

Diary

Mon 13th Jan	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	7.00pm	Taynton PCC at the Rectory
Thurs 16th Jan	9.00am	Wild Wanderings at Highnam Academy
	3.15pm	Sportily after school club - Highnam Academy
	4.30pm	Sportily Youth Sports Hub - Highnam Academy
	7.30pm	Tibberton and Rudford PCC at Burway

Sunday 19th January

9.30am	Holy Communion at Minsterworth Church
11.00am	Holy Communion at Highnam Church
5.00pm	Family Huddle at Highnam Academy

New Electoral Role 2025 - Advance Notice

This year ahead of the APCM all parishes need to start a new electoral role. All existing names will be removed and if you would like to remain on the electoral role you will need to complete the necessary form when asked. More details to follow soon.

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

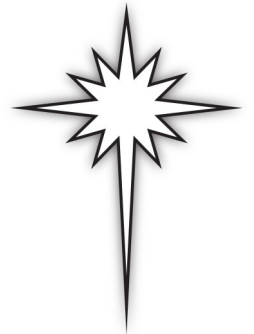
Find us on Facebook search for 'Highnam Church Life' or 'Tibberton Church'.



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

Sunday 12th January

Baptism 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 12th January - Today's Services

9.30am	Rudford	Holy Communion
11.00am	Taynton	Holy Communion
11.00am	Minsterworth	The 11 O Clock

Bible Readings

Isaiah 43.1-7

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your
Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved
children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



Bible Readings

Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Acts 8.14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.'

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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