

Diary

Mon 3rd Feb	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	4.00pm	Highnam Standing Committee
	7.00pm	Living in Love and Faith at Highnam Academy
Wed 5th Feb	10.30am	Coffee and Communion at Rudford
Thurs 6th Feb	9.00am	Wild Wanderings from Highnam Academy
	9.00am	Collective Worship at Highnam Academy
	10.30am	Burial of ashes at Highnam Church
	3.15pm	Sportily after school club - Highnam Academy
	4.30pm	Sportily Youth Sports Hub - Highnam Academy

Sunday 9th February

9.30am	Holy Communion at Rudford Church
11.00am	Holy Communion at Taynton Church
11.00am	The 11 O Clock at Minsterworth Church
5.00pm	Taize at Highnam Church

Highnam PCC Update

Highnam PCC met on the 20th Jan 2024 and appointed Evie De Gruyther as PCC secretary and Sue Coggin as Electoral Roll Officer.

Highnam Church raised funds for and gave money to the following charities in 2024: Children's Society, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, Charlies, Christian Aid, Lords Larder in Newent,-British Legion, Newent Men's Shed, Water Aid and Toilet Twinning

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 2nd February

Presentation of Christ

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 2nd February - Today's Services

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

Bible Readings

Malachi 3.1-5

Hebrews 2.14-end

Luke 2.22-40



Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

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 at Highnam Academy**. 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

Lent Lunches

Time to start thinking about Lent lunches! If you would like to host one of our traditional 'at home' bread and soup lunches or help with a lunch in the Old School, Highnam on Sunday 16 March, please let me know. Jane Gardener

01452 421013, 07814 102373 or email at janegardner925@gmail.com

You are invited to.....

A Service for the Celebration of Marriage

Sunday 16th February 2025 at 3pm
at Highnam Church

Followed by celebration refreshments

All welcome, whether married 5 mins or 5 decades!

Taize service - HIGHNAM CHURCH

2nd Sunday of the Month at 5pm

Starting 9th February 2025

Come for a service of song, and silence - a chance for
contemplation and peaceful prayer in a busy world

All welcome



Bible Readings

Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Malachi 3.1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.