



21 September 2025

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Welcome to our services today

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's, with Junior Church
4pm Harvest Praise at St John's

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns: 593, 787, 454.**

Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns: 477, 495, 366, 476.**

Flowers St Mary's: Those at Our Lady donated by Graham and Christine Newall in memory of their parents and daughter Rebecca. Those at St Francis donated by D and B Holyoak in memory of family and friends they have lost over the years.

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/online-worship>

- Mon 22 6pm Evening Prayer at St John's
Tues 23 1-3pm Knit & Natter at St John's
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 24 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thurs 25 10am Midweek Eucharist with Coffee & Chat to 12noon at St Mary's
7pm Celtic Service of prayer & meditation in the Chantry Chapel
Sat 27 *Farmers Market Day with Bell peal, Coffee & Cake in the Bede House and Recital in church*

Sunday 28 September 2025 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Collect

O almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain

and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, Michael Harvey, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Freda Pack, Daphne Pullen, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Sue Thompson, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke, Shelley & Khaly. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith, Arthur & Anita Wright.

In memoriam: Jonathon Swailes, Jacqueline Martin

Year's mind anniversaries: George Trafford, Charles Gomm, Louisa Parker, Donald York, Leonard Batt, Louisa Trafford, William Fitzwilliam, Major Haig Powell, Ivy Hudson, Lily Hanson, Deborah Sargent, Philip Ward, Samuel Hubbard, Basil Coffey, Edna Youle, Frances Bryant, Olive Woods, Edith Stokes, Edward Wainwright, Adrian Smith, Sarah Mealing, Frank Neville, Charles Richardson, George Allen, George Chesters, Hugh Carson, Madeline Sturgen, Ruth Rowthorn, Irene Hawkins.

NOTICES

Thank you from our Mayor, Higham Ferrers Town Council, our local RAF Association and the RAF Cadets, and many other visitors with regard to our part in last Sunday's day of church service, Blue Plaque unveiling, and the commemorative Battle of Britain event in the Bede House. Weaving together a normal Sunday service with cadets, serving Air Force personnel, veterans and visitors went well, and our friendliness and accommodation of visitors was much commented on. Interestingly many guests were visiting St Mary's for the first ever time, and some had not been to a church anywhere before but came because of the anniversary or by personal invitation. I hope they may return in the future.

Mthr Louise

ST. MARY'S

5 October - All Age Harvest Service; collecting long life items and donations for Encompass Foodbank and Recovery House.

Harvest Lunch in the Bede House following the mornings service, tickets now available from Karen or Jane.

18 October –70s and 80s music fan? Come and enjoy our own 70s and 80s Disco in the Bede House, 7.30pm.

Faculties are displayed in the porch; for the replacement of the broken gas line in the Bede House enabling us to have heating again around the middle of October and for the disposal of redundant altar rails sitting in the Lady Chapel.

Diary date **Higham Sparkle** – Sat 22 November.

ST JOHN'S

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm, 21 October, 18 November

Knit and Natter, 1-3pm, 28 October, 25 November

Harvest Praise - 21 September 4pm

Diary date **St John's Christmas Craft & Gift Fair** – Sat 15 November.

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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Website

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Churchwardens:

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

St. Mary's; Nico Springman and Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The benefice office is usually open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 2.30pm.

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 22 September