

HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD ADVENT 2025



The new liturgical year 2025/2026 begins next week, on Advent Sunday. Our **Advent Charity** is **Amnesty International**, whose continuing mission to challenge injustice across the world has been going for over 60 years. Details of how to donate are on the display at the back of church.

Following the success of last year's Advent poems and pictures, we are going to produce an insert each week with a poem reflecting the themes shown above, and a picture which relates to both the theme and the poem. The pictures for this year have been curated by our dear friend Kevin Dunn. Many thanks to members of the poetry group for their selections.

PLEASE take this leaflet and other weekly leaflets and inserts home with you! We will not be using re-usable leaflets until sometime in February 2026.

In just under 40 days, we celebrate another new year: the start of 2026. All 'new starts' are times for reflection, for thinking about times, seasons, changes and plans. As we prepare for our celebrations of Christmas, we need to reflect on our roles and ministries in the life of the church, and reflect on the contributions that we make or might make in the future. Roles might include:

- Churchwarden: might sound daunting, but we have three people who can offer training, support, and back up to anyone taking on this role.
- Welcome teams: a smiling presence at the door about once a month
- Reading a lesson or leading the prayers: Sunday by Sunday being part of the ministry of God's holy word and uniting the community in prayer.
- Being on a coffee team: a chance to get to know everyone and build a sense of community at the end of the service.

We will also be reviewing the list of those who administer the chalice during the Eucharist, in line with diocesan guidelines. If you feel called to this ministry, or would like to discuss it, please speak to the Rector. For other roles, please have a discussion with current team members, or office holders, watch out for signing up dates and ask if there is a chance to observe or shadow a role.

ADVENT

Sunday November 30th

President: The Revd Jane Walker

Readings

Isaiah 2.1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13.11-end
Matthew 24.36-44

Other music: Advent light prayer; People look East, Wachet Auf

Saturday December 6th 10-12 noon Education Series, Episode 4: Two Manchester Schools

Sunday December 7th

President: The Revd Richard Young

Readings

Isaiah 11.1-10
Psalm 72
Romans 15.4-13
Matthew 3.1-12

Other music: Advent light prayer; Matins Responsory; O thou the central orb

Wednesday December 10th: 7.30pm Poetry Group – 2 Birch Grove; looking at poems by Karen McCarthy Woolf 'Nature Matters: Vital Poems from the Global Majority.'

Saturday December 13th: 10am-12noon SPACE (A time and space for silence and prayer)

Sunday December 14th

President: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth

Readings

Isaiah 35.1-10
Magnificat
James 5.7-10
Matthew 11.2-11

Other music: Comfort, comfort now my people; Advent Prose

Monday December 15th 9am

St James' School Eucharist

Sunday December 21st

Shab-e-Yalda

President: The Revd Jane Walker;

Readings

Isaiah 7.10-16
Psalm 80.1-8
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-end

Other music: Advent Light Prayer; I waited for the Lord;



Advent 1

Preacher: The Revd Canon Alma Servant

Hymns

Hark the glad sound
Gospel Acclamation
Hills of the North rejoice

Awake, awake, fling off the night

Advent 2

Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth

Hymns

Hark a herald voice is calling
Advent Gospel Acclamation
Lo, he comes with clouds descending
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Advent 3

Preacher: The Revd Jane Walker

Hymns

The world's fair rose has blossomed
Advent Gospel Acclamation
Hail to the Lord's anointed
Hark, what a sound

Advent 4

Preacher: The Revd Canon Alma Servant

Hymns

Come thou Redeemer of the earth
Advent Gospel Acclamation
The king shall come when morning breaks
O come, O come Emmanuel

At this time of year, all the various Sundays and feast days carry traditions and habits. There is a story of a choir where a little leaflet for choristers was issued, to give guidance to the season to new members.



At the bottom of the leaflet, during the Advent reminders (no Gloria, purple, wear an extra layer) was a strange scribbled code from an earlier user: GHEFI. After much investigation this was eventually revealed to stand for "Get Here Early For Introits"!

It is a season with a particularly rich and varied musical tradition...

So for Christmas and Epiphany, there is yet more.

The plan so far:

Wednesday 24th December, 11.30: Midnight Mass
– the First Eucharist of Christmas



Thursday 25th December, 10.00: The Eucharist for the Lord's Nativity

(Please note that there are no buses from 8pm on Christmas Eve and that the service on Christmas morning will be relatively short and simple, with some pre-recorded items of music.)

Sunday 28th December: The Holy Innocents
– our patronal festival falls on a Sunday.



(There is an old tradition of the youngest person attending being made bishop for the day – volunteers should speak to a Warden, armed with suitable evidence!)

Sunday 4th January: Christmas 2 - into the New Year – looking forward in hope.

On January 6th, a member of St James' School will chalk the doors of church for us on their way to school. The school will make an Epiphany proclamation of Easter – also including festivals from other major world religions and traditions.

Sunday 11th January: Sung Eucharist and Epiphany Processions

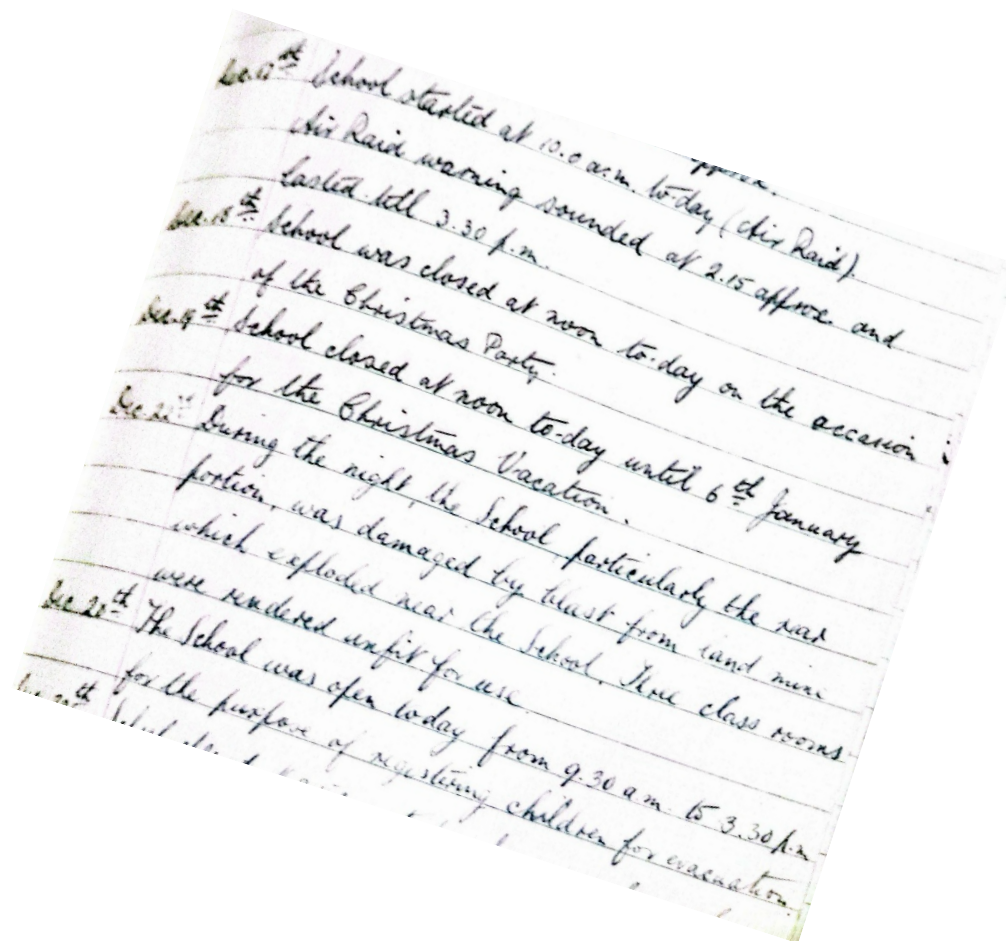
Christians have grown accustomed to thinking of the Epiphany as exclusively about the 'wise men' or 'Magi', commonly thought of as 'kings' because of Old Testament allusions and the costly nature of the gifts they presented. The fact that the New Testament mentions three gifts gave rise to the popular tradition of 'three kings'. However, there is an older tradition which focuses on three revelations of Christ - the revelation of Christ to the Magi, who were probably Gentiles; the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God at his baptism in the river Jordan; and the revelation of his glory in his first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, the turning of water into wine.

Sunday 18th January: Sung Eucharist in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 25th January: The Conversion of St Paul

Sunday 1st February: Candlemas – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

A reminder of a past Christmas in the parish....1940....



Unlike the years before and during the First World War, there was a Christmas Party! However, it – and normal life – were interrupted by air raid warnings. Fortunately, there was nobody in school when the landmines went off on the 22nd. And preparations were being made immediately after Christmas to evacuate pupils out of the area, thereby reducing the school population.

From the Log Book of St James' School Rusholme, 1940.