



1 February 2026

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: 113 (omit *verses), 397, 112.

Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, Hymns: In Order of Service

Anthem: Like a candle flame

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 3 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 4 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 5 10am Said Eucharist with coffee and chat to 12noon at St Mary's
12noon Mothers Union lunch in the Bede House
Fri 6 5.30pm First Friday Club in the Bede House

Sunday 8 February 2026 The Second 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

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, 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: Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Ian Challen, 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, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Sue Thompson, Simon Wiles, 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: John Pack, Harold Binder, James Patrick, Naomi Brittin, Madge Daly, Muriel Richardson, 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.

NOTICES

Last weeks in memoriam list included Peter Austin, from Surrey, who is not Peter Austin, Bedesman of this town. We apologise for any confusion caused.

Old Palm Crosses – please return these to church for Ash Wednesday use please. Collections in both churches, thank you.

Lent Study Course –Stephen Cottrell's “The Things He Carried”. *A journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week*. Please let me know if you are interested, we are looking at Wednesday afternoon, Thursday evening, and if there is interest possibly also online. More info to follow. Mthr Louise

Mothers Union. Our January meeting was cancelled for various reasons, so we're going to try again for a fish and chip lunch at 12.30 pm in the Bede House on Thursday 5th February. We would be delighted to welcome any other members of the parish family who'd like to join us. There will be a list at the back of church for you to sign up, or speak to Ruth or Jane.

ST. MARY'S

Farmers Market Coffee mornings 2026: after reviewing 2025, we are changing the timing slightly to 9.30 to 12.30 but the price for coffee & cake is still £3.50!

ST JOHN'S

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

Snowdrops at St John's

If you visit to see the emerging snowdrops and aconites please keep to the mown and paved paths. Paths help keep feet from squashing flowers.

Snowdrop Weekend, Sat 21 10am to 4pm, and Sun 22 11am to 4pm.

As well as supporting the event by coming along, could you offer some help? More hands make for lighter work and a less tired Snowdrop Team. Thank you!

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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

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 Monday 2 February