

## **BENEFICE CONTACTS, SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**Rector:** Rev'd Manette Crossman: Tel. 07947 737789

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**Curate:** Rev'd Nicola Tindall: Tel 01787 212340 Email:[revnictv@outlook.com](mailto:revnictv@outlook.com)

**Lay Elder:** Sandy Ranson 01206 322156

Email: [sandyranson29@gmail.com](mailto:sandyranson29@gmail.com)

**Please contact Rev'd Manette if you or your children would like to be baptized, if you would like to get married in one of our churches, or if you need to arrange a loved one's funeral.**

**Home Communion for the housebound can also be arranged.**

**If you would like to know more about Confirmation, please get in touch with Rev'd Manette.**



Regular updates about what is going on in our parishes can be found on the Benefice Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/4-Marys-Benefice-111433503828636>

**Benefice website: [www.4marys.org.uk](http://www.4marys.org.uk)**

### **Churchwardens:**

**Higham** Hugo Parker 01206 337234

**Holton** Richard Noel 01206 298276  
Paul Torrington 01473 312046

**Raydon** Geoff Horrex 01473 310422

**Stratford** Sandy Ranson 01206 322156

### **Benefice Safeguarding Officer:**

Steph Middlebrook: Tel. 07747 095942

Email: [steph.middlebrook@outlook.com](mailto:steph.middlebrook@outlook.com)

Please contact Steph, Rev'd Manette or one of the churchwardens if you have any concerns.

## Church Services for September

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September: 10am Stratford SM Holy Communion**  
*13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

**5pm Holton St. Mary Evening Prayer (BCP)**

*50th Anniversary Ride & Stride Suffolk Historic Churches Trust*  
*Saturday, 9th September 2023*

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September: 10am Higham Holy Communion**  
*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

**6.30pm Raydon Evensong**

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September: 10am Holton St. Mary Harvest Festival**  
*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity* with Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September: 10am Raydon Harvest Festival**  
*16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity* with Communion

**10am Stratford St Mary: Family Hour** in the Parish Room

*Looking ahead to October:*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: 10am Stratford SM Harvest Praise**  
*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

**5pm Holton St. Mary Evening Prayer (BCP)**

Please welcome couples who are attending worship in our benefice because they are preparing to get married in one of our churches either this year or in 2024. We currently have regular visits from Sophie & Ashley and from Simón & Charlotte.

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### **Singers needed to support the music in our churches**

We are beginning to look ahead to Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. Please get in touch if you would like to join in with the choir.  
From Rev'd Manette

## Family Hour in Stratford St Mary at 10am

Family Hour is back this month, ready for the new term. This month we will be meeting on **24th September**. Our usual breakfast of bacon rolls etc will be served from 9.30 am. Do join us for our informal half-hour service, bible story and kids craft activity. We very much look forward to seeing you.

The Family Hour Team.



### **5th Sundays in the Benefice**

On 5th Sundays we meet for an **informal Family Communion**. This is a shorter service which begins with a Café Church style breakfast at 10am. Children are very welcome to be involved. Come and join us for fellowship and a more contemporary type of worship.

The remaining date for 2023 will be:  
**29th October at 10am in Holton**

### **Chat, Prayer & Coffee every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

#### **Stratford St Mary Parish Room on 20<sup>th</sup> September at 10am**

Come and join us for an informal time to chat, share news and pray together over a cup of coffee – there may even be cake or biscuits.  
We look forward to seeing you!

### **Benefice House Group**

The House Group has been taking a break for the summer and we are hoping to meet again soon – more information to follow. If you are interested in joining, hosting or leading, please get in touch with Rev'd Manette, Sandy Ranson or Christine Cousins.

## **Benefice Churches Open**

All the churches in our benefice are open every day for private prayer and visiting. Everyone is welcome to visit and enjoy some quiet time for reflection or to enjoy the beautiful church buildings.

### **Prayer**

Creator God, we thank you for the gift that is creation –  
for the beauty of the earth and how  
you have created us to care for it.

We thank you for the gift of food. We pray for those without,  
whose harvests and store cupboards are empty,  
Help us to work together to share the world's resources  
so that everyone can be fed.

We thank you for the gift of those who farm and prepare our food –  
for their labour, their innovation and their care.

We pray that everyone will be able to work with dignity,  
that there will be no more poverty,  
Help us to work together for just and fair systems  
of pay and working conditions.

Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers. Amen.

*Adapted from a Tearfund prayer*

### **Prayer pointers**

We pray for all those who are ill, in pain or in any way unwell, for those personally known to us and also for:

Steve Meech and Betty Dunningham (Raydon)

Amanda Berry and Penny Watkins (Higham)

Annie Marshall (Stratford St. Mary)

Ann O'Connell (from outside our parishes)

We remember all those who have died, among them Andrew Camp.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for their families and all who mourn them that they may be comforted in their grief.