



27 April 2025

The Second Sunday of 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 St Mary's Church (not the Bede House today)

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns: 216, 236, 810.**

Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns: 468, 103, 342, 352.**

Anthem: The Strife is O'er.

The Benefice Online Services; 'Meeting Point' and 'Celtic Midweek Liturgy' are for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week. <https://www.stmaryhighamferrers.org/online-worship>

- Tues 29 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 30 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thurs 1 10am Midweek Eucharist with Coffee & chat to 12noon at St Mary's
2pm Mothers Union meeting at Ruth's house
Fri 2 5.30 to 7pm First Friday Club in the Bede House

Sunday 4 May 2025 The Third Sunday of Easter

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

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him

at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 5:27-32

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **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: Karen Addis, Brian Bond, Linda Bond, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Peter Etheridge, Freda Fernyhough, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Freda Pack, Daphne Pullen, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Sue Thompson, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke.
St John's: Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Arthur & Anita Wright.

In memoriam: Nita Coppen, Pope Francis

Year's mind anniversaries: 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, Alfred Edmunds, Walter Dickenson, Kate Ling, Janet Morris.

NOTICES

BENEFACTICE

A huge thank you for all who helped in any way with our Easter services or joined in with them at both churches. It was heartwarming and emotional to see so many people in our churches journeying through Holy Week and celebrating the fact that we are Easter people. We met church family and their families, people coming back after a time away, and many visitors some of whom it was their first time here. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

ST. MARY'S

Mothers Union. Our meeting on Thursday 1st May at 2 pm will be at Ruth's home and for members only. We will be planning our entry for the Chichele Garden wheelbarrow competition. Jane Smeathers.

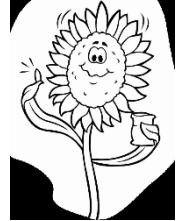
Cards – Lots of lovely photo cards in many designs for sale in church in collaboration with Pam. Now added, a further selection of unique handmade cards which has just been refilled.

See the dresser on the right side of the church, all the cards cost just £1 each.

31 May Farmers Market, the Vicar's Version – advance warning of coffee & cakes with a twist!

It's the time of year for plants – **can you grow a few extra bedding or veg plants, could you split some of your border perennials?**

If house plants are your thing, I have lots of cache pots that we could put them in. I'm also looking for child friendly ideas for this coffee morning and if you have any ideas of other new things to try, come chat to Mthr Louise.



11 May: Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM), after the 10.30am service.

ST JOHN'S

Knit and Natter, 1-3pm 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 26 August

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August

25 May 2025 Service for American Memorial Day, for the 305th USAF

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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St. Mary's; Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The benefice office is open Tuesdays and Fridays.

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 Mon 28 April, and Sat. 3 May