

## Newsletter – Autumn 2026

### Harvest Church lunch at St John's Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Gathering together around food is an important part of being Church family, sharing life together, and contributing to our communal life. Whilst we're an Urban church, celebrating Harvest reminds us that all good things around us are sent from Heaven above. So, on 18<sup>th</sup> October, straight after our 11am service at St John's, we'll be having a Church lunch to celebrate Harvest and feed anyone who is there with us that day.

*NB So as not to overload that Sunday we will celebrate Communion on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October instead of 18<sup>th</sup>.*

If you could help catering for the lunch please speak in advance with Karen or Sue, or use the sign-up sheets, or if you can help in clearing and washing up on the day that would also be great.

**Please pray** for God's provision, protection and blessing of these Church family welcome and bonding times.

### 'A Community Christmas' 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December

The Christmas season gives us great opportunities to celebrate with the wider community and share some of the true joy of Jesus' birth. This year the PCC is planning for a special weekend of events, partnering with Tree of Life, the Border Concert Band, Norman Street School, and Brook Street School, with help from the Houghton & Kingmoor churches too. Here is the proposed timetable:

| ART COMPETITION                                                                                                                                                     | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>                                       | Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>                                                   | Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Theme: 'The Nativity Story'</p> <p>Categories:<br/>Ages 4-7<br/>Ages 8-11<br/>Ages 12-18<br/>Adult</p> <p>Entries to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> December</p> | 11am-1pm St John's Café<br>[& Art Display]                   | 10am-12pm Coffee Morning<br>[& Art Display]                                | 11am Normal Service                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.30pm NISCU Puppets performance for Norman Street School    | 4-5.30pm Tree of Life's Christmas Village enhanced with various activities | 3pm Nativity Concert with the Border Concert Band & Norman Street School |
|                                                                                                                                                                     | 7.30pm Christmas Craft Evening including a Christmas thought |                                                                            |                                                                          |

The Art will be displayed around the Church building to be enjoyed around the other events that are happening before being judged by a local professional Artist.

In the next few weeks we will explain a bit more of what is happening at each event, and what needs to happen.

We have lead people for each of these (except the Art Competition) but will need particular help – such as hanging artwork, preparing craft materials, moving chairs, welcoming, and serving refreshments. We also need you to just be present to meet the people who do come and make connections that we hope may be a stepping stone towards Church life and (more importantly) life with Jesus.

**Please pray** for how you might be involved, for an Art Competition coordinator (judge already secured), and for effective publicity and inviting so that many people in our community can engage with this weekend, us and Jesus at a deeper level than they have before.

## Christmas Services 2026

Following 'A Community Christmas' we will be keeping a similar pattern to previous years for our Carol Services and Christmas Services. The one difference is that we will have a combined (not separate) Christmas morning Communion Service. So, for your diary:

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December      11am St John's Carol Service with the Border Concert Band

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve      4pm St Andrew's Candelit Carol Service

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>      11am Christmas Communion Service at St John's

**Please pray** for all who regularly come (and more) to join us to celebrate Jesus' birth and mission. Pray for faithfulness and love in preparation and welcome, for clarity in speaking, warmth in being good listeners, and for the Holy Spirit's work to bring light and change hearts.

## Confirmation Service

18<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Creeping into next year a date for your diary, your prayers, and perhaps your preparation. We are delighted to welcome the (relatively) new Bishop of Penrith, Michael Leydon to preach and lead a Service of Confirmation.

Confirmation is the Anglican ceremony for publicly owning your faith as an adult (if you were baptised as a child), and for belonging in the Church of England if you were brought up in a different denomination. NB You cannot be a Churchwarden without being Confirmed, and to take Communion you should be 'Admitted to Communion', Confirmed or 'be desirous' of that (i.e. willing when the next opportunity arises).

Having had the joy of a number of adult Baptisms (which vicars can do) in this last year it is right for these people to be Confirmed (which only a Bishop can do), and there may be others in our Church family who have never been Confirmed who can take this opportunity. **Please speak** with Tudor if you may be interested.

-----  
May you know God's peace, joy and blessing as we continue our Spirit empowered Mission of Welcoming, Connecting, and Transforming in Jesus name.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist (including St Andrew's): Abbey, David, Esther, Giles, Jack, Julie, Moray, Rob, Stuart & Tudor

Which of these items do you need to act on now: diarise, add to prayer list, contact someone about...etc. ?