

Diary

Mon 27th Jan	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Thurs 30th Jan	9.00am	Wild Wanderings from Highnam Academy
	3.15pm	Sportily after school club - Highnam Academy
	4.30pm	Sportily Youth Sports Hub - Highnam Academy
Sat 1st Feb	10.00am	Churchyard Working Group at Highnam Church

Sunday 2nd February

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Highnam Church
- 11.00am Holy Communion at Rudford Church
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at Minsterworth 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 26th January

3rd Sunday 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 26th January - Today's Services

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion Taynton

Bible Readings

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Luke 4.14-21



Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

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!

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**

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



The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Luke 4.14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.