



Diary



There will be no zoom Morning Prayer on Monday

Wed 1st Jan 10.00am Coffee and Communion at Rudford - Cancelled

Sunday 5th January

9.30am	Holy Communion	Highnam Church
11.00am	Holy Communion	Rudford Church
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Minsterworth Church

Rev Heather will be on leave from the 26th December to Thursday 2nd January. For any urgent matter please contact the Benefice office or your local church warden



A special thank you to all in our congregation who helped at our services over the Christmas season, welcoming the community into our churches and doing all they have done over the last month

Contacts



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

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

Vicar: Rev Heather de Gruyther 01452 942173; revheatherdg@gmail.com

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 29th December
First Sunday of Christmas

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 29th December - New Year Service

10.00am Something Different—Holy Communion Highnam

Readings

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-end

Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.



Prayers of Love and Faith

Many of you will have followed the debates within General Synod and the wider church about introduction of resources and prayers for same-sex couples. Currently there is provision for such prayers to be used in the context of existing services but not yet as standalone services. This will be discussed again at General Synod early in 2024 and I will shortly be asking all of our PCCs for their decision on whether they will allow the use of these prayers in our buildings.

This is a deeply pastoral issue affecting the lives of many and as such one that I cannot in all conscience ask PCCs for a decision on without the opportunity to properly engage with the topic. In order to give everyone such an opportunity to reflect, I will be running the Living in Love and Faith course over 5 weeks starting on Monday Feb 3rd at 7pm in the Old School, Highnam. Please let me know as soon as possible that you intend to come so I have an idea of numbers.

Following the general course, there is also a standalone meeting on Mon March 10th at 7pm in the Old School, Highnam to look specifically at the prayers and process following the February meetings of both General and Diocesan Synod. This will be an opportunity for PCC members to hear from all in our churches ahead of being asked for their decision.

I pray that in all our reflecting and discussing we will at all times remember that at the heart of this are the lives of individuals known and loved by God, that we may hold very different views from those we worship alongside, that this touches the lives of many who sit beside us in the pews, and that we will keep this in the forefront of our minds in all we say and do.

Rev. Heather

22nd December Bible Readings

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2.41-end

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.