



8 February 2026

The Second Sunday before 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: Sam Stringer, **Hymns:** 532 (omit * verses), 42, 650.

Organist St. Mary's: Alan Cafaude, **Hymns:** 418, 500, 272, 467.

Anthem: Lead me, Lord

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 10 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
7.30pm St Mary's PCC meeting in the Bede House
Wed 11 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 12 10am Said Eucharist with coffee and chat to 12noon at St Mary's
11am SCP Eucharist & AGM at St John's
Fri 13 7pm Choir Practice at St Mary's

Sunday 15 February 2026 The Sunday next before Lent

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's inc Junior Church

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility,

not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 6:25-end

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity. 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: Linda Bond, Robert Britchford, Jane Carpenter, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Pat Ellis, Peter Etheridge, Christine Franklin, Gill Headland, Sandra Hill, Kathy Jackson, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sarah Martin, Sally Mayes, Val Robinson, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke. **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Hilary Goodman, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Lynn Redgate, Alison Smith.

In memoriam: Simon Wiles, Ian Challen, Jacky Frost

Year's mind anniversaries: Samuel Ball, Raymond Thorpe, Emily Walters, Colin Partridge, 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, Kenneth Robinson, John Martin, Emma Herbert, Andrew Pringle, Pauline Aldous, Alice Smith, Christina Kennedy, Robert Turner, Ronald Cox, John Twelvetree, Winifred Reynolds, Jane Richardson.

NOTICES

Old Palm Crosses – please return these to church for Ash Wednesday use please. Collections in both churches, thank you.

Lent Study Course – Stephen Cottrell's "The Things He Carried". *A journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week.* Please let me know if you are interested, we are looking at Wednesday afternoon, Thursday evening, and if there is interest possibly also online. More info to follow. Mthr Louise

ST. MARY'S

We are heading into a strong music season at St Mary's, alongside our usual Sundays and Farmers Market Concerts. We are always looking for other concerts or musical experiences, please do let us know of anyone you might like to see here and we'll see what we can do! Please do share the concerts, its wonderful to see a full church enjoying live music.

Friday 27 February – A Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience brought by Lumos Experiences. 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm concerts, a bar will be available. For tickets, with varied pricing, see the promoters website at fatso.ma/ZYW9

Saturday 7 March, The Messiah at 7pm. Organised by the Rotary Club and sung by the Northampton Bach Choir. Tickets £15, available online or from Sidey Design.

Sunday 22 March –The Kings Men, return for a concert at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £20 and include a glass of wine. Tickets available through Sidey Design, or from Karen Holmes or Jane Jackson. Donations towards a raffle would be appreciated.

ST JOHN'S

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

Snowdrops at St John's

If you visit to see the emerging snowdrops and aconites, please keep to the mown and paved paths. Paths help keep feet from squashing flowers.

Snowdrop Weekend, Sat 21 10am to 4pm, and Sun 22 11am to 4pm.

As well as supporting the event by coming along, could you offer some help? More hands make for lighter work and a less tired Snowdrop Team. Thank you.

If you can help with making a cake or similar, please do let us know on the *cake sheets* in each church. We have a lot of visitors and they eat a lot of cake!

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Mother Louise revlouisebishop@btinternet.com

07974 018160

Brenda Elldred (Reader) brenda@elldred.co.uk

07816 771702

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 and Andrew Wager 07789 286398

St. Mary's; 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 Monday 9 February