



7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent Welcome to our services today

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

Music: Organist St. John's: Sam Stringer, **Hymns: 46, 75, 30.**
Organist St. Mary's: Alan Cafaude, **Hymns: in order of service.**

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 8 *1.30pm School carols rehearsal at St Mary's*
Tues 9 *2.30pm Nursery rehearsal at St Mary's*
7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 10 *10am Nursery rehearsal at St Mary's*
1pm School Carol Service at St Mary's
5pm School Carol Service at St Mary's
Thurs 11 *10am Said Eucharist at St Mary's with Coffee & Chat to 12noon*
Fri 12 *4pm Nursery performance at St Mary's*
Sat 13 *1pm Wedding of Lorna & Charlie at St Mary's*

Sunday 14 December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
3.30pm Chelveston Carols of Praise at St John's

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." 'Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his

hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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: Brian Bond, Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Pat Ellis, Peter Etheridge, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Daphne Pullen, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Sue Thompson, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith.

In memoriam: Paul Harris

Year's mind anniversaries: Doris Tilley, Elsie Smith, Karen Wharton, Evelyn Carpenter, George Evans, Gerald Sanders, Doris Newell, Violet Ingram, Lister Allison, Cyril Cox, Winifred Binder, Sybil Sanders, Michael Murphy, Patricia Wilson, Joyce Farey, Violet Seckington, Agnes Manning, Bertie Stokes, Agnes Mobbs, Elsie Briggs, Lily Richards, Frank Pockson, Frederick Knight, Thomas Richardson, Timothy Mould, Sarah Spriggs, Annie Lines, Edward Ireson, Glen Harwood, Jo Murdoch, Leonard Green, Daisy Edwards, Graeme Whitecross, Elspet Higginbotham, Diane Simms, Cynthia Hobson.

NOTICES

A date for your diaries - We are all invited to Rev Yvonne's licensing service at St Mary the Virgin, Finedon at 7pm on January 22. RSVP to their churchwardens and please consider car sharing due to limited parking near to the church. Details on the noticeboards and in the mailchimp mailing.

ST. MARY'S

School & Nursery Christmas Services: A note is on the back table with days & times with details of how many volunteers needed, please complete if you can help. Thank you.

Wed 17 December from 11am onwards - Church tidyup pre-Christmas services and post all schools visits. If you are able to spare a half-hour or hour we can get floors swept and hoovered, and surfaces dusted and polished, before our Christmas services start. We'll have the kettle on!

Blue Christmas Service, 4pm, Sat 20 December

Civic Carol Service, 6pm, Sun 21 December

Crib Services, Christmas Eve, 2.30 & 4.30pm

Midnight Mass, Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

ST JOHN'S

Chelveston Carols of Praise, 3.30pm, 14 December

Christmas Day Celebration Eucharist 9am

Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm, 20 Jan, 17 Mar. Knit and Natter, 1-3pm, 27 Jan, 24 Feb

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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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

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 on Monday 8 December