The Diocese of Peterborough Find us on WhatsApp THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

United Benefice ST. MARY'S HIGHAM FERRERS ST. JOHN'S CHELVESTON

29 November 2026

Advent Sunday
Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
4pm Christingle Service at St Mary's

Music: Organist St. John's: Keith Green **Hymns:** 46, 510(omit verses 1,2,5) 41
Organist St. Mary's: Alan Cufaude **Hymns:** 11, 9, 3, 393
Anthem: *Christ be our Light*

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 1 Dec	2pm Bible Babble in the Bede House
	7.30pm Bible Babble in the Vicarage (not Rev Brenda's house)
	7.30pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 2	10.00am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 3	10.00am Holy Eucharist at St Mary's with Coffee and Chat to 12noon
Fri 4	5.30pm First Friday Club, in the Bede House
	6.00pm Choir Practice in St Mary's
Sat 5	2.00pm Christmas Wreath Workshop in the Bede House

Sun 6 Dec Second Sunday in Advent

9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am	All Age Eucharist with Baptism of Amelia at St Mary's

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind, just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For your Prayers.

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

In memoriam:

Year's mind anniversaries: Emmeline Parkin, Nellie Corbyn, Percy Felce, Olive Dearsley, Frank Sudborough, Edward Buxton, Winifred Watts, Albert Kilsby, Doris Walker, Alfred Smith, Sheila Holpin, Frederick Chapman, Douglas Rolton, Rose Britchford, Thirza Whiting, Jack Wilson, Robert Seaton, Francis Barton, David Pugh, Norma Finn, Stephen Kirk, Richard Blackwell, Alan Matthias, Caleb Stokes, Grace Cunningham, Melbourne Bass, Harry Pashler, Gerry Darnell, John Roddis, Frederick Wilson, Edith Slater, Amos Martin, John Swann, Douglas Smith, Richard Llewellyn, Hilda Ford.

NOTICES

Christmas Services – these are very soon! Please share details with family and friends, share posters online etc.

ST MARY'S

Christmas Sparkle – A huge thank you to everyone on Team Sparkle; it really does take a lot of effort by a big group of people coming together to have things across all our buildings as well as outside. There were lots of lovely comments about what we offered, many interesting conversations had and invitations to Christmas events given. Great weather was a bonus and the numbers of people attending throughout the town was up on last year, which showed through in monies raised and stallholders reporting very good days. Same time next year?

Christingle – Sun 29 November at 4pm

Fun, light hearted, and for many the start to all things Christmas. It is for the young and young at heart, you don't have to have a child with you to attend. All are welcome to come and be a part of it, there is a magic of children with lit candles in the dark singing Away in a Manger that is so very special. #singChristingle

Christmas flowers: If you would like to donate to their costs in memory of a loved one, please see Karin or Ruth who thank you for your continued support.

Advent Nativity sets, scenes and more.
Throughout Advent my series of Advent things will be all over the church, last year was 18, this year it is in excess of 30. Look up, look down, look sideways – some traditional, some not, some large complete sets, some just one or two figures. See how many you can find, and which one will be your favourite? Tell your friends and come explore!

5 December 2pm – Christmas Wreath Workshop in the Bede House
Always a fun creative activity to do, why not get a group together to go to this? Tickets available from Nicky, details on noticeboard posters.

School Christmas Visits are mainly from Monday 7 to Wednesday 16 December and stewarding assistance will be required. A signup sheet is on the back table.

Mothers' Union members will not be holding our usual meeting in December. We will instead be joining other branches at the Deanery Advent Carol Service at St Peter's, Irthlingborough on Tuesday 8th December at 2 pm. This service is open to visitors.

ST JOHN'S

Tea & Cake along with Knit & Natter take a break in December

Chelveston's Carols of Praise is on 13 December at 3pm, followed by festive refreshments. All welcome to our informal Carol Service.

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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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 Mon 30 November & unavailable on Wed 2 December

Rev Brenda is currently off duty and recovering well