

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Bradley Adlington, Norman Baird, Bill Barclay, Andrew Barker, Eileen Boyce, Sheila Collett, Kath Dring, Anne Barclay Dry, Charlie Hall, Joan Kirk, Sam Lancaster, Ivy McElroy, Elizabeth Sargent, Peter Stapleton and Tim Wakefield.

Please pray for tolerance of people with different views to our own.

Monthly Services in the East Vale at 10.30am

2nd Sunday St Peter & St Paul Barkestone

3rd Sunday St John's Muston

4th Sunday Redmile Primary School

Easter Lilies

Once again we are appealing for donations towards the purchase of Easter lilies for our flower arranging team who decorate St Mary's so beautifully. If you would like to donate please give money to either Graham Lyndsell (treasurer) or Pamela in the office.

Regular Events

Tuesdays Little Angels 9.30-12pm

Wednesdays Morning Prayer 9.00am
Community Hub 9.30-12.00
Warm Space 10.30-12.30

Methodist Chapel

Bellringing 7.30pm

Thursdays Choir Practice 7.30pm

Fridays Coffee Morning Old School, Muston 10-12

Saturdays Coffee Morning Old School, Muston 10-12

Saturdays Community Hub 9.30-12.00

In Church Today

Are you new to St Mary's Church? Would you like to receive a copy of In Church Today on a regular basis? If so, please write your details here and hand this to the Welcomer by the door.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

I would like to receive a copy of In Church Today. Email

I would like one of the ministry team to contact me.

Paper copy

(Please tick as appropriate)



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



- ♦ St. Peter and St. Paul's Barkestone ♦ St. Mary the Virgin Bottesford
- ♦ St. John the Baptist's Muston ♦ St. Peter's Redmile ♦ St. Helen's Plungar

Church Contacts

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Facebook:

St Mary the Virgin Bottesford

Contact details for each

church can be found at:

www.achurchnearyou.com

(followed by the church name.)

Sunday 17th March 2024-Fifth Sunday of
Lent

Readings: Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship at St. Mary's 10.30 led by Lisa
Smith

Morning Worship at St. John's 10.30 led by Peter and
Krista Daniel

Dates for your Diary

Monday 18th March Friends of St Mary's 7.00pm

Tuesday 19th March Romans Course 7.00 for 7.30
St John's PCC 7.00pm

Thursday 21st March Primary School Easter Service
2.00pm

Saturday 23rd March Wreath making Workshop
Organ Recital 7.00pm

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday service led by
Graham and Kathie Lyndsell
at St. Mary's 10.30am
Palm Sunday service at St.
Helen's, Plungar 4.00pm



This Week's Worship and Reflection



Now there were some Greeks... "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." John 12:20-21

This week is the start of Passiontide. The whole of Lent has been pointing us towards the story of Jesus' death, but these final two weeks, known as Passiontide give us a firmer nudge (in case we were ignoring it) that this most difficult of journeys is just around the corner. 'Passion' comes from the Latin word for suffering and so the Passion of Jesus is the story of His suffering: His arrest, trial, torture and ultimately His death on the cross.

Given where we are then, this may seem a strange question, but do you have a tattoo – or do you know someone who has? What do you make of it? Do you like it or loathe it? It's hard to be indifferent! But there's no doubt that a tattoo can express deep emotion or devotion, and it's virtually impossible to remove.

The covenant or agreement that God makes with us, through the death of Jesus, is like a tattoo. He loves us so much that He sends His Son to die for us, and this deep love is written on our hearts, as if in indelible ink. It is present with us forever.

In our gospel reading this week (John 12:20-33) the Greeks ask to see Jesus. There is something about Him that makes them want to be included in what He is doing. Jesus responds by talking about His upcoming death on the cross, and this might seem strange at first. But He does this to point to God's permanent love for humankind, assuring us that we won't just see Jesus, but will all be drawn to Him and welcomed by Him. Jesus wants God's covenant love, His 'tattoo' to be extended to every human being.

As Christian people, we are marked by His covenant love to be a blessing to the whole world. This week, as we turn the corner into Jesus' suffering, let's ask how we can show this mark to others in order to include them in God's indelible love. As we ponder on the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands and feet, can we love as Jesus loved?

Lisa Smith

To Pray

*Gracious Father,
you gave up your son
out of love for the world: lead us to
ponder the mysteries of his passion
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's
blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Collect for the fifth Sunday of Lent

Leicester Cathedral Evensong

On Sunday April 21st, St. Mary's choir and bellringers have been invited to take part in evensong at Leicester Cathedral and we are hoping that members of the congregation may like to join us. The service will be followed by a tea at the cathedral. We are planning to hire a coach which would leave Bottesford around 12.45pm and return around 6.30pm (times to be confirmed). The cost of the coach should be in the region of £10 per head. If you are interested in joining the trip, please contact Pamela in the church office as soon as possible before 1st April.

St Helen's Plungar

There will be a Palm Sunday Service on 24th March at 4.00pm at St Helen's Church, Plungar. Plungar Church is open every day from early morning to early evening for prayer and reflection.

Rutter Requiem

On Good Friday, the Cranmer Company of Singers will be hosting a 'Come and Sing' of Requiem by John Rutter at St Mary's. Registration for singers begins at 4.00pm and the performance begins at 7.30pm. Donations for the concert are in aid of the East African Hunger Crisis Appeal.

Wreath-Making Workshop

For the next Wild Worship, there will be a free Easter wreath-making workshop on Saturday 23rd March from 9.00am -12.00 at St. Mary's Church. Refreshments will be provided but please bring all your own materials: a floristry ring, foliage and flowers, ribbon, Easter themed decorations. Places are limited so please contact Lisa Smith on 07415144640 or lisa.smith1970@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to come.

Organ Recital

Our resident organist, Chris Coe, will be giving an organ recital on Saturday 23rd March from 7.00-9.00pm at St Mary's. The concert will feature light classics and popular music and is in aid of the organ restoration. Suggested donation £5.00.

People's Passion

There will be two performances of The People's Passion during Easter Week, specifically Maundy Thursday evening at St Peter & St Paul's church in Barkestone and then Good Friday at 2.00pm at St Mary's church in Bottesford in place of the Last Hour Service.

Thursday Evening Prayers by Zoom

Every Thursday open prayer for growth for around ten minutes. Weekly: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89035344573?pwd=MmpXYotZlUhmZlhrYkpHVtBVVlZBdz09>
Meeting ID: 890 3534 4573
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