



30 August 2026

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

Music: Organist St. John's: Hilary Goodman **Hymns: 135, 258, 630.**
Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar **Hymns: 498 (omit v4), 76, 297, 477.**

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>

Mon 31 Bank Holiday
6pm Evening Prayer at St John's

Tues 1 2 - 4pm *Lego & Craft Freeplay in the Bede House*
7.30pm Bell ringing practice at St Mary's
7.30pm *Bible Babble introductory evening in the Bede House*
(enquiries to Rev Brenda)

Wed 2 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
7.30pm *St John's PCC at St John's*

Thur 3 10am Holy Eucharist with Coffee and Chat to 12noon at St Mary's
2pm *Mothers Union Meeting at Ruth's home*
7pm Celtic Service in the Chantry Chapel

Fri 4 12noon *Funeral for Derek Harber at St Mary's*
5pm First Friday Club in the Bede House

Sun 6 September Festival of Christ in Creation

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am All Age Eucharist at St Mary's
1pm *Bell Peal at St Mary's*

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

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Romans 12:9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

Post Communion

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

For your Prayers.

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

In memoriam: Derek Harber (funeral Fri 4 Sep, 12noon at St Mary's).

Year's mind anniversaries: John Tobin, Kate Pruden, Frederick Fairbrass, Roy Benham, Mildred Groome, Rose Hayles, Roland Bailey, John Smith, Dorothea Haynes, Annie Lovell, John Browning, Lilian Upton, Raymond York, Erica Parish, Robin Pumffrey, Thomas Oberman, Dorothy York, John Browning, Agnes Todd, Maurice Haynes, Miles Clarke, Dennis Martin, Arthur Skeeles, Phyllis Durrant, Albert Hoole.

NOTICES

It may still be August but it is also time to think about Advent & Christmas services and events. We hope to have an initial flier of dates for your diaries very soon! The National Church theme this year is "The gift of Christmas" and we should have the logos etc very soon to aid our planning.

ST MARY'S

Mothers' Union: meeting at Ruth's home on Thursday 3 September at 2 pm to continue marking our 150th anniversary by listening to the BBC Radio 4 service broadcast on Sunday 9 August, Mary Sumner Day. Visitors welcome but please let Ruth or Jane know beforehand for catering purposes.

Ride, Stride & Drive – 12 September. Mthr Louise & Alan will be attempting to visit all participating churches in the Deanery, a sponsorship form will be at the back of church, in aid of the Historic Churches Trust fundraising on that day (and we receive 50% of the sponsorship monies).

Sun 13 September - The Mayor's Civic Service: with lots of visiting Mayors and other guests. Do come and support Chris in his Mayoral service.

Aim High Festival, 19 September a free festival throughout the town, and St Mary's will be providing a quieter space for refreshments, a space for children, and exhibiting competition entries – more details to follow.

Harvest Service and lunch, 4 October, details to follow

Higham Sparkle, 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". We will also be showcasing the many groups active within our church who are often hidden from view by the general public.

ST JOHN'S

Tea & Cakes 15 September, 20 October

Knit & Natter 22 September, 27 October

REVISED DATE 11 October - Harvest Service and Supper, details to follow

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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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 Sat 5 September
& away training 7-11 September.***