

Diary

Mon 6th Jan	9:00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	4.30pm	Church Wardens meeting at Rectory
Wed 8th Jan	10.15am	TLC Bereavement group at Trioscape
Thurs 9th Jan	9.00am	Collective Worship at Highnam Academy

Sunday 12th January

9.30am	Holy Communion at Rudford Church
11.00am	Holy Communion at Taynton Church
5.00pm	Evening Prayer at Minsterworth Church

Please save your used stamps from Christmas and hand to Susannah in aid of Macular Degeneration Research. Leave 1cm of envelope around the stamp.

Contacts

Benefice Administrator: Amy Meta (Mon, Tues or Fri 9am - 1pm) 
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(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

Happy New Year!

Sunday 5th January

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 5th January - Today's Services

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

Bible Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers of Love and Faith

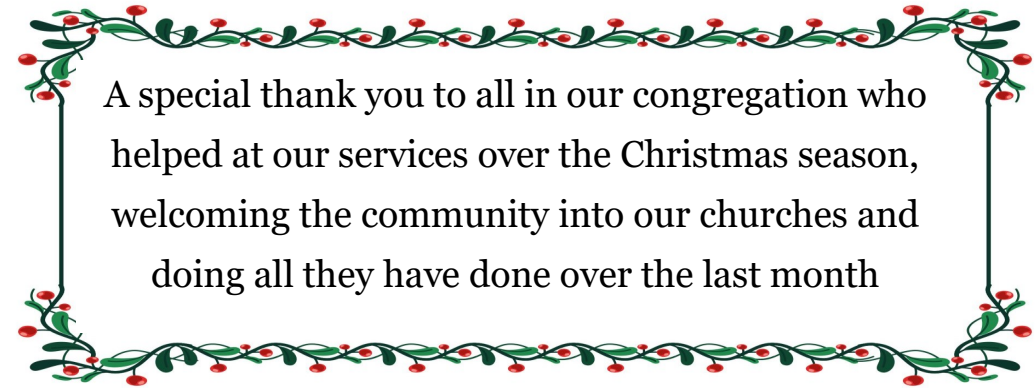
Many of you will have followed the debates within General Synod and the wider church about introduction of resources and prayers for same-sex couples. Currently there is provision for such prayers to be used in the context of existing services but not yet as standalone services. This will be discussed 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 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



In aid of Highnam Church

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

All wood seasoned and recycled

→ Box of Logs - £6

→ Box of Kindling - £10



Phone Graham on: 01452 422353

Local deliveries available on larger orders

Highnam PCC is actively seeking to contact the relatives of Constance Irene Evelyn ILES who died in 1979. We would like to trace them as the memorial is in need of repair. If anyone has any information about how we can contact the family please get in touch with Gill Davies, Churchwarden 0744 365 2148 or email highnamchurchwardens@gmail.com

Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.