

Diary

Mon 20th Jan	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	7:00pm	Highnam PCC at Springfields
Tues 21st Jan	7:00pm	Minsterworth PCC at the Harvey Centre
Thurs 23rd Jan	9:00am	Wild Wanderings from Highnam Academy
	9:00am	Collective Worship at Highnam Academy
	3.15pm	Sportily after school club - Highnam Academy
	4.30pm	Sportily Youth Sports Hub - Highnam Academy

Sunday 26th January
10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Taynton Church

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.

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

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

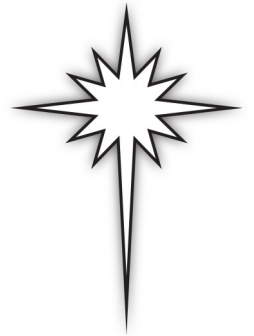
Find us on Facebook search for 'Highnam Church Life' or 'Tibberton Church'.



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

Sunday 19th January

2nd week of Epiphany



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 19th January - Today's Services

9.30am	Minsterworth	Holy Communion
11.00am	Highnam	Holy Communion
500pm	Highnam Academy	Family Huddle

Bible Readings

Isaiah 62.1-5

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

John 1.1-11



Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord..

Bible Readings

Isaiah 62.1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 1.1-11

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

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 Rudford and Highleadon Village Hall. 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

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!