

# Welcome to our focus on St Albans

1st February 2026



St Alban's PCC would like to encourage all to join a year of Justice and we begin with an open letter to our MP - you can see the letter below. To sign it please follow the link on the electronic copy or sign a form at the back of church. The deadline for this is February 15th 2026.

For the attention of Kate Osborne MP

We are writing to you as constituents and as members of **St Albans Church**, based in the Windy Nook area of Gateshead. As a church rooted in our local community, we witness daily the realities faced by people struggling to secure safe, secure, and affordable housing.

Within our congregation are people who volunteer and work with **Gateshead Foodbank** and **Oasis Community Housing**. As a church, we actively support these organisations through donations of food and money, volunteering our time, and raising awareness of poverty and housing insecurity across Gateshead. Through this work, we see first-hand the human cost of the ongoing shortage of social housing.

Too many people in our borough are living in poor-quality, insecure accommodation. These conditions often have a serious and lasting impact on physical and mental health, family stability, and overall wellbeing. In many cases, the problem is not simply the condition of housing, but the stark reality that there is **not enough social housing available in Gateshead**.

For many years, people were encouraged to purchase their council homes, yet replacement social housing has not been built at anything like the scale required. This has contributed directly to the housing crisis we now face. While we acknowledge and welcome Gateshead Council's pledge to build

500 homes over the coming years, we believe this figure falls far short of what is needed. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that too few of these homes will be genuinely affordable social housing.

As your constituents, we are asking you to **use your voice and influence** to challenge Gateshead Council and central government to do more. We urge you to advocate for a significant increase in the provision of **safe, secure, and truly affordable social housing**, ensuring that new developments meet the real needs of local people.

Housing is not merely a policy issue; it is a matter of dignity, justice, and community wellbeing. Everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

We, the undersigned, ask you to act on this issue with urgency and determination.

Yours sincerely,

**The Congregation of St Albans Church, Windy Nook**  
Gateshead

[Please follow this link to sign the letter](#)

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**Could you help us? We are looking for a new treasurer to support our work at St Albans.** You would need to be able to use excel or a similar program and be willing to share reports at meetings every 2 months as well as prepare end of year accounts. This is not a huge task once it is set up and we have banking sorted. We are in the process of getting new signatories which is taking more time than it should! Please talk to Danie, Lynn or Rob if you can help.

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## What is happening across our parishes for the Week beginning Sunday 1st February

Sunday 1st February 2026	8am: BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am: Service at St Johns 10am: Service at St Ninians 10.30am: Service at St Albans 4.30pm - 6pm: Feast at St Ninians
Monday	7am: Morning Prayer at St Johns 1pm - 2.30pm: Toddler Group at St Albans Hall 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 at St Albans
Thursday	9am Morning Prayer at St Ninians
Saturday	8.30am -9.30am Mens Breakfast at St Ninians 10.30am - 2.30pm Marmalade Saturday & Screening of Paddington at St Ninians
Sunday 8th February 2026	8am: BCP Service at St Johns 9.30am: Service at St Johns 10am: Service at St Ninians 10.30am: Service at St Albans 4.30pm - 5.30pm Explore at St Ninians 5pm - 6.15pm Youth Group for Y6 and above at St Albans Centre



**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 - 1st February 2026

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life 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** Benny Bahmanizad, Connor Buckley, Jenny Devine, Betty Elliott, Lindsey Forster, John Goodenough, Simon Shaw, Karl and Christina Smith, Chloe Sproates, John Watts

### For those mourning

Especially the family and friends of David Ancrum.

### 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)

### Our Parish Safeguarding officers are

**St Albans and St Ninians:** Lynn Coulson and

**St Johns:** Catherine Mayes

Contact us on [stalbanswn@gmail.com](mailto:stalbanswn@gmail.com); [stjohnsgf@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsgf@gmail.com);  
[stniniashg@gmail.com](mailto:stniniashg@gmail.com)