



15 March 2026

Mothering Sunday

Welcome to our services today

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am All Age Eucharist at St Mary's
4pm Mothering Sunday, its complicated! At St Mary's

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns: 137, 136, 394.**
Organist St. Mary's: Andrew Moodie, **Hymns: see order of service.**

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 Tea & Cake at St Johns to 4pm
7.30pm St John's PCC at the Vicarage
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 18 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
2pm Lent Course in the Bede House
Thur 19 10am Said Eucharist at St John's
10am Coffee and chat to 12noon at St Mary's
7.30pm Lent Course at Brenda's House
Sat 21 *10am Spring clean at St Johns to 12noon*

Sunday 22 March 2026 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
4pm Lego Church in the Bede House
7.30pm *The Kings Men concert at St Mary's*

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:33-35

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.'

Post Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Jane Carpenter, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Pat Ellis, Peter Etheridge, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sarah Martin, Sally Mayes, Peter Mitchell, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith, David Webber. **In memoriam:** Helen Bird, Andrew Watson, Stuart Summerling.

Year's mind anniversaries: Florence Heeley, Jill McCormack, Ruth Garrett, Maureen steel, Doris Brook, Christine Foulger, Doris Brook, Catherine Steele,

Marjorie Randall, John Mantle, Edward Wadsworth, Liam Dorney, Gwendoline Hendry, Elsie Wright, Patricia Brunige, Minnie Tebbutt, Harry Cole, Doris Boddington, Albert sturgeon, Robert Osborne, Gweneth Brockhouse, Effie Phoebe, Helena Bass, Emily Cole.

NOTICES

The Mothering Sunday butterfly tree

Butterflies for prayers, people or situations, are on the back table at St Mary's to then be hung on the tree next to the font.

Mothering Sunday, its complicated!

A space and short service for all who find Mothering Sunday complicated or difficult, today at 4pm at St Mary's.

Draw Near, life-giving habits for Lent booklets, are now available in each church. A donation towards their cost would be appreciated.

ST. MARY'S

The Tower Lighting has been a little temperamental possibly due to an issue with its timing clock. Investigations continue, repair costs unknown at present.

Sunday 22 March –The Kings Men, return for a concert at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £20 and include a glass of wine. Tickets available through Sidey Design, or from Karen Holmes or Jane Jackson.

ST JOHN'S

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm, 17 Mar. Knit and Natter, 1-3pm, 24 Mar.

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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| Mother Louise revlouisebishop@btinternet.com | 07974 018160 |
| Brenda Elldred (Reader) 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 |
| 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 16 March

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, 29 March

(beware, clocks go forward this morning!)

9am St John's

10.30am St Mary's

Maundy Thursday, 2 April

No midweek Eucharist due to clergy being at the 10.30am Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, to which all are invited.

(Coffee & Chat will still take place at St Mary's)

7.30pm The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, including footwashing, and concluding with the Watch before the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday, 3 April at St Mary's

9.30am Easter activities for children & families at St Mary's & the Bede House

12noon A service of Tenebrae

1.30pm The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, and veneration of the Cross

Easter Eve, Sat 4 April at St John's

7.30pm The Paschal Vigil and the First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, Sun 5 April

9am Easter Eucharist at St John's

**10.30am Easter All Age Celebration Eucharist at St Mary's,
with Egg hunt following**

*You are warmly welcomed to all of our services and activities,
please contact Mthr Louise if you have any questions.*