



21 April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St. John's

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's with *KickStart* in the Bede House

12noon *Baptism of Ella-Mae at St John's*

Readings: Acts 4: 5 – 12, John 10: 11 - 18

Music: Organist St. Mary's: Paul Harris, Anthem, The Lord's my Shepherd.

Hymns 457, 302, 307, 461. Organist St. John's: Sam Stringer, **Hymns 794, 681, 507.**

The Online Benefice Service 'Meeting Point' is for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week.

www.stmarysstjohnsunitd.co.uk

Next Week

Mon 22 6pm Evening Prayer at St John's

Tues 23 1-3pm Knit & Natter at St John's

Tues 23 7.30pm Bellringing Practice at St. Mary's

Wed 24 10am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Thurs 25 10am Said Eucharist, with Coffee & Chat at St. Mary's to 12noon

Thurs 25 7pm Celtic Liturgy in the Chantry Chapel

Fri 26 7:30pm Fashion Show in Bede House

Sat 27 9am – noon Farmers' Market Coffee Morning in the Bede House

Sat 27 11.30am Organ Recital by Rosemary Nayyar in St. Mary's

Sat 27 12noon a celebration Eucharist in thanksgiving of Rev Lesley's 30 years of priestly ministry, followed by refreshments, at St John's. All are welcome to share the celebrations.

The Arts Weekend at St Mary's, 19-21 April. A joint project from the Friends of St Mary's and Higham Ferrers Tourism. artsweekendhigham.com

Sunday 28 April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am Parish Eucharist at St. John's & Morning Worship in the Bede House

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

7.30pm The King's Men, Concert in St. Mary's

Collect. Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

John 10:11-18

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

Post Communion.

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:

keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; 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.

Prayers Our prayers have been asked for: Karen Addis, Peace Armstrong, Daniel Boxall, Nola Brockhouse, Albert Clarke, Marian Cox, Christine Franklin, Colin

Gilkes, Reg Harlow, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Robert Matthews, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Freda Pack, Ken & Val Robinson, Stephen Slater, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke, Jack (aged 10). **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Noreen Hogan, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Sara Owst, Gyles Smart.

In Memoriam. Patricia Brunige, Pamela Osborne

Year's mind anniversaries: James Knight, Dulcie Knight, Doris, Shirley & William, Elsie Freeman, Leslie Stuttle, Jane Recht, Fanny James, Frances Dunmore, Diana Warden, Alice O'Dell, Rosa Lawman, Beatrice Dowsett, Agnes Dickenson, Peter Cripps, Henrietta Burdett, Albert Lloyd, Thomas Shaw, Howard McCattine, Roger Davison (priest), Reginald Britten, Edith Lewis, Raymond Burton, Elsie Walker, Angela Fulcher, Thomas Blackwell, Alma Webb, Irene Grieve, John Kirk, Malcolm Wright.

NOTICES

BENEFACTICE

Food Bank current needs, please place in our donation boxes. Tins: meat, fish, vegetables, custard, fruit, rice pudding, soup. Tea, sugar, coffee, jam, washing tabs, washing up liquid, anti-bac spray, toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

The King's Men, of Cambridge, Concert at St. Marys on Sunday 28 April at 7.30pm. Tickets only £15 (includes a glass of wine). Please see Karen Holmes or visit Sidey Designs to purchase tickets. *(added 10/03/24 2w)*

Sponsored Cycle Ride – Women v Cancer Ride the Night 2024

Lesley McCormack and Sue Wager, are taking on the Ride the Night Cycling Challenge in London overnight on 4 to 5 May raising funds for Women v Cancer to help fight breast, cervical and ovarian cancers. Sponsorship forms available in both churches, & online <https://womenscancer.enthuse.com/pf/lesley-mccormack>

LEGO – Mthr Louise is wanting to start a monthly LEGO church for children and parents, but to start it needs lots of LEGO bricks, baseboards, minifigs, and the interesting bits like trees, flowers, animals. Do you have any gathering dust that you can donate? Thank you for the first lots of Lego arriving!

ST. MARY'S

Thanks to all who came and helped out with the Spring Clean, either on the Saturday, or on other days. No treasure found sadly, but much dust, dirt and rubbish evicted! We are looking at our best before we have a lot of visitors enjoying art, concerts and more over the next few weeks. Thank you! Mthr L

Church Flowers. Thank you to all who contributed to the Easter flowers in Church. If you would like to have flowers to mark the memory of a loved one or a special anniversary please talk to Karin or Ruth.

Sidespeople. We are still a few people short for the Sunday team to meet and greet the congregation, hand out orders of service and news sheets, welcome visitors, and tidy away after the service. For details see Sandy.

The Bookshelf. Due to the growth of other book swap locations around town, it has been decided to discontinue our bookshelf from the end of April. After this date remaining books will be donated, and a new church library will start to be set up – watch this space!

ST JOHN'S

27 April, 12noon, a celebration Eucharist in thanks of Rev Lesley's 30 years of priestly ministry, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Tea and Cakes 2–4pm, Tues, 21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 20 Aug, 17 Sep.

Knit and Natter 1–3pm Tues, 23 Apr, 28 May (visit to Milton Ernest), 25 Jun, 23 Jul, 27 Aug, 24 Sep.

Advance notice – our 305th USAF friends will be with us on Sunday 26 May. Due to travel constraints, this service will be at 10am rather than the usual 9am.

Special Services at St. John's

22 June Arts & Music Festival

23 June St. John's Patronal Service

29 Sept Harvest Festival with Supper and Auction

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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Parish Office & Bede House:

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Benefice Administration and enquiries:

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Bede House Bookings only:

thebedehouse@gmail.com

Website

www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk

Churchwardens:

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

St. Mary's; Dave Stuttle 07941 306391, and Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The Benefice administration office is usually open Tuesdays and Fridays;

9.30 to 2.30, email enquiries are preferred but please be patient awaiting a reply!

Mthr Louise will be off duty Friday 26 April.