

The Benefice Highnam, Tibberton with Rudford and Taynton
and the Parish of Minsterworth

Sunday 17th August 2025 – 9th Sunday after Trinity

Services Today

9.30am	Holy Communion with Rev. David Treharne	Minsterworth
11am	Holy Communion with Rev. Jo Wetherall	Highnam

Bible Readings	Collect
Jeremiah 23.23-29 Hebrews 11.29-12.2 Luke 12.49-56	Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church Diary – what's on and what to pray for...

Mon	18 th August	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
		10am – 3pm	Sportily Holiday Club in Highnam School
Thurs	21 st August	10am – 3pm	Rudford retreat Day
		Rev. Heather back from leave today but will be supporting Rudford retreats all day so don't all rush to phone!	

****Rev. Heather is on leave from Wed 30th July to Wed 20th August inclusive – please contact Rev. Philippa for all funeral enquiries and end of life ministry or contact the churchwardens for everything else urgent – Rev. Heather will pick up all non-urgent email enquiries once she is back in work****

Services Next Sunday – 24th August 2025 – Trinity 10

10am	Benefice Holy Communion with Rev. Heather	Rudford
------	---	---------

****Advance notice – 5th Sunday Something Different – 31st August – Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10am at Minsterworth with The Laying Up of the Retiring British Legion Standard followed by a BYO picnic in the churchyard and optional riverside stroll -****

Contacts

Benefice Administrator: Email: highnam.church@aol.co.uk Tel: 07732331068 (answerphone)

Vicar: Rev Heather de Gruyther 01452 942173; revheatherdg@gmail.com Day off is Friday
Or visit our website: www.highnamchurch.org

Jeremiah 23.23-29

23 Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Hebrews 11.29-12.2 -The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12.49-56 -Jesus the Cause of Division

49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Interpreting the Time

54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?