



2 February 2025

**Candlemas**

**Welcome to our services today**

9am: Parish Eucharist at St John's

10.30am: All Age Eucharist at St Mary's

**Music: Organist St. John's:** Hilary Goodman, **Hymns: see order of service.**

**Organist St. Mary's:** Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns: see order of service.**

**The Benefice Online Services; 'Meeting Point' and 'Celtic Midweek Liturgy'** are for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week. <https://www.stmaryhighamferrers.org/online-worship>

Tues 4 7.30pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's

Wed 5 10am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

*11am Funeral service for Dr Robert Simpson*

Thurs 6 10am Said Eucharist at St Mary's with Coffee & chat to 12noon

*2pm Mothers Union in St Mary's*

Fri 7 5.30pm First Friday Club in the Bede House

### **Sunday 9 February 2025 Fourth Sunday before Lent**

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's & Breakfast Church in the Bede House

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

#### **Collect Prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. **Amen**

#### **Hebrews 2:14-end**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the

people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## Post Communion Prayer.

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, our into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**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.

## For your Prayers.

**Our prayers have been asked for:** Karen Addis, Brian Bond, Liz Boughton, Nola Brockhouse, Simon Brown, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Lynda & Peter Etheridge, Freda Fernyhough, Christine Franklin, Andrew Fulcher, Colin Gilkes, Sandra Hill, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Emily Ogden, Freda Pack, Ken & Val Robinson, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Nick Kirk, Lesley Littlejohn, Dr Northover, Brenda May, Lynn Redgagte, Arthur & Anita Wright.

**In memoriam:** Tony Lewis, Shirley Goodman, Robert Simpson, Tuula Wright

## Year's mind anniversaries:

Winifred Pack, Anne Jephcote, Ernest Higginbotham, Frank Margetts, Cecil Smith, Hugh Keller, Gwendoline Pentelow, Olive Vollmar, Bernard Allen, Arthur Crowder, Ada Newell, Joan Oberman, Lilian Munn, John Murdin, Rose Tunnock, Eva Entwistle, Eric Aries, Claris Bettles, Cathy Baker, Donald Carmichael, Alice Hendry, Winifred Pack, Talja Bibby, Gladys Williams, Kenneth Jarvis, Herbert Partridge, Thomas Sanders, Joseph Marr, Edith Knighton, Walter Hartwell, Ethel Hector, Hilda Tucker, Tom Sanders. Bernd Linke, Samuel Ball, Raymond Thorpe, Emily Walters, Colin Partridge.

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## NOTICES

**BENEFACTICE** – Old palm crosses are requested to make the new ash for Ash Wednesday – a basket is available in each church. Thank you.

## ST. MARY'S

**Children's corner** – the render repairs have been completed and now need to dry out before they can be painted.

**Mothers union** - We'll be meeting in church at 2 pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February when the speaker will be our own Richard Oberman. Richard's topic is "The seven worthies of Higham—some facts you didn't know!" Everyone is welcome to join us and there's no charge, just donations for refreshments please.

## ST JOHN'S

**Snowdrop Weekend - 15 Feb 10am - 4pm & 16 Feb 11am- 4pm.**

If you have any good quality bric-a-brac we will be collecting it up until Friday 7 February only. We will need lots of cakes, can you bake some? With many thanks from the 'Snowdrop team' - any questions please call Richard Kirk on 07773 309834

**Knit and Natter, 1-3pm 25 Feb. Tea and Cakes** returns in March

### **For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:**

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### Churchwardens:

St. John's; Arthur Wright 01933 624530, and Andrew Wager 07789 286398

St. Mary's; Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The office is open Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am to 2.30pm. Please send enquiries by email if possible, and a reply will be sent as soon as our administrator Ria is next in the office.

***Mthr Louise is off duty to Tues 4 and then Sat 8 February.***