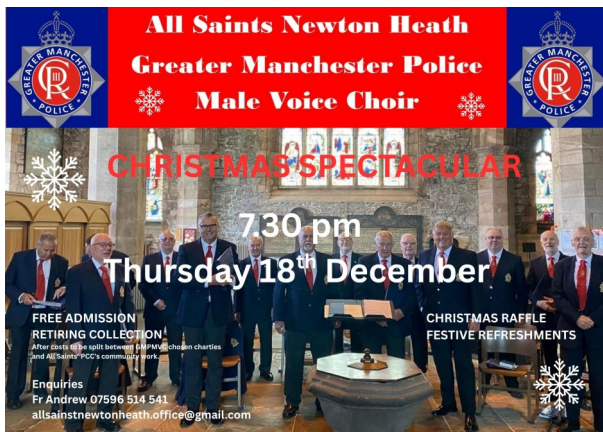


7.30 pm Thursday 18th December



3.30 pm Sunday 21st December



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<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15869/>



All Saints Newton Heath



Young or old, from near or far you are all
Welcome!

Newton Heath

All Saints' Parish Church

With St Wilfrid's, St Ann and St Cuthbert's

14th December The Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Sung Eucharist

The Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete



Poetry and practical advice.

There's poetry and practical advice across our readings today. The prophet and author we call Isaiah is actually a collection of writers putting things down on papyrus over at least two centuries. What they share is poetry, and there's a lot of theology which is poetry. One of the ways we can read this is to replace the issues front and centre of their minds with our equivalents today.

Fresh water was a major preoccupation for them. We take fresh water for granted. We just turn on a tap. What are the worries we have which give us stress and get in the way of wholesome relationships with one another; and get in the way of our relationship with God?

The water issue was also present in John the Baptist's day. Maybe even more pressing was the 'existential' threat of the Roman occupation of what we call the Holy Land. Occupation, and other factors pressing down on us, cause frustration which we may take out on other people, as we project that and our frustration with ourselves onto others. Who are we? I think James alludes to that today.

The solution? Hard though it is when the going is tough, but is not Jesus saying in John 11 that being His disciple is the only identity for us which really matters? Fr A.

Welcome to the Eucharist, also known as
Holy Communion or The Mass

This act of worship is a partnership between
the priest and the people who:

- greet each other in the Lord's name
- confess their sins and, if repentant, are assured of God's forgiveness
- keep silence and pray a Collect (a special prayer or collection of thoughts for that day)
- proclaim and respond to the word of God in scripture and reflect on it
- pray for the Church, the world and those in need
- exchange the Peace (this should be a simple gesture, not a major interruption to the flow of the service)
- prepare the table (it is only a table, but it becomes an altar)
- pray the Eucharistic Prayer (listen along and pray, and over time these words will become more familiar to you.
- break the bread (which recalls Christ's body, broken on the Cross)
- receive communion (or a blessing instead)
- depart with God's blessing, to go in peace to love and serve the Lord

If you have arrived very late, relax! Sit still and make your confession knowing God understands and loves you. Then read the Gospel, and join us in full when you are ready.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy can be found here:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15869/page/47923/view/>

Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of peace,
who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
comfort and assure you of his love
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain
with you always.
Go in peace to love your neighbour.
Go in power to work for reconciliation.
Go in hope to proclaim the resurrection.

Amen

Voluntary

Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist
(Come, God, Creator, holy Spirit)

Walther



The poster features a dark blue background with a pattern of small, glowing yellow and white dots, resembling stars or snow. At the top, there are logos for 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Manchester' and 'CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD'. Below these, the text 'ALL SAINTS NEWTON HEATH' is written in a serif font. The main title 'CHRISTMAS SERVICES' is in a large, bold, yellow serif font, followed by '2025' in a similar font. Below this, the date 'SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER' and time '3.30 PM' are listed. The service is identified as 'CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE'. A smaller line of text states: 'CHRISTMAS IS NOT AN EASY TIME FOR EVERYONE. THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIGHT A CANDLE AS A VISUAL PRAYER FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING YOU MISS THIS YEAR OR SOMETHING HEAVY ON YOUR HEART'. Below this, the date 'CHRISTMAS EVE 8.30 PM' is shown, followed by 'FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS' and 'FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES'. The date 'CHRISTMAS DAY' is followed by '10.00 AM' and 'FESTAL EUCHARIST'. At the bottom, a message reads: 'FR ANDREW, AND ALL THE PEOPLE AT ALL SAINTS WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS'. Contact information '0161 219 1807 / 07596314541' and the website 'ALLSAINTSNEWTONHEATH.OFFICE@CNAH.COM' are provided. Small images of church interiors are visible in the bottom corners.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your
Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
In the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Parish news may be shared

Hymn

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain
- 3 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Refrain
- 5 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)

Music before the service

Meditation

Robert Cockcroft (b 1951)

Introit Hymn

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade
and wither like a flower decayed.
- 4 Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit bless, for evermore.

*Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Translated John Chandler (1806-1876)*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no
secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in
darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the
heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our
sins

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you,
our God.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all
goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way by turning the hearts of the
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Isaiah 35.1-10

35The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the
crocus² 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.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because
we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins
of the world.

**Lord I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I am healed**

Giving of Communion

Music after the Sermon

Blessed and Holy

Bernadette Farrell

Holy, holy, holy, O Wisdom from on high
All your works are blessed and holy
Sea and earth and sun and sky
Adonai, O Lord of ages
Who appeared as burning flame
Come ignite the spark of justice
Til it burns in us again

Holy, holy, holy, O Radiant Star of night
Still your people walk in darkness
Come awake us to your light
O Keystone of the nations
Holding place of every part
Come and cherish your creation
Til it lives within our heart

Holy, holy, holy, O Tree uplifted high
In your presence pow'r falls silent
In your shade illusions die
O humble Key of David
Hearts are known to you alone
Break the chains of every prison
Come and lead your people home

Holy, holy, holy, God of power, God of might
All the earth and all the heavens
Sing your glory day and night
Blessed and holy your creation
Blessed is Jesus whom you send
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna without end!

The Eucharistic Prayer

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered
together from the corners of the earth into
your kingdom.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Preface continues until the invitation to say

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution follow as far as

Great is the mystery of faith

To which is the response

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until the
Doxology which is sung*

..by whom and with whom and in whom, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour be
unto you Almighty Father, world without end.

To which is sung **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ 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;
⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

James 5.7-10

7 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 re-
ceives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must
be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming
of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble
against one another, so that you may not be
judged. See, the Judge is standing at the
doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience,
beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

As you are able, please stand

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

7 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly 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.

Matthew 11.2-11

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he
came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of**

the Father.

**He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Cycle of Prayer

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Cycle of Prayer

Our bishops: David, Mark and Matthew

The Anglican Communion

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Porvoo Communion

Church of England: Diocese of Southwell

Church of Norway: Diocese of Borg

Schools and Colleges

All Saints; St Wilfrid's; Briscoe Lane Academy;
Christ the King; Co-op Academy Broadhurst;
Oldham Blue Coat; Trinity High School; Bowdoin
College, Maine; Churchill College, Cambridge; University of Coventry; Edge Hill University; University of Leeds.

Parish

Alminstone Close, Althorpe Walk, Amos Avenue, Ascot Road, Ashfield Drive, Assheton Crescent.

Book of Remembrance

Frank Watling; Irene Bailey; Ethel Smith; Constance Seymour; Muriel William; Mary Hunt; John Aston; Anne O'Donnell; Thelma Wild; Livia Shone; Winifred Pope; James Wardle; Doris Peaker; Betty Reynolds.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.