



23 March 2025

## Second Sunday of Lent

### Welcome to our services today

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's  
10.15am St John's APCM  
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
4pm Lego Church in the Bede House

**Music: Organist St. John's:** Hilary Goodman, **Hymns: 791 (omit \* verses), 682, 761. Organist St. Mary's:** Rosemary Nayyar, **Hymns: 333, Be still my soul (words on sheet), 414, 437. Anthem:** View me Lord, *Richard Lloyd*.

**The Benefice Online Services; 'Meeting Point' and 'Celtic Midweek Liturgy'** are for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week. <https://www.stmaryhighamferrers.org/online-worship>

- Mon 24 6pm Evening Prayer in St John's  
Tues 25 1 – 3pm Knit & Natter at St John's  
Tues 25 7.30pm St Mary's PCC meeting at the Vicarage  
Tues 25 7.30pm Bellingringing practice at St Mary's  
Wed 26 10am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, St Mary's  
Thurs 27 10am Said Eucharist with Coffee & chat to 12noon at St Mary's  
Thurs 27 7pm Celtic Evening Service in the Chantry Chapel  
Sat 29 Farmers Market, bell peal, coffee morning and concert (see posters)  
Sat 29 2-4pm Mothering Sunday craft afternoon in the Bede House  
Sun 30 *Start of British Summer Time*

### Sunday 30 March 2025 Mothering Sunday

- 9am Parish Eucharist at St John's  
10.30am All Age Eucharist at St Mary's  
4pm Mothering Sunday – It's complicated!

### Collect Prayer.

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **Isaiah 55:1-9**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for  
the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know  
you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says  
the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than  
your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## **Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans  
whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you  
think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners  
than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish  
as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on  
them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in  
Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they  
did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he  
came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See  
here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find  
none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it  
alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit  
next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

## Post Communion Prayer.

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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:** Karen Addis, Brian Bond, Linda Bond, Liz Boughton, Nola Brockhouse, Simon Brown, Ian Challen, Mary Coleman, Marian Cox, Lynda & Peter Etheridge, Freda Fernyhough, Christine Franklin, Andrew Fulcher, Colin Gilkes, Sandra Hill, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Emily Ogden, Freda Pack, Val Robinson, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke.

**St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Nick Kirk, Lesley Littlejohn, Dr Northover, Brenda May, Lynn Redgagte, Arthur & Anita Wright.

**In memoriam:** Gordon Brooks, Fr Bernard Scholes

**Year's mind anniversaries:** Charles Kilsby, Kate Mantle, Eric Groome, Drusilla Lawrence, Phyllis Tompkins, Gilbert Robinson, Helen Ball, Harry Ball, Waren Warnes (Priest), Dorothy Kennell, Harry Ball, Tony Norman, George Deighton, Doris Barnes, Arthur Hartwell, Frederick Webb, Isabella Greenfield, Pam Osborne, Edith Rial, Walter Wood, Eric Palmer, Sidney O'Dell, George Blackwell, Frederick Eaton, Thomas Hall, Horace Clarke, Leslie Brawn, Mildred Horsfield, Doris Jephcote, Elizabeth Layram, Frederick Hunt, Sarah Lines.

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## NOTICES

### BENEFACTORS

**30 March – Mothering Sunday** This is a 5th Sunday and usually we would have a joint service but because of the special nature of the day we will have services at both churches. In the afternoon there will be another **Mothering Sunday – It's complicated!** A service and space for all who find the day hard, emotional or complicated.

**The clocks also change on this day, be warned!**

## ST. MARY'S

The electoral roll revision is underway, please pick up a renewal pack and return as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Lego Church** – 23 March at 4pm. It's not too late to let Mthr Louise know you are coming along (text or WhatsApp to 07974 018160).

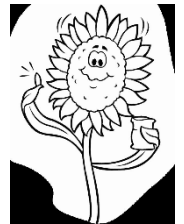
**Cards** – Lots of lovely photo cards in many designs for sale in church in collaboration with Pam. Now added, a further selection of unique handmade cards which has just been refilled.

See the dresser on the right side of the church, all the cards cost just £1 each.

**31 May Farmers Market, the Vicar's Version** – advance warning of coffee & cakes with a twist!

It's the time of year for plants – **can you grow a few extra bedding or veg plants, could you split some of your border perennials?**

If house plants are your thing, I have lots of cache pots that we could put them in. I'm also looking for child friendly ideas for this coffee morning and if you have any ideas of other new things to try, come chat to Mthr Louise.



## ST JOHN'S

**Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) – 23 March, after the 9am service**

**Knit and Natter, 1-3pm** 25 March, 22 April, 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 26 August

**Tea and Cakes, 2-4pm** 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August

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

Mother Louise [revlouisebishop@btinternet.com](mailto:revlouisebishop@btinternet.com)

07974 018160

Brenda Eldred (Reader) [brenda@elldred.co.uk](mailto:brenda@elldred.co.uk)

07816 771702

Parish Office & Bede House:

01933 741140

Benefice Administration and enquiries:

[stmarys.higham@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.higham@gmail.com)

Bede House Bookings only:

[thebedehouse@gmail.com](mailto:thebedehouse@gmail.com)

Website

[www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk)

Churchwardens:

St. John's; Arthur Wright 01933 624530, and Andrew Wager 07789 286398

St. Mary's; Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The benefice office is open Tuesdays and Fridays.

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 Friday 28 March,***

***and out of parish on the mornings of Mon 24 & Thu 27 March.***