



26 April 2026

## The Fourth Sunday after Easter

### 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:** Hilary Goodman **Hymns: 794, 664, 696.**

**Organist St. Mary's:** Rosemary Nayyar **Hymns: 105, 457, 282, 119.**

**Anthem:** The green blade riseth

**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 27 6pm Evening Prayer at St John's  
Tues 28 1-3pm Knit & Natter at St John's  
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's  
Wed 29 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's  
Thur 30 10am Holy Eucharist with Coffee and Chat to 12noon at St Mary's  
7pm Celtic Service in the Chantry Chapel  
Fri 1 5.30pm First Friday Club in the Bede House  
7pm Choir Practice in St Mary's

### Sun 3 May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

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 2:42-end

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Luke 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again, Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

## 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**

## For your Prayers.

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

In memoriam: Stuart Wilby

Year's mind anniversaries: Elsie Walker, Angela Fulcher, Thomas Blackwell, Alma Webb, Irene Grieve, John Kirk, Malcolm Wright, Annie Lovell, Annie Cherry, Ray Hegarty, Rose Newman, Geoffery Palmer, Cedric Briggs, Walter Grant, Frank Jones, William Thompson, Edith Short, Anna Sauntson, Karel Smith, Charles Johnson, Betty Hill.

## NOTICES

We will have a new curate in the benefice from 28 June 2026, our fabulous Licenced Lay Reader Brenda Elldred.

Brenda will be made a deacon at Peterborough Cathedral at 11am on the 28 June. I have therefore decided that we will have no morning services in the Benefice on this day so people can attend the cathedral should they wish (it would be useful to the Cathedral to have an idea of numbers who may go there).

We will then have a welcome Eucharist in the evening at St Mary's, 6pm, and I hope a lot of our church family will be able to attend along with Brenda's family and friends. Afterwards we will retire to the Bede House to continue the celebrations.

## ST MARY'S

**NEW! Tea, Biscuits & Church** started last week and we had a good brainstorming session of what we might like it to be. So the first TB&C format will be on 17 May, 4pm in the Bede House.

St Mary's APCM will be on Sun 24 May following the morning service. Revision of the Electoral Roll is now underway, please speak to Jane our Electoral Roll officer if you wish to be added to the Roll.

**Music At Mary's** Some dates for your diaries:

**Saturday 16 May 7.30pm**, The Greatest Love Songs with Susannah Ruth, tickets from Karen or Jane

**Friday 12 June**, Lumos Experiences, Candlelight concert of Fleetwood Mac music, bar available. Tickets from the Lumos website online.

## ST JOHN'S

**Tea & Cakes** 19 May, 16 June, 21 July

**Knit & Natter** 28 April, 26 May, 23 June, 28 July

**USAF 305<sup>th</sup> commemoration** 24 May at 9am

**Patronal Festival** 21 June, all welcome to join us as we celebrate our special day.

**26 July** we will have a brass band concert in church, details to follow.

### For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Mother Louise [revlouisebishop@btinternet.com](mailto:revlouisebishop@btinternet.com)

07974 018160

Brenda Elldred (Reader) [brenda@elldred.co.uk](mailto:brenda@elldred.co.uk)

07816 771702

Parish Office & Bede House:

01933 741140

Benefice Administration and enquiries:

[stmarys.higham@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.higham@gmail.com)

Bede House Bookings only:

[thebedehouse@gmail.com](mailto:thebedehouse@gmail.com)

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](http://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 27 April & 1 May.***