The Diocese of Peterborough Find us on WhatsApp THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

United Benefice ST. MARY'S HIGHAM FERRERS ST. JOHN'S CHELVESTON

15 November 2026

Second Sunday before Advent
Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's & Breakfast Church in the Bede House
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
Music: Organist St. John's: Hilary Goodman **Hymns: 676, 787, 604**
Organist St. Mary's: Alan Cufaude **Hymns: 232, 333, 294, 368**
The Benefice Online Service: 'Meeting Point' is for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week.
https://www.stmaryhighamferrers.org/sunserv1

Tues 17	2pm-4pm Tea & Cakes at St John's
	7.30pm Bellringing practice night at St Mary's
Wed 18	10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 19	10am Holy Eucharist at St John's
	10am to 12 Noon, Coffee and Chat at St Mary's
Fri 20	Sparkle set up across St Mary's site
Sat 21	Higham Ferrers Christmas Sparkle

Sun 22 November Christ the King Sunday
9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
4.00pm L.E.G.O. Church in the Bede House with Rev Yvonne. Please let us know if you are coming along for catering purposes. The children will be building a Lego addition to the nativity sets we will be displaying in church through advent. Bring your best building skills with you!

Children are welcome at all our Services in both churches; we have children's areas with colouring and toys and are looking at ways to better include them in all we do. We understand that some of our services can seem long to little ones, and it is absolutely fine if they need to wriggle or play or move around.

Collect
Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation. Stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, be beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief, for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with

interest. So, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

For your Prayers.

Our prayers have been asked for: David Batchelor, Mark Betts, Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Pat Catlin, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Rev Brenda Elldred, Pat Ellis, Peter Etheridge, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Marian Knott, Sarah Martin, Sally Mayes, Val Robinson, Tracey Rogers, Jean Smith, Elizabeth Swindley, Niven Whatley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke, Victoria. **St John's:** Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith, David Webber.

In memoriam:

Year's mind anniversaries:

William Foster, Leslie Marshall, Florence Odell, Charles Felce, John Underwood, Edward Price, Joseph Perkins, Mary Kirk, Sheila Simpson, Robert Alton, Percy Knight, James Frankham, William Edwards, Cynthia Hobson, Arthur New, John Braybrook, Graeme Whitecross, Brenda Wood, Mollie Clifton, Frances Wagstaff, Dennis White, Daniel Neville, Gertrude Gorley, Mary Stuttle, Edward Evans, George Hunt.

NOTICES

Christmas Services – small flyers are now available in each church, please help us advertise our services by giving these to family, friends and neighbours. We have an online poster that can be shared, and will produce individual services posters shortly. If you are on social media please share them, and if you can, reply to comments asking about Christingle services etc with details and tag us in?

ST MARY'S

Cake makers & eaters wanted!

It is that time of year when we need lots of cakes, for Higham Sparkle, so lots of people can enjoy our wonderful refreshments and raise money at the same time. Please ask the teams if you need more details, thank you.

Tombola & Raffle donations-These need to be with us by Thursday at the latest. The more the merrier.

Higham Ferrers Christmas Sparkle, Sat 21 November
Stalls, refreshments, music and more alongside displays in church by youth groups and young people on the theme of "A recycled Christmas Story".
It would be great to showcase the many groups and teams active within our church who are often hidden from view of the general public. Do you want to show off what your team does and advertise for new members?

There are signup forms to help steward etc at Sparkle on the back table, and a request list for raffle items. The tombola donations box is near the servery.

Christingle making, 28th November, 2.00pm Bede House, any help is appreciated
Christingle Service – 29th November, 4.00pm St Mary's Church

5 December 2pm – Christmas Wreath Workshop in the Bede House
Always a fun creative activity to do, why not get a group together to go to this? Tickets available from Nicky, details on noticeboard posters

ST JOHN'S

Tea & Cakes 17 November, 2.00pm-4.00pm
Knit & Natter 24 November, 1.00pm-3.00pm

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Mother Louise revlouisebishop@btinternet.com	07974 018160
Revd Brenda brenda@elldred.co.uk	07816 771702
Parish Office & Bede House:	01933 741140
Benefice Administration and enquiries:	stmarys.higham@gmail.com
Bede House Bookings only:	thebedehouse@gmail.com

Please send enquiries by email if possible, and a reply will be sent as soon as our administrator Ria is next in the office.
Website www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk
Churchwardens:
St. John's; Arthur Wright and Andrew Wager 07789 286398
St. Mary's; Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

Mthr Louise is off duty Mon 16th November
Rev Brenda is currently off duty whilst recovering from Pneumonia