



27 September 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
Lego Church in the Bede House. 4.00 - 5.30pm

Music: Organist St. John's: Hilary Goodman **Hymns: 645, 629, 477.**

Organist St. Mary's: Sam Stringer **Hymns: 338 (omit v6), 420, 431, 235.**

Flowers: Nave altar flowers have been kindly donated by Chris and Graham Newell in memory of their daughter Rebecca and beloved parents.

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 29 7.30pm Bellingring practice night at St Mary's
Wed 30 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 1 10am Holy Eucharist with Coffee and Chat to 12noon at St Mary's
2pm Mothers Union Meeting - meeting at Ruth's home for a Wave of Prayer service. Visitors are very welcome, just let Ruth or Jane know in advance for catering purposes.
7pm Celtic Service in the Chantry Chapel
Fri 2 5.30pm First Friday Club in the Bede House

Sun 4 October The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am All Age Harvest Eucharist at St Mary's, followed by Harvest Lunch
2pm Baptism of Jack & Daisy at St Mary's
6pm *Harvest Choral Evensong at St Mary's Finedon*

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

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So, they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Post Communion

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For your Prayers.

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

In memoriam: Tina Reavey

Year's mind anniversaries: Ruth Rowthorn, Irene Hawkins, Jennifer Zeigler, Mark Payne, Jessica Dowdeswell, Ernest Neal, Albert Dunmore, Lucy Brittin, Tony Lovell, Alexander French, Bernard Groome, Jack Pentelow, Peter White, Barbara Hignell, Peter Hogarth, Harold Hoar (Priest), Alfred Smith, Doris Lowe, Cyril Clarke, Florence Walker, Roger Clay.

NOTICES

A message from Mary Harber

Mary and Julia would like to thank everyone for all the kindness and love shown to us over the loss of our dear Derek, it has really helped us a lot to know he was loved so much. Also a big thank you to Mother Louise, Brenda, Paul and Linda, the Choir and Rosemary for such a lovely and moving funeral service they arranged for Derek, it was very special.

Posters & Publicity

Now is the time of year when we start to have a lot of posters to design and publicity to attend to (mainly online). If you have the skills and some time available would you be able to help with this? Mthr Louise

Children's Society

This year's box collection is a fantastic £534.10, thank you to all who have collected their pennies for 12 months. This has been further bolstered by the Cream Teas held in August which raised a further £263. If you wish to sign up to be a box collector to aid this charity please contact Ria Jefferies.

ST MARY'S

Harvest Service and lunch, 4 October, tickets on sale now from Karen & Jane

Higham Sparkle, 21 November

Stalls, refreshments, music and more alongside displays in church by youth groups and young people on the theme of "A recycled Christmas Story". We will also be showcasing the many groups active within our church who are often hidden from view by the general public.

ST JOHN'S

Tea & Cakes 20 October Knit & Natter 27 October

11 October - Harvest Service at 3.30pm with Supper at 4.45pm. Supper tickets are now sold out, sorry!

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Mother Louise revlouisebishop@btinternet.com 07974 018160

Revd Brenda brenda@elldred.co.uk 07816 771702

Parish Office & Bede House: 01933 741140 N.B - phonline temporary of service, please email instead

Benefice Administration and enquiries: stmarys.higham@gmail.com
Bede House Bookings only: 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

Churchwardens:

St. John's; Arthur Wright and Andrew Wager 07789 286398

St. Mary's; Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

Mthr Louise is on leave from 21 September - 3 October. Pastoral Enquiries to Rev Brenda, all other urgent enquiries to churchwardens please or send an email to be looked at on my return. Thank you.