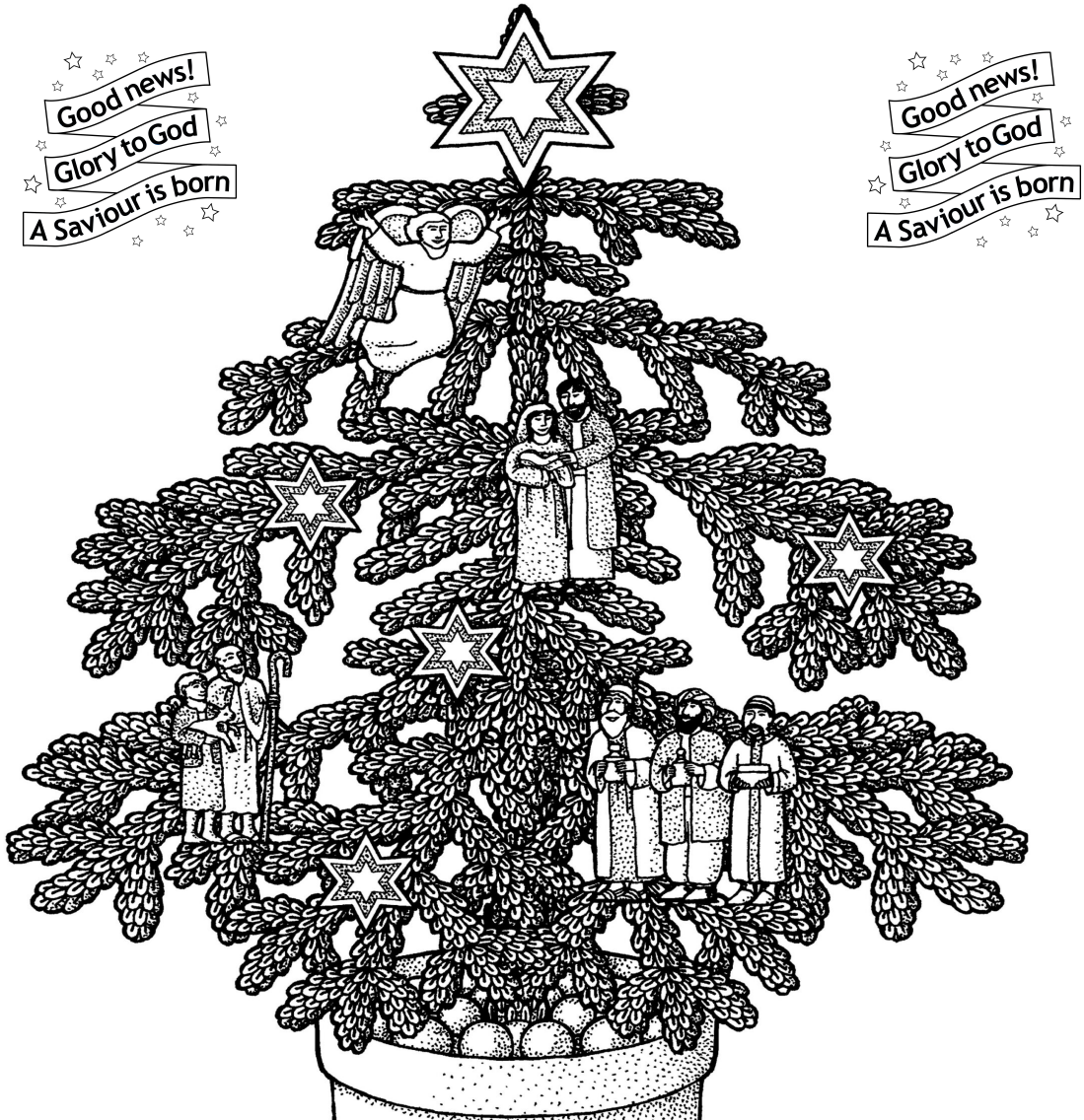


# THE RIVERSIDE PARISHES

**All Saints Hurworth Newsletter Dec 25/Jan 26**

All Saints Hurworth, St John the Baptist Low Dinsdale and All Saints Girsby,  
working with St George and St Lawrence, Middleton St George



## Thought for the Month

‘The justice system is failing.’ ‘Inside Britain’s broken justice system.’ These are just a couple of today’s headlines as I write this.

We all long for justice. If something bad happens, we want to know who is to blame. We want that to be made clear, through inquests and investigations – even if the people responsible have died in the meantime. As the saying goes, justice must be done, and justice must be seen to be done.

I wonder what ‘Advent’ means to you? Perhaps you associate it with ‘Advent Calendar’? And that means ... chocolate! ‘Advent’ means ‘arrival’ or ‘coming’. During the season of Advent, Christians prepare for the arrival of Jesus. There are two aspects to this. First, we prepare for Christmas, as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem. But we also prepare for another arrival of Jesus, as we look forward to his future arrival.

Christians believe that one day Jesus will return, and will bring in God’s eternal kingdom. Part of that is about justice. We speak of Jesus coming as our ‘Judge’. If there will be a final judgment, that means our longing for justice will be satisfied. And that must surely be a good thing.

What does it mean to prepare for the arrival of Jesus? We live between Jesus’ first arrival and his second arrival. The shepherds were told that a ‘Saviour’ had been born in Bethlehem. Jesus came to save us: to die and rise again so that our sins can be forgiven. As we wait for Jesus’ second arrival, God is giving us time to receive Jesus as our Saviour, so that we will be ready to meet him as our Judge.

Enjoy your chocolate, and may God bless you all during this season of preparation!

**Anthony Smith**  
**Vicar**

## CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: *‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.’* (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of ***Immanuel*** say to us today?

### ***God is present with us***

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus’ life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary’s life.

### ***God is on our side***

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of ***Immanuel*** (*‘God with us’*) as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.



*SOMETIMES, IT TAKES  
A VILLAGE TO HELP  
SOMEONE FIND  
STRENGTHS THEY NEVER  
KNEW THEY HAD.*

The Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust exists to help support Hurworth's people and community groups with grants. If you live in the village, you can find out more and apply for funding by sending your details to:  
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# Rhapsody

**Christmas Cracker Concert**

**All Saints' Church, Hurworth**

**7pm 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Tickets £10 on the door**

**mince pie and drink**

**Raffle**





## Church Services in Hurworth,



### Middleton St George, Low Dinsdale and Girsby DECEMBER 2025

Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Morning Worship
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Holy Communion
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	All Age Worship
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Morning Worship
	Girsby	11.15AM	Holy Communion
	Low Dinsdale	4.00PM	Carols/Christingle
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Morning Worship
	Low Dinsdale	9.30AM	Holy Communion
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Carol Service
	MSG St Georges	3.00PM	Carol Service
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	2.00PM	Instant Nativity
	Hurworth	4.00PM	Christingle Service
	Girsby	7.00PM	Carol Service
	Hurworth	11.30PM	Midnight Communion
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	10.00AM	Morning Worship
	Hurworth	10.00AM	Holy Communion
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Holy Communion
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Morning Worship
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer



**Church Services in Hurworth,  
Middleton St George, Low Dinsdale and Girsby  
JANUARY 2026**

Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Morning Worship
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Holy Communion
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	All Age Worship
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Morning Worship
	Girsby	11.15AM	Holy Communion
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Morning Worship
	Low Dinsdale	9.30AM	Holy Communion
	Hurworth	11.00AM	All Age Worship
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	MSG Academy	9.15AM	Holy Communion
	Hurworth	11.00AM	Morning Worship
	Low Dinsdale	4.00PM	Evensong
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	Hurworth	8.15AM	Morning Prayer

**ZOOM WORSHIP**

The 11.00 Services at All Saints Hurworth are available  
on Zoom. For joining instructions contact:  
[juliahclarke@aol.com](mailto:juliahclarke@aol.com)

## And there were shepherds...

In his gospel, Luke tells how the shepherds in the fields were keeping watch over their flocks when they were terrified by the sudden arrival of heavenly angels, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. And the message of the angel that night has rung down the centuries:

*"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10,11)*

And so, the first people to greet the Saviour were not rich VIPS, but humble shepherds. And in turn, it was the shepherds who became the first evangelists: for they would have gone home to their families and neighbours that night with the amazing news of what they had seen.

Meanwhile, for Mary there followed a time of reflection. She gathered up in her mind all her impressions, and all that the shepherds had shared about the angelic visit. She knew it was treasure, and not to be squandered. Then she quietly pondered in her heart the meaning and significance of all that had happened, so that she would never forget.

Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are, in fact, good companions in the spiritual life!

So, this Christmas, let's be filled with the joy that the Saviour has also been born 'to us'. May our lives reflect the glory of His coming, even in a small way. May our interactions with friends, colleagues and families during this Advent season reflect the great joy that the angels brought that night, so long ago.

### **From the Parish Records**

**Wedding**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov 25**

**Simon Kilbride to  
Sophie Steadman**





## **Hurworth Parish Council**

Members of the crew of HMS Hurworth attended the excellent Remembrance concert held at the Grange on Remembrance Day, and also attended the service in All Saints Church on Remembrance Sunday. They presented the village with a plaque, which will be displayed in the Grange bar.

The Council held their monthly meeting on 6th November, and a number of topics were considered and decisions made including the following.

- A donation was awarded to Hurworth Village Hall, of £400, to fund the lighting of the Christmas tree lights on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- A donation of £300 was awarded to a resident, who for the last three years has been decorating the open grass area at the corner of Strait Lane, which is greatly appreciated by the community.
- A donation of £150 was awarded to Friends of the Community, to fund the Wassail community event in early January.
- The Council has agreed to continue to support the Tees River Trust, who are planning to supplement their team.
- The council has been offered free trees, if we are prepared to create a small orchard style tree compound. The Council agreed to express interest and gain further information.
- The consultation for the proposed new Solar farm in Hurworth Parish is underway. The land upon which is close to the A66, and as the height of the units are low, the Council sees no reason to oppose this scheme. It is understood that the piece of land to be used, is not suitable for other purposes.
- The Tees River measuring equipment at Hurworth Place is to be replaced by a new radar system, which can be accessed remotely, and the height and speed of the flow can be more accurately measured. The Environment Agency is working closely with the Hurworth Place Flood Committee, led by Sue Dell, and with Cllr Howard, to ensure a smooth transition.
- The Hurworth Allotment AGM will be held at Hurworth Grange, in the Bagshaw Gallery on 11<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 6.30pm. All allotment holders and those on the Waiting List are invited to attend. The Allotment rules have been recently reviewed and there will be a motion for their acceptance will be tabled at this meeting.



## Hurworth Village Diary

Dec 25

Sun 7<sup>th</sup>

**Cinema on your Doorstep**

**Village Hall**

**“Conclave”** starring Anthony Hopkins. The trials and tribulations of trying to select a new Pope!!

Entry by donation

3.00pm

Soup and friendly company prior to film

2.00pm

Fri 12<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Concert by the Hurworth Concert Band**

**“Jingle all the Way”**

**The Grange**

Tickets £10 - under 16 free.available from The Grange

01325 720840

Doors 7pm

Sat 13<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Wreath Making Workshop**

**Village Hall**

More details from Barbara Lawrence

01325 720177

Wed 31<sup>st</sup>

**New Years Eve with “Revolver”**

**The Grange**

Bring you own food

Doors 7.45pm

Tickets £15 available from the Grange

01325 720840

Jan 26

Sun 4<sup>th</sup>

**Cinema on your Doorstep**

**Village Hall**

**“Bridget Jones - Mad About the Boy”**

Starring Renee Zellweger

Entry by donation

3.00pm

Soup and friendly company prior to film

2.00pm

Sat 17<sup>th</sup>

**Tribute Night - Adam Carter as Elvis**

**The Grange**

Tickets £15 inc pie and peas - available from the Grange

01325 720840

Doors 7pm



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Hurworth Churches Working Together

Hurworth

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## *Christmas Opening and Services*

**21st- Carol Service 10-11am**

**23<sup>rd</sup>- Carols in the Cafe 1pm-2.30pm** Join us for some festive carols led by our Rev G.Hume

**24<sup>th</sup> - 9am-12pm**

**25<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Day Family Service 10-11am**

**26<sup>th</sup>- Closed**

**27<sup>th</sup>- Church Coffee Morning 10-12pm**

**28<sup>th</sup>- Closed**

**29<sup>th</sup> - 10am-2pm**

**30<sup>th</sup>- 10am-2pm**

**31<sup>st</sup>- New Years Eve Walk 10am**

**10.30 start from the cafe, ending back at the cafe for light refreshments and chatter £5per person**

**1st- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026- Closed**

**5<sup>th</sup> January- Open as usual**

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## **Messy Church is Back!**

**Messy Church is a creative, fun and welcoming way to encounter Jesus 10.12.25  
3.30pm-5.30pm at Hurworth Methodist  
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## Newsletter Information

This Newsletter is compiled and printed by members of All Saints Church Hurworth and distributed by a team of volunteers in the spirit of Christians Working Together in Hurworth and the surrounding villages.

Appropriate copy is always welcome as are offers to assist with the distribution to our growing community.

All copy for the Newsletter, including events, articles for publication, advertisement design or payment **MUST** be received by 10th of the previous month at the latest, or inclusion may not be possible

**Advertising rates** are as follows :-

Quarter page - 1 insertion £18, 5 (half year) £82.50 10 (1 year) £160

Half page insertions £35 each, £155 per half year

**Editors Contact details :-**

Denis Pinnegar - Email [denispinnegar@aol.com](mailto:denispinnegar@aol.com)

Tel 01325 720835

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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Priest in Charge: Revd. Anthony Smith (01325 262122)**

Email: Anthony.Smith@durham.anglican.org

**For Baptisms, Weddings in ASH, Dinsdale, Girsby & MSG,  
and for Funerals, please contact Rev Anthony Smith**

### **Hurworth Church Wardens**

Email addresses :

Julia Clarke 01325 720662

juliahclarke@aol.com

Karen Wesson 07528 134006

karenlwesson@gmail.com

### **Lay Readers**

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mallett26@hotmail.com

Pete Snowden 07340 645440

petesnowden@hotmail.com

### **Authorised Pastoral Assistant**

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bramwelljill@hotmail.com

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

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### **Dinsdale Church Wardens**

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### **Girsby Church Wardens**

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Jim Chalmers 07776 406890 jim.chalmers99@gmail.com