



Holy Communion
All Hallows Church
1st Sunday of Christmas
28 December 2025

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, we are delighted to have you with us, and hope that you will enjoy the service.

*We have a **said service today**, without any music. We say together all the parts that are usually sung, following this leaflet. For a large print, please ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.*

After the service please stay for refreshments and carolling.

*We don't take cash collection during the service, however we welcome **donations** towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine at the back of the church. Alternatively you can scan the QR code on the last page.*

Greeting

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

All Amen.

Minister The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Words of welcome may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

All 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.

Confession

Deacon Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

All Lord God, we have sinned against you;
 we have done evil in your sight.
 We are sorry and repent.
 Have mercy on us according to your love.
 Wash away our wrongdoing
 and cleanse us from our sin.
 Renew a right spirit within us
 and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Minister Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
 who in his great mercy
 has promised forgiveness of sins to all those
 who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him:
 have mercy on you,
 pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
 confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
 and bring you to everlasting life,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria

All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'. The Collect is said by a member of our congregation.

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Reading Hebrews 2.10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again, 'I will put my trust in him.'

And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading Matthew 2.13-23

All Alleluia.

Deacon The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia.

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

Affirmation of faith

Minister Let us declare our faith in God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Minister Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given –
let us bring before God the needs of the world.

This response may be included:

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And at the end:

All Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

All Almighty Lord,
hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace

Minister Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

We share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Preparation of the table

Table prayer

Minister Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic prayer

Minister The Lord is here.

All **His spirit is with us.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

All **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

All **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

All **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again and is alive with you
to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

All **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Minister As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

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

Breaking of the bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Minister Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

Minister Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All 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.

Notices

Blessing

Minister Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with peace and goodwill
and make you partakers of the divine nature;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people and ministers depart.

*You are very welcome to stay
for refreshments and carolling together
after the service.*

*Request your favourite carol,
and we will sing it.*

Diary

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|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Mon 29 Dec | Holy Innocents | |
| 9:00-9:30 | Zoom | Morning Prayer |
| Tues 30 Dec | | |
| 9:00-9:30 | Zoom | Morning Prayer |
| 9:30-12:00 | All Hallows Hall | coffee shop |
| Wed 31 Dec | | |
| 12:15-12:45 | All Hallows | Holy Communion |
| Thurs 1 Jan | | Naming and Circumcision of Jesus |
| Fri 2 Jan | | Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus |
| 9:30-12:00 | All Hallows' Hall | coffee shop |
| Sat 3 Jan | | |
| 9:30-10:15 | All Hallows | MU Holy Communion |
| 9:30-12:30 | All Hallows' Hall | coffee shop |
| 10:30-12:30 | All Hallows | open to the public |
| Sun 4 Jan | | Epiphany |
| 9:15-10:15 | All Saints | Sung Eucharist |
| 11:15-12:15 | All Hallows | Sung Eucharist |
| 18:00-18:30 | Zoom | Compline |

Our prayers are asked for

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Carol, Kay G, Diana Brown, Jo Thraves, Glennis Eades, Rita Hawkes, William, Steve Cavender, Anne.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman, Jenny Attewell, Margaret Eady, Susan Adams, Richard Hole.

To add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then please email Pat Thomas (pat_@hotmail.co.uk).

Remember the departed

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Wynford Thomas, Ernest Edward Adams, Gordon Douglas Lambert, Margaret Hoather, Yvonne Round, Gordon Hunter, Ted Rudd, Irene Mary Gould, Susan Teresa Byles, Dorothy Lovell, Grace Steele, Delia Housden, Don Gough, Kathleen Higgs, Russell Dickens, Peter Moore, Clive Bishop, Vera Ward, Mollie Bradfield.

Notices

Bible Studies on St Mark's Gospel continue:

Tuesday 6 January 14:00, All Hallows Hall;

and Monday 12 January 19:30, All Saints' Lady Chapel.

Informal Celtic Eucharist Saturday 17 January 9:30, All Saints.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 23-25 October 2026. If interested, please contact Canon John. Deposits to be paid in January.

If you would like to be confirmed, please speak to Rev Paula, Canon John, or Jess. Preparation classes in February, confirmation 1 March, All Hallows.

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