



25 January 2026

The Conversion of Paul

Welcome to our services today

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
4pm Lego Church in the Bede House

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns:** 510, 704, 365.

Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns:** 234, 498(omit v4), 272, 495.

Anthem: Christ be our light

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 26 7.30pm *St John's PCC at the Vicarage*
Tues 20 1-3pm, Knit & Natter at St John's
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 21 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 22 10am Said Eucharist with coffee and chat to 12noon at St Mary's
1pm *Interment at St John's*
Fri 30 7pm Choir Practice at St Mary's
Sat 31 Farmers Market; Bell Peal, Coffee & Cake in the Bede House (note new times 9.30am to 12.30pm) and Recital in St Mary's

Sunday 1 February 2026 Candlemas

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

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Acts 9:1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he

might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so, they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision¹ a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So, Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Matthew 19:27-end

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or

mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Post Communion

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; 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, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith.

In memoriam: Peter Austin, Ian Barrie, Brian Bond

Year's mind anniversaries: Kate Pitts, Elsie Eady, Albert Knight, Francis Wagstaff, Natalie Woods, Peter Newman, Enid Wagstaff, Margaret Allen, Maragret Longstaff, Michael Best, Sally Measures, Janice Newman, Spencer Leeson (Bishop), Mary Dee, Elizabeth Horn, Emily Caswell, Harold Carmichael, Mabel Robinson, Dorothy Ball, Albert Valentine, James Stokes, William Martin, Ethel Hill, Cecil Holyoak, George Wagstaff, Robert Cowell, Oliver Holyoak, Derrick Green, Laura Warr, Leonard Groome, Sharon Purvis, Oliver Holyoak, Mavis Brittin, Leslie Jennings, Nellie Compton, Daisy Foster, Susan Darnell, George Groome, Clare Carmichael, Bertha Knight, Emmeline Burrows, Florence Wood, John Pentelow, Maynard Baxter.

NOTICES

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 an afternoon, an 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!

Lego Church

This returns on Sunday 25 January at 4pm in the Bede House. What story shall we look at and build in Lego? Please let us know if you are coming, for catering purposes, thank you.

ST JOHN'S

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm, 17 Mar. Knit and Natter, 1-3pm, 27 Jan, 24 Feb

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 Wednesday 28 January