

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, Ian Beech, Deborah Cosgriff, June Leek, Ivy McElroy, Margaret Metcalfe, Ruth Morris and Barbara Walsh.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Brenda Cooper, Kathleen Panter and Jane Thompson.

Please pray that the world will recognise the Prince of Peace and the message that he brings.

Bottesford Community Hub and Charity Shop

Come and join us on a Wednesday and Saturday morning 9.30-12 noon for tea and cake, plus pick up a bargain. A very popular venue to meet friends old and new. Can you spare us a few hours once or twice a month? Come and join our friendly team of Volunteers. Contact Linda - ispencer631@gmail.com

Thursday Prayers

An invitation to 15 minutes of peace and quiet at our prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 9.00pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035344573?pwd=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVTBVYlZBdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 3534 4573 Passcode: 870177

Monthly Services in the East Vale at 10.30am

2nd Sunday St Peter & St Paul Barkestone

3rd Sunday St John's Muston

Regular Events

Tuesdays	Little Angels 9.30-12pm (term time)
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer 9.00am
	Community Hub 9.30-12.00
	Bellringing 7.30pm
	Sing for Joy 2.00 third Wednesday of the month
Thursdays	Choir Practice 7.30pm
Fridays	Coffee Morning Old School, Muston 10-12
Saturdays	Community Hub 9.30-12.0

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



in church today

- ♦ 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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Website & Facebook for

St. Mary's

www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk

Facebook:

St Mary the Virgin Bottesford

Contact details for each

church can be found at:

www.achurchnearyou.com

(followed by the church name.)

Sunday 14th December 2025- Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Services this Sunday

Christingle and Toy Service 10.30 at St Mary's led by Lisa Smith. Please bring an unwrapped toy for Grantham Foodbank.

Carol Service 3.00pm Barkestone

Nine lessons and carols 4.00pm St Helen's, Plungar

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th Dec Funeral of Brenda Cooper 12.00

Advent Course 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th Dec Sing for Joy 2.00pm

Thursday 18th Dec Funeral of Jane Thompson 1.00pm

Muston Carol Service 6.30

Friday 19th Dec Christmas Coffee Morning 10.00 The Old School Muston

Funeral of Richard Huddart 1.45pm

Sunday 21st Dec Morning Worship 10.30
Carols by Candlelight
6.30pm St Mary's



This week's Worship and Reflection



"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent, and at St Mary's Church we are celebrating with our Christingle and Toy Service. We will, of course, light the third candle of our Advent wreath –

which this week reminds us of John the Baptist, the one whose job it was to point people to Jesus, the light of the world.

The Christingle service is a celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and to spread a message of hope. Christingle services have been celebrated in the UK for over 50 years, the first one being held in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968. But they date back much further than that, to the Moravian church in Germany in the 18th century.

Christingles are made with elements that remind us to be thankful for God's gifts to us. The orange is our planet Earth that God gave us to take care of. The red ribbon shows God's love going right around the world, for all people. The sweets are more personal – God's gifts to each of us. And finally, the candle represents Jesus Himself, God's ultimate gift of His Son, born to be the light of the world.

As Christingles remind us to be thankful, we are also invited to share the light of Christ (and what we have) with others. We will take a collection on Sunday for the work of the Children's Society, who support children and young people in need. And we will collect unwrapped new toys, blessed during the service and donated to the Grantham food bank, to share with local families. Do come along if you can!

So, this week, as we contemplate the Christingle and all it means, I wonder what you are thankful for in this season of Advent... I pray that God will show us all new ways to share His light with those we meet.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

*God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Collect for the third Sunday of Advent



Participants from the recent wreath-making workshop with their creations. Thanks to everyone who came and to Lisa for organising the event.

12 Joys of Christmas

The Church of England has produced a booklet entitled 'Twelve Joys of Christmas' which contains meditations for Christmas and the new year. We have 50 copies available for anyone who would like one.

Muston Christmas Coffee Morning

Come and join us at the Old School, Muston from 10.00 for the last Coffee Morning of 2026 with Christmas stocking fillers and festive fun.

Christmas Cheer at Bottesford Hub

The final session for 2025 at Bottesford Hub and Charity Shop will be on Saturday 20th December. There will be free tea and cake and the Hub Christmas raffle will be drawn.

Volunteers , please!

We are looking for some helpers for two Christmas events at St Mary's. Firstly help with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm, especially after the service to help pack away and secondly help with serving refreshments on Boxing Day morning for the Duck Race. Please speak to Pamela if you can help.



St Mary's Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at and donated to the Christmas Fair. It was a wonderful community event and raised nearly £3000.

Monthly Communion

Reverend Monica is now holding a monthly Communion service on the first Wednesday of the month. All welcome.