



9 March 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our services today

9am: Parish Eucharist at St John's & Breakfast Church in the Bede House

10.30am: Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

Music: Organist St. John's: Hilary Goodman, **Hymns: 121, 127, 131.**

Organist St. Mary's: Alan Cafaude, **Hymns: 67, 70, 307, 495.**

Anthem: God be in my Head, Walford Davies.

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>

Mon 10 6pm Evening Prayer in the Chantry Chapel

Tues 11 7.30pm Bellingring practice at St Mary's

Wed 12 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's

Thurs 13 10am Said Eucharist with Coffee & chat to 12noon at St Mary's

Thurs 13 7pm Celtic Evening Service in the Chantry Chapel

Sunday 16 March 2025 Second Sunday of Lent

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's with *KickStart*

Collect Prayer.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that

the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Luke 4:1-13 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.” ’ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” ’ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Post Communion Prayer.

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through 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, Liz Boughton, Nola Brockhouse, Simon Brown, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Lynda & Peter Etheridge, Freda Fernyhough, Christine Franklin, Andrew Fulcher, Colin Gilkes, Sandra Hill, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Emily Ogden, Freda Pack, Val Robinson, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke.

St John's: Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Nick Kirk, Lesley Littlejohn, Dr Northover, Brenda May, Lynn Redgagte, Arthur & Anita Wright.

In memoriam: Ken Robinson (funeral – Nene Valley Crematorium, Mon. 10 March at 12noon), Jon Green.

Year's mind anniversaries: Rachel Lee, Harriett Hunt, Florence Walker, Rose Brown, Mary Thompson, James Sharpe, Alfred Martin, Glen Haynes, Maud Barton, John Pashler, David Smalley, Gladys Cole, Gordon Wilson, Bertha Simon, Olive Espin, John Martin, Emma Herbert, Andrew Pringle, Pauline Aldous, Alice Smith, Christina Kennedy, Robert Turner, Ronald Cox, John Twelvetree, Winifred Reynolds, Jane Richardson, Florence Upton, Phyllis Bryant, Peter Hignell.

NOTICES

BENEFACTICE

30 March – Mothering Sunday This is a 5th Sunday and usually we would have a joint service, but because of the special nature of the day we will have services at both churches.

In the afternoon there will be another **Mothering Sunday – It's complicated!** service and space for all who find the day hard, emotional or complicated. The clocks also change on this day, be warned!

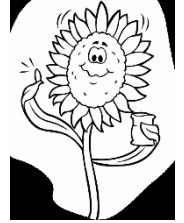
Lent Study – your views are requested. With our Diocesan emphasis on prayer, would you like to study or focus on prayer this Lent? Possibly Thursdays at 11am, an evening or online. Would you like to focus on scripture about prayer, or undertake a Pilgrim course on prayer, or just look at different types of prayer with a space to experience them? Let me know please, Mthr Louise.

ST. MARY'S

Celtic Evening services restart Thursday 13 March in the Chantry Chapel. A short Celtic service with 15 minutes of meditative silence with our Lord.

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. If you have any ideas of other new things to try, come chat to Mthr Louise.



Cards – Lots of lovely photo cards in many designs for sale in church in collaboration with Pam. See the dresser on the right side of the church.

ST JOHN'S

Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) – 23 March, after the 9am service

Knit and Natter, 1-3pm 25 March, 22 April, 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 26 August
Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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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 01933 624530, and Andrew Wager 07789 286398
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 Friday 14 March.