

Diary

Mon	11th Nov	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Wed	13th Nov	TLC Bereavement Group is cancelled this week due to the road closure in place for essential highway maintenance		
Thur	14th Nov	9.00am	Wild Wanderings	Highnam Academy

Sunday 17th November—Safeguarding Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	Minsterworth
11.00am	Holy Communion	Highnam
2.30pm	Baptism	Highnam
5.00pm	Family Huddle	Highnam Academy

Recycled Christmas cards will be on sale in Highnam Church

17th & 24th November after the service

3 for £1 - In aid of church funds

Highnam Church Clean.

We will be holding our next church clean on Saturday 30th November from 10 to 12am. If you are free, and are able to help, please join us during the course of the morning and we will also be offering refreshments and cake

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 10th November Remembrance Sunday



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 10th November - Today's Services

9.30am	Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance	Rudford
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Highnam
10.50am	Act of Remembrance	Taynton
11.00am	The 11 O Clock with Remembrance	Minsterworth

Bible Readings for Holy Communion at Rudford

Jonah 3.1-5,10

Mark 1.14-20



Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord .

Assisted Suicide – A Message from Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert, 29 October 2024

In the coming weeks there will be much debate and discussion on assisted suicide as Parliament prepares to debate proposals to legalise this in the UK.

We very much recognise that this is a hugely emotive subject as we bring to it our individual experiences of caring for those at the point of death, the stories of those we know and love, and our awareness of our own mortality. In such a highly charged debate we recognise that while across our nation there are those who hold radically different perspectives, there is a commonality in people's desire to be caring and compassionate in meeting the needs of those who are terminally ill.

As a society we are not good at speaking about death and dying and this makes the discussion and debate all the more difficult, whilst also challenging those of us who are Christians to be willing to talk about death more openly. In all of this we want to underline the importance of treating each other with respect and gentleness even in places of disagreement.

As people continue to reflect on the matter of assisted suicide, we want to be clear about our own views and indeed the stance Bishop Rachel will be taking in the House of Lords, which is that of opposing the forthcoming Bill and standing against assisted suicide. However, we are also clear that our stand is about compassion and supporting those in despair and those who are vulnerable. Thus, we want to advocate for policies and funding which make provision for efficient and effective palliative care, as well as properly resourced community support and mental health services. It is not good to be having this debate at a time when assisted suicide is potentially perceived as a response to a lack of all these things.

As disciples of Jesus Christ who promises life, and who on the cross overcame death, we are confident in our understanding of the precious nature of life which is God's gift to us, and we want to affirm the mystery of every person being created in the image of God. We also recognise that while we cannot impose our theological understanding on those who do not share our faith, we do share with many community leaders a deep concern for the welfare of all regardless of religious faith or affiliation, and especially for the most vulnerable in society. In this we would name not only the widow, the orphan and the stranger but also the elderly, those living in poverty, those whose disability puts them at risk, and those in coercive relationships.

There will be those who support assisted suicide and argue that it is about people having the right to choose. Furthermore, proponents of assisted suicide argue that there will be safeguards in place to protect the interests of all parties as choice is enacted. However, our response is that the choices people make are never made in

a vacuum but always in the context of relationships and circumstances, and there is no way of offering complete and genuine protection to those who need it. As Archbishop Justin has commented, the danger which no safeguard can protect us from is that in the mind of the elderly and the vulnerable the right to die can so easily become the duty to die. Furthermore, experience from other countries which have taken this route such as Canada and the state of Oregon in the USA, has shown how quickly such safeguards are eroded and the criteria for those eligible and opting for assisted suicide has greatly expanded.

It is our conclusion, and that of General Synod in two debates of recent years, that however pastorally intended and whatever safeguards are offered, proposals for assisted suicide are not safe in ensuring the protection of those most in need. With this conclusion we reiterate our desire for a better provision of end-of-life care for all such that each individual may be enabled to die with dignity supported by people who care.

We recognise that there will be many within and beyond our Church who hold a different perspective so we do encourage people to read about it, engage in conversation and above all pray about it. Please do also share your views with your Member of Parliament.

Please also know that we are present to support you as the discussion continues and as together we seek to serve our society and be faithful to God. Above all else know that you along with those in the Houses of Commons and Lords are in our prayers, and that our commitment as a Church to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death is unshaken.

+Rachel +Robert

Mark's Gospel Study Group

Saturday 23rd November 10.30am-12noon (Coffee from 10am) Rudford School Room

Join Rev. Heather for the final session focusing on Mark's gospel as we come to the end of our Year of Mark - all welcome (even if you haven't been to the others!)

Reminder - once more try and read the gospel through in one sitting!