

# All Saints' North Hillingdon

## Gaudete Sunday

### 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 - 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent



Isaiah paints a vivid picture of hope and renewal: a dry land blossoms, blind and lame are restored, God's people are led with joy on a "way of holiness." God's restoration begins today. *Where in your life do you long to see God bring joy or healing this Advent?*

James encourages believers to be patient and steadfast for the coming of the Lord, like farmers waiting for a harvest. 'Do not grumble against one another, so you may not be judged' *What is God calling you to be patient about now?*

In Matthew, John the Baptist, from prison, asks Jesus if he is "the one to come," and Jesus points to the signs of God's presence in healing and good news for the poor. *Where might Jesus be inviting you to recognise his kingdom breaking in through simple acts of mercy and grace?*

#### New English Hymnal for 10 am service

Opening	15	On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
	(3)	<i>Advent carol on sheet</i>
Gradual	8	Go tell it on the mountain (v1,2)
Offert'y	5	Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Comm'n	37	Gaudete (chorus in Latin)
Sending	72	Of the Father's heart begotten (Omit v2,3)

#### Regular Mid-week Events:

**Tues - 7.30pm Bible Study Vicarage**  
**Wed - 10 am Holy Communion**  
**10:30am Cake, Coffee & Chat in Hall**  
*(not 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December)*



#### Diary Dates:

**14<sup>th</sup> Dec - 5pm Service of Lessons and Carols**  
 with mulled wine and mince pies  
**17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Wednesday Coffee and Chat**  
**Christmas party** with singer, raffle and secret Santa (bring pressie!)  
**18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Long Lane Churches Together Carols**  
 5-7pm outside Hillingdon tube

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec -** \*No service at 10am this Wed\*  
**5pm Christingle 5pm**  
**Midnight Mass 11.15pm**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Day 10am**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Dec - Sunday 10am service only**  
**With Rev Graham Dale**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Dec -** \*No service at 10am on Wed\*



#### Advent 3—John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.' Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

***The third candle is lit and this response is used***

**Ldr:** Jesus is the light of the world.

**All:** A light no darkness can ever put out.

#### ***Advent song:***

**John the Baptist, by his preaching**  
**And by water poured,**  
**Brought to those who heard his teaching**  
**News of hope restored:**  
**'Keep your vision strong and steady,**  
**And be ready, For the Lord.'**

**Giving is part  
 of our worship  
 You can use the  
 QR code or place  
 an offering in the  
 basket >>>>>>>**



#### **THIS WEEK'S INTERCESSIONS:**

*Mark Callaghan, Simon Matthews, David Rance, Hazel & Helen Parris, John Clarke, Mabel and Tony Poon-Jones, Lyn Prior, Lynn Taylor, Tony Bond, Pat Szymański, Ann Tutton, Ruth Heslop, Lesley Thompson, Jo Haunton.*



#### **We remember anniversaries of the deaths of:**

Julie Peabody, Florence Adaway, Patricia Johnson, Frederick Pannifer, Bessie Hearne, Barry Woods.

**Visits / Home Communion:** If anyone who needs a visit, or needs prayer, let me know; Rev Ulric Gerry 07909 127 929  
[ulricgerry@icloud.com](mailto:ulricgerry@icloud.com)

### 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.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.

### PSALM OR CANTICLE

*Either Psalm 146:4-10*

**R** *The Lord shall reign for ever.*

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
Who made heaven and earth,  
the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;  
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous; **R**

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia. **R**

**Or Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)**

**R** *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me  
and holy is his Name. **R**

And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm  
he hath scattered the proud in the  
imagination of their hearts. **R**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat

and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things  
and the rich he hath sent empty away. **R**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen  
his servant Israel

as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**



### SECOND READING James 5:7-10

*A reading from the letter of James.*

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly 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."

### POST COMMUNION

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.



The Lord shall reign for ever.





**1. Advent candles tell their story**

**As we watch and pray,  
Longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
Changed for gladness  
On that day.**

**2. Prophet voices loudly crying,**

**Making pathways clear,  
Glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
Calling all to hear.  
Through their message – challenged, shaken –  
Hearts awaken:  
God is near!**

**3. John the Baptist, by his preaching**

**And by water poured,  
Brought to those who heard his teaching  
News of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
And be ready  
For the Lord.'**

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that Day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
Timeless God as human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story? –  
cross and glory; empty tomb!

Advent candles tell their story  
on this Christmas Day.  
Those who waited for God's glory:  
they prepared the way.  
Christ is with us: loving, giving,  
in us living, here today!