc) with the Latin word for light, and so many traditions incorporate symbolic meaning in her as the bearer of light in the darkness of winter. She's particularly celebrated in Scandinavian countries where winters are long and dark. On her saint's day, December 13th, it's traditional for a young girl to be dressed in white, with a red sash, the sign of a martyr and to wear a crown or wreath of candles on her head.

Foodbank Sunday - January 4th

As is our custom-and-practice, at our 10.30am Parish Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month (Sunday, 4th January) we are collecting food and non-food items for the Glossopdale Foodbank.

Our support of the Glossopdale Foodbank demonstrates our commitment to the third of the Five Marks of Mission: 'to respond to human need by loving service'.

Visit [the Foodbank's website](#) to see what food and non-food items are required to make up the emergency food parcels.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to all who gave to our Reverse Advent Calendar - a thank you card has been received from the Foodbank.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 – One Body One Spirit - Jan 18–25

This year's theme reminds us that the call to unity is a call to work for peace for all people everywhere.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from Thursday, 18th to Thursday, 25th January 2026. It is appropriate that it always falls within the Season of Epiphany, the season in the liturgical year when we are reminded that the birth of Christ was revealed to the gentiles – the story of the visit of the far-travelled ‘wise men from the east’ in the gospel of Matthew – and always ends on the feast day of the Conversion of Paul, the apostle who is most associated with taking the ‘good news’ of Jesus to the gentiles. These are reminders that the ‘good news’ is for all people regardless of the characteristics which can too often be used to separate one group of people from another group of people: ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age, ability, etc.

The reflections offered during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invite us to reconnect to God’s dream for us – a dream of a unity. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our journeys so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other?

You can join in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by using the resources available [here](#).

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - *Glossop Churches Together* 18-25 Jan. 2026
'One Body One Spirit'**

Monday 19th, 12.30 pm - **Prayer Meeting** - *All Saints Catholic Church*

Tuesday 20th, 10 am - **Open Air Prayers** - *Norfolk Square*

Wednesday 21st, 7 pm - **Prayer Meeting** - *Glossop Parish Church*

Thursday 22nd, 7 pm - **Prayer Meeting** - *St John's Charlesworth*

Friday 23rd, 12.30 pm - **Prayer Meeting** - *Glossop Methodist Church*

Saturday 24th, 10 am - **Prayer Walk beginning at St James**

Sunday 25th, 3 pm - **Unity Week Service** - *St Charles, Hadfield*

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

you show us how to be patient with one another in humility and gentleness.

May the light you have shined on our path lead us towards unity and help us heal the wounds of division and indifference that often break communities apart.

Amen

Mother's Union 150 years celebration 1876-2026

This year Mothers' Union is celebrating 150 years. Mary Sumner had a vision of women supporting and encouraging each other in their faith and families. The ripples have gone out over those years - to 4 million members in 84 countries, changing families and communities. One woman in one parish began it all.

One small boy had a picnic - but in the hands of Jesus, it fed a multitude, with 12 baskets of leftovers - nothing was wasted! In his hands, every small offering of service and prayer from each of us is used and multiplied, and nothing is wasted.

To mark the occasion, Dioceses in York province are passing a 'Time Capsule' through all the Dioceses in their province.

The following timeline and plans for the progression from Sheffield Diocese to Chester Diocese. All wrapped up together in spending time in Derbyshire Diocese at Glossop Parish Church of All Saints.

York Province - Time Capsule - Departing Sheffield Diocese for Chester - Hand over date 29.03.26 @ 2.00 pm

The arrangements for the day are:-

The address for our meet up is at: Church Street South, Old Glossop, Glossop Derbyshire, SK13 7RU.

At 2.00 p.m. Friends will host at the Church.

I am delighted that Emily Brailsford - President has accepted the invitation to join us.

At 2.15 - We will have our York Province Service - written by Bishop John - and Local Prayers that will be added to the Capsule which will be added on its journey across the 12 Dioceses in the Province - The Service should take approximately 15 minutes.

At 2.30 - We will have refreshments and Cake with a little time together with photo opportunities.

Everybody welcome to join us on this celebratory occasion. Please make known to past and present members of the Mothers' Union.

January concert - A Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience In Glossop
⌚ Saturday 10th January

Sat 10th Jan at 5:00 pm – Sat 10th Jan at 8:00 pm at Glossop Parish Church
Age Restrictions: 8+

Tubs2pubs

From 1 Jan - 15 Feb 2026, we are collecting your clean and empty:

- Confectionery tubs
- Biscuit tubs
- Cracker tubs

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year!

Make sure your tubs don't go to waste and bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site in 1 Jan - 15 Feb 2026 to be recycled.

All tubs will be collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Brings your tubs to Glossop Parish Church and we will ensure that they are delivered to the collection point.

Great British Birdwatch

The Great British Birdwatch (specifically the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch) for 2026 is scheduled for **January 23rd to 25th, 2026**, inviting people across the UK to spend an hour counting birds in their gardens or local spaces to help track UK bird populations, with registration open and resources available from the RSPB.

This year we are invited into our vicarage garden to take part in the Great British Birdwatch. Saturday, 24th January 2026, 10.00 - 11.00 am.

Buy Nothing New in January

Save your pennies and protect the planet

From the water and energy used in production, to the fuel used in delivery, every new item we buy comes with an environmental price tag.

That's why this January, Keep Britain Tidy are inviting you to make a New Year's resolution that will truly stick by taking part in Buy Nothing New Month (**1-31 January, 2026**). The challenge is simple. For the month of January, make a commitment to buy nothing new, other than essentials like food and medicines.

Ready to give it a go?

Join us and look after your pennies and protect the planet. Join thousands of change-makers. Sign up below to join Buy Nothing New Month.

So much of what we buy ends up forgotten, unused or replaced too quickly  This January, rethink what you actually need.

Buy Nothing New Month helps you waste less, save money and start fresh! 
 Sign up now and join the challenge.

[Sign Up](#)

Eco tip

Sanctuary light

A sanctuary candle, also called a sanctuary lamp, is a special candle kept lit near the tabernacle in Christian churches (especially Catholic) to signify the real, physical presence of Jesus Christ (the Blessed Sacrament) within, symbolizing His eternal, burning love and presence. It's typically a red candle in a glass holder, burning day and night (except Good Friday) as a constant reminder for prayer, adoration, and reverence, echoing Old Testament traditions of perpetual light.

We have bought sanctuary candles for many years. The cost of these candles are at least £3.00 each and burn for 7/9 days. Thinking about our Environmental Footprint and where does the holder go after the candle has burnt, we are now investing in a battery powered candle. The batteries that we use are rechargeable batteries. A member of our congregation has donated the cost of the new candle.

Welcome to Canon David and Susan Kesterton

Over the past 12 years, Canon David has served his parish and the wider Luton community with compassion, creativity, and deep faith. From the Peace Garden and Allotment Project to Community Indoor Archery, he found inspiring ways to bring people together and nurture both body and spirit.

As Chaplain to Luton Town Football Club, David offered guidance and friendship to players and supporters alike, sharing in the joys and challenges that unite our town.

His commitment to refugee support, begun well before the issue became politicised, grew into a remarkable partnership with the Medina Mosque, helping to make Luton a true City of Sanctuary. Together they led countless community initiatives, the Windrush generation projects, litter picking, mosque-church exchanges, and the deeply moving Peace Light Service, where people of all faiths gather each year to welcome the light brought from Bethlehem by the Scouts.

In his final celebration, a richly diverse congregation, White, Black, and Asian came together in love and gratitude, joined by his devoted wife Susan and their children, who have always supported his ministry and community projects.

Canon David's wisdom, warmth, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on both All Saints Church and the people of Luton.

We welcome David, Susan and their two dogs, Buzz and Graham to our worshiping community.

Everyday Faith

Daily reflections to inspire and en-courage you in your everyday faith.

Download the app free via cofe.io/EverydayFaithApp.

Home Communion: *If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion in their own home, please contact a member of the ministry team.*

Ministry Team

VICAR: The Revd David Ridley
(davidridley@btopenworld.com)
Tel: 07887 880272

Honorary Assistant Priest:

The Revd Norman Shaw

Readers:

John Roberts

Margaret Roberts

Vince Ryder

For more information about our activities please see A Church Near You.

St Andrew's, Hadfield

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13287/>

All Saints', Glossop

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13286>

For ***Peace and Quiet*** and more information of events, please visit:

[A Church Near You, Glossop Parish Church of All Saints.](#)

Peace and Quiet is offered online as an opportunity, whenever you need it, to take time out from the daily tasks, worries and fears which are our common experiences of life. Through words, music and pictures we encourage a time of calm 'mindfulness' and renewed hope.

A prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion

to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen
