

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

Sunday 30th November 2025 – Advent Sunday

9.30am (service to start at 10am)	Advent Sunday Service (An informal Benefice communion service, with a light breakfast. There will be refreshments and activities for all).	Highnam
--	--	---------

Bible Readings	Collect
Genesis 18.1-15; 21.1-7 (The Message)	Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Mon	1 st Dec.	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Tues	2 nd Dec.	9am	Collective Worship at Highnam School
		4.30pm	Highnam Standing Committee at the Rectory
Weds	3 rd Dec.	2.15pm	Advent Group with Chris Gardner at Anna and David Ball’s house in Highnam
		7pm	Wreath Making in Minsterworth
Thurs	4 th Dec.	12.30pm	Funeral of Ian Burton at Forest of Dean Crematorium
Sat	6 th Dec.	7.30pm	Innsworth Military Wives Choir concert at Highnam Church

Services Next Sunday – 30th November 2025- Advent Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	Highnam
11am	Holy Communion	Rudford
3.30pm	Christingle Walkthrough	Highnam
5pm	Ready for Christmas? Carol Service	Minsterworth

Genesis 18.1-15; 21.1-7

18 ¹⁻² God appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing. He ran from his tent to greet them and bowed before them.

³⁻⁵ He said, “Master, if it please you, stop for a while with your servant. I’ll get some water so you can wash your feet. Rest under this tree. I’ll get some food to refresh you on your way, since your travels have brought you across my path.”

They said, "Certainly. Go ahead."

⁶Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. He said, "Hurry. Get three cups of our best flour; knead it and make bread."

⁷⁻⁸Then Abraham ran to the cattle pen and picked out a nice plump calf and gave it to the servant who lost no time getting it ready. Then he got curds and milk, brought them with the calf that had been roasted, set the meal before the men, and stood there under the tree while they ate.

⁹The men said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

He said, "In the tent."

¹⁰One of them said, "I'm coming back about this time next year. When I arrive, your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was listening at the tent opening, just behind the man.

¹¹⁻¹²Abraham and Sarah were old by this time, very old. Sarah was far past the age for having babies. Sarah laughed within herself, "An old woman like me? Get pregnant? With this old man of a husband?"

¹³⁻¹⁴God said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh saying, 'Me? Have a baby? An old woman like me?' Is anything too hard for God? I'll be back about this time next year and Sarah will have a baby."

¹⁵Sarah lied. She said, "I didn't laugh," because she was afraid.

But he said, "Yes you did; you laughed."

21 ¹⁻⁴God visited Sarah exactly as he said he would; God did to Sarah what he promised: Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a son in his old age, and at the very time God had set. Abraham named him Isaac. When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded.

⁵⁻⁶Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born.

Sarah said,

God has blessed me with laughter
and all who get the news will laugh with me!

⁷She also said,

Whoever would have suggested to Abraham
that Sarah would one day nurse a baby!
Yet here I am! I've given the old man a son!