

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Norman Baird, Andrew Barker, Eileen Boyce, June Leek, Julie Marshall, Ivy McElroy, Margaret Metcalfe, Irene Robinson, Roger Smith, Beryl Smith and Tim Wakefield.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Martin Irvine.

Please pray for charities supporting the relief effort in Ukraine.

Save the Date

Two further wreath-making workshops have been planned for later in the year; a harvest themed workshop on Saturday 5th October and a Christmas workshop on Saturday 7th December. Booking is essential as places are limited. Please contact Lisa Smith or the church office to book. The workshops are free but participants need to provide their own materials.

Thursday Prayers

An invitation to 15 minutes of peace and quiet at our prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 9.00pm on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89035344573?pwd=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVtBVYlZBdzog>

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 2.30 third Wednesday of the month
- 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 Paper copy



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

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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 15th September 2024- Sixteenth

Sunday after Trinity

Readings: James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-end

Services this Weekend

Morning Worship at St Mary's 10.30 led by Lisa Smith followed by a meeting for the greeters.
Harvest Festival at Muston 10.30am led by Chris Judson

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 16th Sept Pastoral Workshop 6.15pm
- Tuesday 17th Sept St Mary's QI
- Wed 18th Sept Sing for Joy 2.30pm
- Saturday 21st Sept Hub Macmillan Coffee Morning 9.30-1.00pm
Jet Ride Charity bike ride
Pitch and Mix Acappella
Chorus St Mary's 7.30pm
- Sunday 22nd Sept Pet Service 10.30
- Wednesday 25th Sept Growing Faith update
St Mary's 7.30pm



This Week's Worship and Reflection



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b

I don't know about you, but I love a list. If I have a decision to make, especially a big one, I write a pros and cons list. Weighing up the costs and benefits in this way has helped me decide things like which house to buy, and where to go on holiday.

There are some decisions in life, though, that can't really be made this way. Falling in love,

for example, and one of the biggest is whether or not to follow Jesus. This week's gospel reading weighs heavy on the cons side of the equation – for Jesus' followers at the time and for us today. The full reading is Mark 8:27-38. The disciples hear Jesus not only predict his own death, but warn them that serious trouble lies ahead for them too. To follow him, they must be ready for it to cost them dearly. Being a disciple back then was risky business.

It can be risky business today too. Many Christians around the world are unable to worship freely or declare their faith for fear of persecution, injury or even death. In our country, being a Christian can open us up to ridicule, misunderstanding and online hate speech. With these risks on the cons side, who would choose faith?

Yet, there are 2.6 billion Christians worldwide, including me! And I would imagine not one of them used a pros and cons list to help them decide. Like the start of any relationship, faith in Jesus is a leap into the unknown, and each one of us will have our story of how it happened. We hear an invitation to follow him, however it comes, and we take our first steps. It's risky. We know there's a cross involved. But we do it for love, our response to God's loving, homecoming welcome.

If you are wondering about faith and want to know more, Mark's gospel is a good place to start. Bible Gateway online enables you to read the Bible for free, and St Mary's Church has Sunday worship every week at 10.30am. We are followers of Jesus who are working out what this means together, and all are welcome.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

*Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within
us: open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with
reverence and know your peace at
our lives' end
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

*Collect for the sixteenth Sunday
after Trinity*

Growing Faith Update

A Growing Faith meeting is to be held for all PCCs on Wednesday 25th September 7.30pm at St Mary's. There will be an opportunity to hear how the role continues to unfold across the parishes and for people to ask any questions that they may have on both the present and future opportunities for this post. Revd Canon John Barr and Revd Monica Judson look forward to welcoming as many of the PCC members as is possible to the meeting.

Foodbank Harvest Appeal

The foodbank are appealing for tinned meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauces, rice, squash, pet food and toiletries for their harvest appeal. Let's give thanks by collecting food for those in need in our local area.

Request for cakes

On Saturday 21st September we have two events requiring cake: The Hub Macmillan Coffee morning and the JetRide Charity bike ride. We would be grateful for any donations of cake for either or both these events. Please sign the sheet at the back of St Mary's.

Book Stall

Come and have a browse at the revamped book stall at St Mary's.

Pet Service

Back by popular demand, we shall be holding a Pet Service on Sunday 22nd September at 10.30am at St Mary's.



**Pitch and Mix
Acappella Chorus**
The next Friends
of St Mary's event

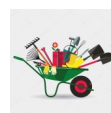
will be a concert by the Pitch and Mix Acappella Chorus and friends on Saturday 21st September at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £15 (£12 for members) are available from the church office, Linda Simmons 07958716765, Eventbrite and the usual outlets.

Bottesford Hub Birthday

On 21st September it is the first birthday of the Bottesford Hub and to celebrate they are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning from 9.30-1.00pm.

Muston Macmillan Coffee Morning

There will be a second opportunity to contribute to the work of Macmillan Cancer Support. St John's PCC are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September at the Old School, Muston from 10.00-12.00.



Working Party

The churchyard at St Mary's is in need of some attention so we are planning a working party for Saturday 28th September from 10.00am, weather permitting.

Save the Date

An evening with Gilbert and Sullivan Saturday 12th October 7.30pm at St Mary's.