

### ONLINE RESOURCES FOR DAILY PRAYER:

praying with the church: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx>  
Prayer of imagination: <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

**FOODBANK** Please continue to donate, Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Selection boxes in by today please.

**PASTORAL CARE TEAM** Our Pastoral Team are trained volunteers available to listen to you, not counsellors or therapist, they offer confidential support whatever you are going through. If you wish to contact them please email on [stcpastoralcare@hotmail.com](mailto:stcpastoralcare@hotmail.com). The team are Jeanette Owens, Gaynor Lanceley, Debbie Hale and Bryony Jones

**VOLUNTEERS** needed for 11am Mini Cuthberts rota, please speak with wardens or Jeanette Owens for more information.

**ALNMOUTH RETREAT 2018**—Next years retreat Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August. Please sign up at the back of Church and pay deposits £80 by the end of December to reserve places.

### JUNIOR CONFIRMATION 2018.

If you are in year 5 or above and interested in getting confirmed, please sign the sheet at the back of church. Classes will begin in late December /New Year.

**ROTA'S** please check dates in December

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** We would like to decked the church out with an abundance of flowers for the Christmas time, but we will need your help! If you would like to donate towards flowers, please place your donation in the basket at the back of church.



**Well done** 1st Croxteth Park Scout group who have been helping Father Christmas to journey around the estate all this week. Last chance to see him on the estate before he gets ready for his Christmas deliveries is 17th December.

### Meeting and Events

#### Sunday 17th December

Community Christmas Carol Service 6pm  
**NO SPARK** (until 14th January)

#### Wednesday 20th December

Bible Study 7.30pm at 18 Bowden Close

#### Saturday 23rd December

Meditation and Quiet Time 6-7pm in church

#### SUNDAY 24th December

Christingle & Crib Service in Church at 3pm

# Welcome to St Cuthbert's



## Sunday 17th December 2017 The Third Sunday in Advent

### Intercessions

Ollie Holmes, Amy Blacklock and family, Louis Marshall, Julie Carroll, Stephen Wearing, Reg Gradden, Francis Davidson, John Ellis and James O'Keefe, Juan Buch-Turon, Neville & Patricia Jones, Carlo Regadas. Elaine, Dot, Audrey, Stan

### RIP—

Jean Glencross

### Years Mind:

### Welcome to St Cuthberts Church

We hope you feel at home with us as together we worship God today. As a safe place all are welcome. Our motivation is the risen Lord Jesus whose safe and risky love took him to the cross and whom we seek to serve.

Please continue to support each other as we proceed through the Interregnum. Encourage each other. Continue to welcome our children who are a reminder that our congregations are growing and give a smile of encouragement to their parent or carer.

Be mindful of those in our congregations who may be finding this particular time of year difficult and let us all join together to rejoice in the Good News that Christ brings to all our lives.

If you are not sure about anything then please ask as we would love to get to know you more.

## COLLECT

(The Third Sunday of Advent)

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 forever. Amen

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end

(A reading from the book of Isaiah)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

## Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24

(A reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## GOSPEL

John 1. 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Christmas Services and Activities.

### SATURDAY EVENING FROM 9th DECEMBER

Mediation and Quiet Time 6-7pm

### SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER,

Community Christmas Carol Service, 6pm

### SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER

Christingle making, 3.30pm at church.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Christingle & Crib Service in Church at 3pm.

Bring in your money candles

Midnight Mass begins at 11.30pm—Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Eucharist—MERRY CHRISTMAS

### SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

10am — HAPPY NEW YEAR