



21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
6pm Town Civic Carol Service at St Mary's

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns: 45, 85, 318(omit * verses)**
Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns: 188, 6, 295, 10.**

Flowers: Flowers at Our Lady in memory of Elsie Bradshaw remembering 50 years since her passing, donated by her daughter Elizabeth. Flowers at the nave donated by David Pocock in memory of his dear wife Lynne whose anniversary occurs at this time. Flowers at St George are in memory of Ben and John Catlin, a dear Husband and Son, donated by Pat Catlin.

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>

Wed 24 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
2.30pm Crib service at St Mary's
4.30pm Crib service at St Mary's
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity at St Mary's
Thurs 25 9am Christmas Day Celebration Eucharist at St John's

Sunday 28 December 2025 First Sunday of Christmas

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

Tues 30 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 31 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 1 Jan *No midweek service or coffee morning today.*

Sunday 4 January 2026 Epiphany Sunday

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

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so, we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation, 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: Brian Bond, Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Pat Ellis, Peter Etheridge, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Daphne Pullen, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Sue Thompson, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith.

In memoriam:

Year's mind anniversaries: w/c 21 December: William Lawrence, Ellen Danby, Rita Letts, Lynne Pocock, Albert Underwood (Priest), Winifred Lovell, Florence Knight, Ellen Blackwell, Elizabeth Eggenton, Samuel Cunningham, Stanley Rieley, Ivy Bennett, Arthur Hall, Vera Martin, Paul Wills, Rosemary Palmer, Charles Hawes, Bertie White, Elizabeth Hunt, Margaret Longstaff, Donald Taylor, George Taylor, Agnes Gooding, Frances Jennings, Magdalena Gesch, Violet Savage, Betty Brewer, Cyril Durrant, Colin Crosbie, Robert Emmett, Lucy Bush, Alice Horn, Myra Briggs.

w/c 28 December: Zilpha Towers, Daphne Robinson, George Barnett, Barbara York, Doris Horner, Joan Wright, Loretta Chambers, Frederick Matson, Albert Kilsby, John Hendry, Fred Simmons, Cyril Garratt, John Douglas, Margaret Hunt, Robert Fiwer, Rose Felce, James Hendry, Albert Brockhouse, Paul Dunton, Dennis Newell, Rita Mann, Angela Clifton, Nellie Lines, Rose Evans, Thomas Groome, Mary Simpson, Helen Simpson, Alan Fokerd, Megan Smith, Maurice Brown, Norma Horn, Samuel Greatorex, Kathleen Britten, John Cooper, Susan Batchelor, Robert Daly.

NOTICES

A big thank you to all who have helped with our Advent & Christmas events of all sorts to date or will be involved with services over the next week. As we know these things do not just happen but need a lot of mostly hidden work behind the scenes or around the edges, at the door etc. Without your help this season would be the poorer for our parishes and visitors. Mthr Louise

A 2026 date for your diaries - We are all invited to Rev Yvonne's licensing service at St Mary the Virgin, Finedon at 7pm on January 22. RSVP to their churchwardens and please consider car sharing due to limited parking near to the church. Details on the noticeboards and in the mailchimp mailer.

ST. MARY'S

St Mary's Mothers' Union wish you all a very Happy Christmas. We meet again on Thursday 8 January 2026 when we'll be going out for lunch, venue to be confirmed in the New Year.

ST JOHN'S

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm, 20 Jan, 17 Mar.

Knit and Natter, 1-3pm, 27 Jan, 24 Feb

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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Churchwardens:

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St. Mary's; Nico Springman and Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

Please send enquiries by email if possible, and a reply will be sent as soon as our administrator Ria is next in the office. (*Office closed on Tuesday 30 December*)

Mthr Louise is off duty on Monday 29 December

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmastide & New Year