



# Saints Together

the monthly news update for St Mary's and St John's

## Services for the month of February 2022

### Sunday Meeting Point

The **Online Benefice Service** continues – join in alongside either the services in church, or at the usual online time of 10 am. The service is available on the website all day and accessible on the website archive from Monday.

### Wednesday - Online Service

Join in if you can at 7 pm for this peaceful online service of readings, music, prayer and time for meditation – it is also available to access earlier or later to suit you – [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk).

### Thursday - Holy Eucharist

10 am at St Mary's, except on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February when it will be held at St John's.

### The Third Sunday before Lent – 13<sup>th</sup> February

9 am Family Eucharist at St John's  
 9 am Morning Worship at St Mary's (Bede House)  
 10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary's

### The Second Sunday before Lent - 20<sup>th</sup> February

9 am Family Eucharist at St John's  
 9 am Breakfast Church at St Mary's (Bede House)  
 10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary's

### The Sunday next before Lent – 27<sup>th</sup> February

9 am Family Eucharist at St John's  
 10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary's,  
 followed by shared Thank You Celebration Lunch in the Bede House

### The First Sunday of Lent – 6<sup>th</sup> March

9 am Family Eucharist at St John's  
 9 am Morning Worship at St Mary's (Bede House)  
 10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary's

## Orders of service

Available on the website and some are emailed out each week with this news sheet.

If you need to check ongoing Covid-safe measures then please contact

- Brenda Eldred on 07816 771702, [brenda@eldred.co.uk](mailto:brenda@eldred.co.uk), for St John's;
- Dave Stuttle on 07941 306391, [dchs50@virginmedia.com](mailto:dchs50@virginmedia.com), for St Mary's.

## Prayers

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### Zoom morning prayer

All welcome to join in on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 am for a short service of prayer to start the day – the Zoom link is the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847268214?pwd=MmErWkpHVGFMR2lxM3B2dzNUaHRxZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 4726 8214 Passcode: 270307

### A prayer for the day

is posted each day on our website.

Other prayer resources are available via the [Church of England website](#).

### Spiritual resources online

You can find much more support online by visiting [our website](#): online services, resources and fun activities for children and families.

### St Mary's and St John's are open for private prayer

- St. John's is open daily during daylight hours.
- St Mary's is open daily between 10 am and 4 pm.
- Necessary safety measures are in place for everyone to be safe.

### Praying for Afghanistan & Ukraine:

We continue to pray for the people of Afghanistan and the Ukraine facing ongoing difficulties and uncertainty.

### Praying for our Baptism Families, Wedding Couples and Departed Friends:

We have a special Prayer Board near the font with photos and details of those who have been recently baptised or married in St Mary's – and also a Board on the North Aisle for those whose funerals have been held over recent months. Please remember all these special and beloved 'children of God' in your prayers.

*Special thanks to Derek Harber for designing and making the Prayer Boards.*

### Baptisms in February:

Please pray for Elizabeth Green, Olivia Lovell, Tom Alexander, Isabella Wills and Braxton Gilson who will all be baptised at St Mary's during February.

### Leading your church into growth (LyCiG)

We continue to make praying for growth our first priority and as we pray the LyCiG prayer in our public worship and personal prayer.

*God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Please use the prayer pages in the weekly service sheet to help you pray for our churches and their mission during the week.

# Benefice Update

## Deanery Confirmation



Congratulations to all those confirmed on 12<sup>th</sup> December by Bishop Donald, and especially Lowri Robinson, Lilly Matta, Julian Murdoch, Kathleen Meredith, Sandy Coleman, Ria Jefferies and Barbara McCathie from St Mary's. Here's a photo of Lowri and Julian receiving their Confirmation Candles and some of the confirmation itself.



We also handed out candles at the last Adult Confirmation Session, and here are Ria, Sandy and Kathleen who were confirmed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, plus Sue who accompanied her mum Barbara (Barbara was unfortunately poorly and couldn't join us that evening) and Lisa, who will be confirmed later this year.



## Christmas Thank You's!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebration so special – at St Mary's our choir were magnificent and our bells rang out the joy of the Good News, at both churches our Christmas flowers and decorations were glorious and all our services required a fantastic joint effort and everyone to 'do their part' – thank you one and all and wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

## Candlemas Benefice Celebration

It was so good to celebrate the end of the Christmas season at Candlemas with a special joint Benefice service at St Mary's at 10.30 am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January. For future Benefice Sundays (when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month) we may be able to meet for our morning Eucharist at St John's, but for safety reasons due to Covid it makes sense to gather together in the larger space of St Mary's for now.



## Higham Deanery Evensong

We enjoyed joining together as a Deanery at St Mary's, Finedon on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January for Choral Evensong. A combined choir from Higham and Finedon sang the Dunleavy Responses, Stanford in C and Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. Our Rural Dean, Revd Chris Youngman welcomed everyone, and at the end thanked Revd Richard Coles and Revd Michelle Dalliston for their ministry in the Deanery and wished them the best for their respective retirement and new post in Peterborough.

## Benefice Administrator

Hello, I'm Ria your new administrator. First of all can I say thank you to Michelle and the PCC for allowing me this opportunity. And thank you to the wider church family for embracing us over the years.

As some of you know I've been married to Jonathan for six years - we had our reception in the Bede House - and we have a five year old son, Thomas. Jonathan also has nine year old Lauren from a previous relationship.

Since having Thomas I have been a stay-at-home mum. For the last two years I have been volunteering with the church fundraising team, and at Raunds Community Library. Before that I had a career in children's nursing, then ran a vintage tearoom. I am interested in history, I give talks on food history and take part in 1940's events. I also like reading, cross stitch, music, and the theatre.

I look forward to taking on this role at this exciting time for the church, helping it to continue to flourish. I also look forward to getting to know you all so please come and say hello when at church, and from the beginning of February when I will be around in the Parish Office most Wednesday and Thursday mornings.



## Christingle Collection

If you would like to support the Children's Society through the Christingle collection please take a Candle Collecting tube from the back of church or speak to Alison Oberman.

### Looking Ahead

As we move into a new phase for our Benefice we can start to look ahead and begin to draw up our Benefice Profile. So much has changed over the last three years and the experience of Covid has given us a much wider understanding of what 'church' is. We need to hear what our community needs and to include the voices and views of a whole range of people - those of us who are the mainstay of our church family, as well as those who are part of our wider networks - and we especially need to ask our children and young people what they think. We can begin to capture some of this over the next few weeks in a variety of ways and then share in refining the document before it is finalised. We'll be exploring this first at our services on 13<sup>th</sup> February. If you have thoughts, comments or ideas do please let Revd Michelle or our churchwardens know.

### 6<sup>th</sup> February Celebrations



On the anniversary of her accession on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Her Majesty celebrated 70 years as our Queen – and we celebrated this great occasion at both churches by wearing special hats and red, white and blue.

At St Mary's All Age Service Brownies and Guides were on Parade and the children decorated 'Crown Cakes' for everyone to enjoy after the service.



See who you can spot under the brims in these photos!





### The World Day of Prayer 2022

The Higham Ferrers service for The World Day of Prayer 2022 will be held at 10 am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Hope Methodist Church. This year it is being organised by the women in England Wales and Northern Ireland based on Jeremiah 4 vv 1 - 14, "I know the plans I have for you". Everyone is welcome to join the service.

### Welcome to our New Archdeacon!

Our new Archdeacon of Oakham, Revd Alison Booker, was licensed at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February. We welcome her as she takes up her new role and look forward to meeting her soon, Please pray for her and her family as she settles into the Diocese.

## Exploring Ministry

Is God calling you?! There are regular events being held by the Diocese to help you explore a call to ministry in the church – this might be as a PCC member, a churchwarden, or to be involved with a variety of ministry through children's work, youth work, pastoral care, including being a Reader, or in ordained ministry. If you would like a chat about any of this please talk to Michelle or Brenda.

## Saying Goodbye and a Thank You to you all

Revd Michelle's final Sunday with us will be 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 after which there will be a shared lunch in the Bede House. Despite the difficulties of Covid so much has happened over the last three years, and we have all shared together in some exciting new initiatives and projects and seen our churches and communities grow in all kinds of ways. Our services on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the lunch afterwards will be a time to say thank you to our amazing volunteers who have been absolutely incredible in giving time, commitment, energy and enthusiasm and to celebrate all we have achieved together in faith and love. Please put the date in your diaries and come along and share the invite with others too.

## Benefice Logo

We are trialling a Benefice Logo, using the same colour format as the Benefice website and working towards a uniform appearance for all publications. This is a work in progress so if you have any comments they would be welcomed.



Joyfully Sharing the Love of Christ

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## News from St Mary's

### February Celebrations

A personal one here, from Jane. We welcomed our second grandson, Toby Sidney Fuller, on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 😊

### Open again!

St Mary's is now open every day between 10 am and 4 pm. Thank you to those who are popping into church whilst out and about in Higham to check all is well. The checklist at the back of church helps us keep tabs on anything that needs noting. If you'd like to know more or can be part of the regular rota to open and close the church daily, please ring Dave Stuttle on 07941 306391.

### Inviting Others to Church

We welcomed many people from our wider community to Christmas Services and the Christmas card, along with our website and publicity efforts, made all the difference. Please keep inviting friends and neighbours to come to church – many people just need to be asked and to have someone to come with.

### Tiny Tots



Tiny Tots is now running weekly on Wednesdays at 1.30 pm in St Mary's. They have been enjoying exploring stories about Epiphany and Jesus' Baptism. They have a break during half term (16<sup>th</sup> February) but will be back on 23<sup>rd</sup> February ready to start looking at Jesus story leading up to Easter.

For more information contact Ria on 07771 884120 or Claire on 07837 064522.



### First Friday Club

Is running every first Friday of the month in the Bede House from 5.30-7pm and is open to all young people aged 10 years and up. There's fun and food and plenty of games to play. On February 6<sup>th</sup> we held a farewell party for Revd Michelle with pizza, cake and chocolate – there were balloons too!



## Cleaning Team for 2022 – Volunteers Needed Please!

Sue Clarke is now co-ordinating ongoing cleaning at St Mary's and is keen to hear from anyone who can help once a month. If you have a spare hour or two to join the team it would be much appreciated. Sue's contact number is 07578 493893.

## Servery Project

The 28-day consultation period is now up so we now await the Chancellor awarding the faculty, as well as the outcome of a recent funding application. The plans and detailed specifications are available to see in either St Mary's or the Parish Office. Prayers for this next stage 😊

## Friends of St Marys

The Friends have produced some Spring flower cards for sale, which are currently on sale on top of the book case in church. Please take a look, they are ideal to send someone something joyful in the post, a promise of new growth to come.

**Save The Date** for the Friends' Spring Flower Coffee Morning in the Bede House on 19<sup>th</sup> March, more details to follow. Contact Carol Fitzgerald via email [carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com](mailto:carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com).

## Bellringers

A quarter peal for Her Majesty's Platinum Anniversary was rung successfully on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February, as per the link below.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1489442>

## Coffee & Chat in The Bede House

Coffee & Chat has returned to The Bede House from 10 am on Thursdays – many thanks to Diane Behagg and the team for making this possible. More volunteers for the team would be very welcome.

## Mothers' Union

Unease about covid infection levels prompted the postponement of the planned New Year lunch at Rushden Golf Club from January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, when a good time was had by all who were able to attend. The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, when our small group will meet to plan how the branch moves forward. Visitors interested in finding out more about MU are always welcome at our meetings 😊

## Bede House

A polite reminder to all users of the Bede House that when kindly tidying up after use please leave the Bede House in the condition in which you would wish to find it. There are items in the kitchen and cleaning cupboard that you are free to use to do so. Thank you.

## News from St John's

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### Snowdrop Festival 19th & 20th February

It's back! St John's Snowdrop Festival returns on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February (Saturday 10-4, Sunday 11-4) with free admission, refreshments and lots of stalls, plus mulled cider in the churchyard.

### Soup and Cakes

During the winter months soup and cakes are served at St John's between 12 and 2.30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, excluding February, the last date for this year therefore being 15<sup>th</sup> March. From April it will revert to Tea and Cakes between 2 and 4 pm.

### Knit and Natter

Normal monthly meetings have resumed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 1 – 3 pm, upcoming dates are 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Feel free to come along at any time during those hours. We will provide drinks in paper cups but if you wish to bring your own drink or your own cup please do. If you have any questions please call either Brenda on 07816 771702 or Sara on 07814 406731.

### Christmas Decorations wanted please! (early notice for this coming November)

Now that the Christmas season is definitely over, (and we are all looking towards spring cleaning and sorting out cupboards and attics!) we would love to take any preloved decorations off your hands for our 'Up-cycle Christmas Fair' this coming winter. Call Brenda on 07816 771702 to arrange drop off or collection.

## Supporting our community

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### Support for our wellbeing & mental health

There is support and resources available via



[Northamptonshire Redeeming Our Communities Community Engagement Charity website.](#)

### Supporting our community

If you or anyone you know needs help with food shopping, picking up medicines, or just a chat over the phone, do get in touch with any of our Ministry Team, as well as Lynne Pocock who leads our Pastoral Group.

### Food Bank

Requests for help from the food bank continue to grow week by week, so thank you to all the lovely people who put donations in the box at the back of each church week by week.

We are always short of :-

Tinned meat;	Long-life (UHT) semi-skimmed milk;
Tinned vegetables (including potatoes);	Instant coffee (small jars);
Tinned fruit, custard, and puddings;	Sugar (small bags);
Jam (sorry we can't take homemade);	Washing powder/liquid/ tablets;
Shampoo;	Fabric conditioner;
Conditioner;	Bleach / Bathroom cleaner / Washing up liquid.

**(Please no baked beans, soup or pasta as we have plenty in stock already)**

And if you have any surplus large supermarket bags (bag for life type) in good condition we can always put them to good use. They can be left in church with the other donations.

All donations are gratefully received - THANK YOU!

## Benefice Money Matters

### St Mary's 600 Appeal

As we begin a New Year the 600 Appeal Committee would like to thank everyone for the support that we have been given in 2021 which meant that we were able to have the new heating system installed - we hope that you are feeling the benefit of it already. There is work to be completed on the Spire when the weather, and visiting Peregrine Falcons, allows and work to be done on the church roof and stonework too. We have been dotting all of the i's and crossing the t's for the DAC so that we can move forward with the Servedy (at last!). We are all eager to complete all of the work needed on our church before moving on to the Bede House. Your generosity along with the support of the local community, various grant making bodies, lots of social events and stalls and the loan from the Diocese has put us in a good position financially BUT more funds are needed as costs continue to rise and additional work needs to be done.

How can you help? By coming along to social events, buying items from the stall at the back of the church, considering giving donations instead of having birthday gifts or simply by making donations as, and when, you see fit. If you are making or changing your Will then maybe you would be kind enough to leave an amount to the church, as others so generously have over the years, for which we are truly grateful.

So, what plans do we have to raise funds in the coming year? We hosted the Farmers Market Coffee Morning at the end of January and will host the July one too (look out for some top class bric-à-brac). Then we are having a Fynnus Fogg concert in church on 12<sup>th</sup> March, an 80's Disco in the Bede House (date to be confirmed), stalls on the Square at forthcoming Farmers Markets, a Silent Auction and lots of other events as the year rolls by. Every month the Higham Hot Hundred\* adds a further £250 to the coffers but often winners will donate their winnings back to the Appeal and Gift Aid their donation too - our friends are truly generous and very keen to help to ensure that work is completed on St Mary's Church.

Our Servedy has taken a long time to get to this point - and costs have gone up - so if you would like to support this project in particular then please let either Avril Harlow or Sue Dennis know, so that donations you give now can ensure that we can have this really useful addition completed sooner rather than later. Our servedy will mean that our coffee after church is easier and more enjoyable for all, and that the church can be used for more social events in the future. With your help we HOPE we may have the work done by the summer.

We are so fortunate to have three Grade 1 Listed Buildings here but with them come huge costs that can only be met with all of us playing our part. If you have a fundraising idea that you would like to share, or would like to join our committee then please do let us know. Together we will successfully complete our 600 Appeal. A heartfelt thank you to you all.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

*Sue*

\* **Higham Hot Hundred** began in August last year and by the end of 2021 those hundred people had raised £1,250 for the 600 Appeal, plus a number of winners very generously donated some or all of their winnings back to the Appeal, increasing the end of year figure to £1,785 (and where possible it was Gift Aided too).

Winners in 2021 were Joy Yorke, Jill Villiers, Stewart Wiles, Jackie Challen, Susan Perkins, Bob Dennis, Catherine Wiles, Tim Jackson, Reg Harlow, Pamela Tunn, Ann Pack, Graham Newell, Susan Wiles, Ann Smart and Julie Poole. Congratulations to all winners to date and thank you to all of our Higham Hot Hundred participants - wishing you luck in the monthly draws to come!

### How you can donate

Remember it is perfectly acceptable for you to abbreviate the long name of the appeal bank account, as long as you incorporate "St Mary" and "600 Appeal" all will be well. Sort code 30-96-09 and account NUMBER 84427260 remain the same. Thank for your patience and continuing support.

### Fundraising contacts

Sue Dennis, Chair of the Fundraising Group, 07773 586352, [suedennis1105@gmail.com](mailto:suedennis1105@gmail.com)  
 Avril Harlow, Appeal Treasurer, 01933 314694, [avrilharlow@gmail.com](mailto:avrilharlow@gmail.com)

### Growing & Giving in Love & Faith

St Mary's Stewardship Refreshed Campaign earlier in the year reminded us that regular giving is vital to the mission of our churches. Thank you if you are able to give via 'Planned Giving' (through the Parish Giving Scheme, Peterborough Scheme or Weekly Envelopes) as that helps us manage and plan our finances – forms are available in church or from our Treasurers. You can still give into the collection plate each week, or via our card payment options in both churches or donate via the website [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk) if you can't be in church. Please ask our Treasurers, John Elldred (St John's) or Brian Behagg (St Mary's) who will be able to help. Thank you for your generosity.

### Easyfundraising Reminder

We began the Easyfundraising initiative for St Marys Church early last year and we currently have 32 of us signed up to it. To date our church has received £216.42 for general funds - thanks to people remembering to use Easyfundraising when buying things online. BUT that amount has been raised by just 19 people and the remaining 13 have not raised any money to date - I am guessing it's because they are not remembering to go to EF and search for the retailer they are going to buy from BEFORE placing their order. This really is 'free' money and if you make ANY online purchases you could be helping your church in this way at absolutely no extra cost to yourself. So please, if you have forgotten about EF do try and remember to use it for future on-line buying, and if you are an online shopper but haven't signed up to it yet please download the Easyfundraising App or ask Sue Dennis for advice as to how you can help St Marys when doing your on-line shopping. It really is FREE and EASY and our church finances really do need your help!

## And finally

### Sharing information and Staying in touch

Saints Together is emailed out widely, so if you know of anyone who doesn't receive it and would like to, please let me know.

And if you have anything you want to share with the parish family – notices, events, birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, etc - again please let me know.

Contact: [jane@smeachers.com](mailto:jane@smeachers.com); 01933 357707; 07979 328228.

### For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Revd Michelle	Tel: 01733 569147 / 07961 003352 or <a href="mailto:michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk">michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Brenda Elldred (Reader)	07816 771702, <a href="mailto:brenda@elldred.co.uk">brenda@elldred.co.uk</a>
Pastoral Team	St Mary's Lynne on 07800 636943, <a href="mailto:lynnempocock@netscape.net">lynnempocock@netscape.net</a> St John's Brenda Elldred (as above)
Parish Office	01933 741140 or <a href="mailto:stmarys.higham@gmail.com">stmarys.higham@gmail.com</a>
Bede House Enquiries	01933 741140 or <a href="mailto:thebedehouse@gmail.com">thebedehouse@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk">www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk</a>

Find us on 



## February's Calendar

		TIME	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>Sunday</b>	13		<b>See front page for Sunday services</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	16		<b>No Tiny Tots – half term</b>		
		7 pm	Midweek Meditation	online	Fr Paul
<b>Thursday</b>	17	10 am	Eucharist	St John's Church	Ministry Team
		10 am	Coffee & Chat	Bede House	Diane Behagg
		2 pm	Afternoon Service	The Shrubbery	Ministry Team
<b>Saturday</b>	19	10-4 pm	Snowdrop Festival	St John's	Brenda Ellred
<b>Sunday</b>	20		<b>See front page for Sunday services</b>		
		11-4 pm	Snowdrop Festival	St John's	Brenda Ellred
<b>Tuesday</b>	22	1 – 3 pm	Knit and Natter	St John's Church	Brenda Ellred / Sara Owst
<b>Wednesday</b>	23	1.30-3 pm	Tiny Tots	St Mary's Church / Bede House	Ria on 07771884120
		7 pm	Midweek Meditation	online	Fr Paul
<b>Thursday</b>	24	10 am	Eucharist	St Mary's Church	Ministry Team
		10 am	Coffee & Chat	Bede House	Diane Behagg
<b>Saturday</b>	26	9-12 noon	Farmers Market Coffee Morning (Bellringers)	St Mary's Church	Rachel Lee
		11.30 am	Farmers Market Coffee Morning Recital	Bede House	Keith Green
<b>Sunday</b>	27		<b>See front page for Sunday services</b>		
<b>MARCH</b>					
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	2	10 am	Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes	St Mary's	Ministry Team
		1.30-3 pm	Tiny Tots Pancake Day Toddle	St Mary's Church / Bede House	Ria on 07771884120
		7 pm	Midweek Meditation	online	Fr Paul
		7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist with imposition of ashes	St Mary's	Ministry Team
<b>Thursday</b>	3	10 am	<b>No Eucharist service this week</b>	St Mary's Church	Ministry Team
		10 am	Coffee & Chat	Bede House	Diane Behagg
		2 pm	Mothers' Union (AGM)	Bede House	Jane Smeathers / Ruth Bond
<b>Friday</b>	4	10 am	World Day of Prayer service	Hope Methodist Church	Pat Hall
		5.30-7 pm	First Friday Club	Bede House	
<b>Sunday</b>	6		<b>See front page for Sunday services</b>		