

## Welcome to our services today, Mothering Sunday

9 am	Family Eucharist at St John's
9 am	<b>No Morning Worship in the Bede House today</b>
10.30 am	Family Eucharist at St Mary's

<b>Readings for today:</b>	Exodus 2.1–10
	Colossians 3.12-17
	Luke 1.33 – 35

The anthem during communion at St Mary's today is Wood's 'Hail Blessed Virgin Mary'.

The Online Benefice Service 'Meeting Point' is available on the website for you to join in if you missed our services in church, or when you have 15 minutes to pause and reflect during the week. This week's edition discovers the origin of Mothering Sunday and looks at mothers in the Bible [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk).

### Organists

The organists today are Alan Cufaude at St Mary's and Hilary Goodman at St John's.

## Weekday Services and Events

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

2 – 4 pm Tea & Cake at **St John's**

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

12 noon - 1/1.30 pm Lent Lunch at **St Mary's Church Rushden**

7 pm Online Service & Meditation: see [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk)

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>

10 am Holy Eucharist at **St Mary's**

10 am - 12 noon Coffee & Chat in the **Bede House**

Evening St Mary's PCC meeting in church

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>

9 am – 12 noon Farmers' Market Coffee Morning in the **Bede House**, hosted by Save the Children

## Services next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Passion Sunday / The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9 am	Family Eucharist at St John's
9 am	Breakfast Church in the Bede House
10.30 am	Family Eucharist at St Mary's, followed by APCM at 12 noon.

## NOTICES

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### BENEFACTICE

#### Holy Week and Easter 2023

Details of services and events for Holy Week and Easter are available on our website [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk). They are also available in both churches and have been circulated with the weekly email. *(added 19/3/23)*

### LENT 2023

**Lent Lunches** - every Wednesday in March at St Mary's Church Rushden. This will be hosted by different churches, with lunch between 12 – 1 pm, followed by prayers and quiet time 1 – 1.30 pm.

**Lent Booklets** - are available at the back of both churches. Please do take and use for your reflection time.

**Tent for Lent** - by giving up something for Lent and raising money in aid of ShelterBox, you can provide tents and other shelter essentials.

A SHELTERBOX typically holds a 10-person tent and other equipment including thermal blankets, insulated ground sheets, a multi-fuel stove, cooking pans and a basic tool kit. The complete SHELTERBOX costs £590. It will then be ready for delivery with other lifesaving equipment to a family who have lost everything following a disaster such as we have seen recently in Turkey and Syria. Pat Hall is willing to collect donations from our personal Lent Savings to try and fund a complete box from St Mary's Higham Ferrers. See <https://shelterbox.org/do-something/fundraise/give-a-tent-for-lent/> *(updated 12/3/23)*

### Food Bank

The Higham food bank continues at the Working Men's Club in Westfield Terrace every Tuesday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Anyone who is struggling or in food poverty is welcome but please bring ID with you. No referral is needed. You will receive a warm and sympathetic welcome.

**Our warehouse shelves continue to empty as quickly as we stock them – use of both food banks increases weekly and your donations in the boxes at the back of both churches are urgently needed, PLEASE. Donations are taken to our warehouse in Rushden which supplies both Higham and Rushden food banks.** *(updated 12/3/23)*

## ST MARY'S

### PCC and APCM

The next PCC meeting is on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Any item you wish to have considered must be submitted in advance, by 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

The APCM will be held in church on 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon. All those on the electoral roll should have received the reports by email prior to this. Electoral papers are at the back of church. Any questions to be answered at this meeting must be submitted in writing to our Rural Dean, Chris Youngman, by 19<sup>th</sup> March. *(added 12/3/23)*

## Your Church Needs You!

St Mary's is still seeking a Treasurer so that business may function efficiently. Many thanks to Brian who has held the fort for many years. He stepped down last year and no-one has been found to replace him. Can you help, please?

Diane is relinquishing her duties overseeing Bede House bookings at the end of this month. We need someone to take over this role. For more information please contact a church-warden.

We all like to know what's happening in and around our church. Jane is preparing to handover her duties as Editor of our weekly church news-sheet (The one you are reading now!) If you can gather the information and prepare the news-sheet please let us know – or talk to Father Paul about what is involved. *(added 19/3/23)*

## Higham Chichele Society

The society will be meeting in the Bede House on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.15 am for a talk entitled 'A Kimbolton Treasure', revealing a unique memorial to the twin daughters of the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Manchester. Designed by Tiffany of New York, it is the only one of its kind to be found in a British Church. Entrance £3 including refreshments. *(added 19/3/23)*

## Mothers' Union

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April we'll be back in the Bede House for our meeting when Douglas Hall, Pat & Richard's son, will share his recent experiences as a volunteer in Ukraine. The meeting starts at 2.30 pm and is open to all, so please join us. There will be a collection for charities supporting the citizens of Ukraine. *(updated 5/3/23)*

## Prayers

### Our prayers have been asked for:

Karen Addis, Daniel Boxall, Jenny Brown, Simon Brown, Marian Cox, Elisabeth Crafer, Pat Ellis, Christine Franklin, Ray Grace, Kerry Groom, Cynthia Hobson, Joyce Houghton, Mary Jackson, Sarah Knight, Sally Mayes, Chris Mitchell, Brenda Mould, Freda Pack, Paul Paynton (Revd), Peter Paynton, Ken Robinson and family (Darren's dad), Val Robinson, Jean Shield, Judith Smalley, Elizabeth Swindley, David Wilson, Clare Yorke.

**St John's:** Jo Barrie, Shirley Baxter, Pauline Brown, Tina Gill, Hilary Goodman, Emma Graham, Noreen Hogan, Martin Littlejohn, Brenda May, Sara Owst, Muriel Palmer, Margaret Sheppard, Michael Wilson.

**In memoriam:** Bruce Bass RIP (*funeral Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2 pm, St Mary's*)  
Tony Norman RIP (*funeral Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 11.30 am, St John's*);  
George Farmery RIP (*funeral Mon 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2 pm, Nene Valley Crematorium*)  
Pieter Mommersteeg RIP (*funeral Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 12 noon at St John's*)  
Diana Wright RIP (*funeral Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 3 pm at St John's*)

### Year's mind anniversaries:

Minnie Tebbutt, Harry Cole, Doris Boddington, Albert Sturgen, Robert Osborne, Gweneth Brockhouse, Effie Bass, Emily Cole, William Jackson, Margaret Martin, Mark Lovell, Nellie Grant, Kathleen Sharp, Frederick Knight, Brian Bithrey, Charles Kilsby, Kate Mantle, Eric Groome, Drusilla Lawrence, Phyllis Thompkins, Gilbert Robinson, Helen Ball, Harry Ball, Warren Warnes (priest), Dorothy Kennell, George Deighton, Doris Barnes, Arthur Hartwell, Frederick Webb, Isabella Greenfield.

### A Prayer for Ukraine:

We continue to pray for everyone affected by this conflict. A Candle of Peace has been set up in both our churches as a focus for our prayers.

God of peace and justice, as we pray for the people of Ukraine we ask for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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

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