

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

Sunday 28th December 2025 – First Sunday of Christmas (Feast of the Holy Innocents)

10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Highnam
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Bible Readings	Collect
Jeremiah 31.15-17 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18	Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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.

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

Mon	29 th Dec.	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sat	3 rd Jan.	10am	Wedding and Baptism Booking drop-in at Highnam Church

Services Next Sunday – 4th January- Epiphany

9.30am	Holy Communion	Highnam
11am	Holy Communion	Rudford
5pm	Evening Prayer	Minsterworth

Jeremiah 31.15-17

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,

and your eyes from tears;

for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

there is hope for your future,
says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

Matthew 2.13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'