



4 January 2026

Epiphany

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: 94, 96, 104(omit * verses)**

Organist St. Mary's: Ian Runnells, **Hymns: in Order of Service.**

Flowers: at Our Lady are in memory of Susan Batchelor a dear wife and mother and kindly donated by David and Tina.

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 5 11am St Mary's roof alarm servicing
Tues 6 7.30pm Bell Ringing practice at St Mary's
Wed 7 10am Morning prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's
Thur 8 10am Said Eucharist with coffee and chat to 12noon at St Mary's
Fri 9 5.30pm First Friday Club "Welcome back"

Sunday 11 January 2026 The Baptism of Christ

9am Parish Eucharist at St John's & Breakfast church in the Bede House
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 6:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh,
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, 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: Mary Simpson, Duncan Reid, and Margaret O'Dell (*funeral, Wed 7 Jan, 10am at Park St Baptist Church, Rushden, NN10 0LH*)

Year's mind anniversaries: Archie Driver, Frank Bodfish, Susan Batchelor, Nellie George, Phyllis Hircock, Cecil Knight, Dorothy Pack, Reuben Holloway, Reginald Lines, Harold Lee, Marjorie Annetts, Mary Skinner, Andrew Britchford, Marjorie Banks, Barbara Evelyn, Martin Way, Marjorie Banks, Ralph Whiting, Joan Leach, Connie Mills, Phyllis Leach.

NOTICES

A big thank you to all who have helped with our Advent & Christmas events and services. The numbers of people attending has increased on previous years, many of who were here for the first time. As we know, these things do not just happen but need a lot of mostly hidden work behind the scenes or around the edges, at the door etc. Without your help this season would be the poorer for our parishes and visitors. I am deeply grateful for your help in making these things happen.

I also want to thank you for all your Christmas cards, calls and messages, and to wish you a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Mthr Louise

A 2026 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. Parking there is limited, do say if you'd like to go but need a lift, car sharing is encouraged!

Lent Study Course – we are looking to offer one for the benefice, but need to know what days/times would work etc. Please let us know if you are interested and when might be a good time. Watch this space, more info to follow!

ST. MARY'S

Nico Springman has stepped back as churchwarden for personal reasons and his resignation has been accepted by Bishop Debbie. I am grateful for all that Nico has done as warden, and all that he will continue to do as a member of our church family. Mthr Louise

Farmers Market Coffee mornings 2026: after reviewing 2025, we are changing the timing slightly to 9.30 to 12.30 but the price for coffee & cake is still £3.50!

ST JOHN'S

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:

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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 8 - 15 January