

Diary

Mon 29th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Wed 1st May	10.00am	Coffee and Communion at Rudford
	7.00pm	Highnam APCM
Thurs 2nd May	9.00am	Wild Wanderings from Highnam Academy
	9.30am	Highnam Academy - Reception class in Church
	3.15pm	Bus Stop Sports at the Rectory
	3.45pm	Bus Stop Sports at the Rectory
	4.30pm	Community Sports at Highnam
	6.00pm	Youth Hangout at Highnam Academy
Sat 4th May	10.00am	Churchyard Working Group at Highnam

Sunday 5th May

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Highnam**
11.00pm Holy Communion at Rudford
followed by Tibberton with Rudford APCM
4.00pm Minsterworth APCM followed by Evening Prayer



Contacts

Benefice Administrator: Amy Meta (Mon, Tues or Fri 9am - 1pm)
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Day off is Friday

For all other contact details please refer to the front page of the monthly Link;

Or visit our website: www.highnamchurch.org

Find us on Facebook search for 'Highnam Church Life' or 'Tibberton Church'.



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

Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter



A very warm welcome to our services

If you are visiting or worshipping with us for the first time, we do hope that you will enjoy the service.

Please introduce yourself to the clergy and the worship team.

Sunday 28th April—Today's Services

9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Taynton
3.00pm	Family Huddle	Highnam Academy

Bible Readings

Acts 8.26-end

1 John 4.7-end

John 15.1-8



Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Bible Readings

Acts 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4.7-end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15.1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Stop and Pray - 10 Days of Prayer

– Ascension to Pentecost – Praying Together –

For many years the Thy Kingdom Come initiative from 24/7 Prayer has encouraged people to 'Pray for 5' people known to them by name to come to faith between Ascension and Pentecost.

This year, I'm asking you to do this once more. But I'm also asking us to pray together for our Benefice around 5 key areas:

Discipleship – how can we all continue to explore and grow in faith? What groups/courses might we need? What difference would this make?

Pastoral Care – where are we doing this well? What are the possibilities? How can we support our baptism, wedding and funeral families?

Children and families – our work with Sportily and schools – what is happening already and what might be possible? Why does it matter?

Buildings, churchyards and parish governance – where is there joy?

Where is there sorrow? How can we work more closely together across the benefice to support each other? What difference would it make?

Outreach – where are we already sharing our faith with those who don't come to church? How can we do this more? What value does our church community bring to our wider communities? What might be possible?

This is about *listening* prayerfully to what God has to say about these things rather than simply asking for something particular to happen. I encourage you to commit to **Stop and Pray** daily for these things for these days between Ascension and Pentecost at 7pm each evening. You can pray informally or use Night Prayer to suit you but however you choose to pray – just **PRAY!** I will be creating a Facebook group you can join if you would like to share this prayer together – more details to follow.