



in church today

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

Church Contacts

Reverend Monica Judson

Growing Faith Minister

07903 005304

revdmonica@gmail.com

Reverend Mike Chaldecott

(Curate)

revmike1985@gmail.com

Reverend Chris Judson

(Curate)

07576 847948

revd.chrisj@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

07415 144640

lisa.smith1970@yahoo.co.uk

John Bartlett

07831 650769

john@jbeng.co.uk

Canon Judith Wells

01949 842804

judithwells@hotmail.co.uk

Administrator for Bottesford & Muston:

Pamela Kearsley

01949 842859

stmbottesford@gmail.com

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 18th October 2026 - Twentieth Sunday after
Trinity

Readings: 1 Thessalonians: 1 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Lisa Smith

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 25th Oct Morning Worship led by Graham and Kathie
Lyndsell 10.30am

Weds 28th Oct Funeral of Pauline Palmer 11.00am

Sun 1st Nov Communion led by Revd Mike Chaldecott
10.30am
Service of Memories led by Lisa Smith
3.00pm

Sun 8th Nov Remembrance Sunday Service 10.30am

Weds 11th Nov Remembrance Day Service at Muston
10.30am

Sat 14th Nov Autumn Reflections at Dove Hospice
10am to 4pm

Sun 15th Nov Morning Worship led by Archdeacon
Richard Trethewey 10.30am

Mon 16th Nov St Mary's PCC 7.00pm

Sun 22nd Nov Morning Worship led by Pamela Kearsley

Sat 28th Nov Christmas Fair at St Mary's 10am – 2pm

Sun 29th Nov Morning Worship led by Lisa Smith 10.30am
Advent Carol Service 4.00pm



This week's Worship and Reflection



“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” Matthew 22:21b

This is an image of a denarius, a Roman silver coin, common currency in the times of Jesus and typically represented fair pay for a day’s work. Jesus asks to see one in our gospel reading this week (Matthew 22:15-22) because He is seeking to respond to a very loaded question.

It’s like a question I was sometimes asked as a teenager, “Do you still pick on your little sister?” You can’t win with this one – either you answer no and admit you used to pick on her or answer yes and you’re still doing it! Jesus was asked by the Pharisees and the Herodians if it’s right to pay the poll tax to Caesar or not. Say yes and the Jewish people would be angry, say no and He’d be in trouble with the Roman authorities.

Jesus, as we come to expect, sees through their plan and answers differently. As the image on the denarius is Caesar’s, Jesus says, “give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

But, what is God’s? What’s Caesar’s is clear enough, his image is on the money. But God’s? There’s no coin with the image of God on it. But then, we recall the creation story back in Genesis, 1:27, “So God created humankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them...”

And so literally, the penny drops! We come (again, or maybe for the first time) to this amazing, eye-watering truth that each one of us bears the image of God. We are created in His image. However broken we might feel or unworthy, we are uniquely precious and loved by God. So, what do we give Him? Here, my mum’s favourite Christmas carol provides the start of an answer, “Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.”

Lisa Smith

To Pray:

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for the twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

'Operation Christmas Child' is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts. Shoeboxes are available for collection at St Mary's and the **deadline for returning them is 1st November**.

Please think about donating, and if possible include one or two extra special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. All items are welcome as we can fill extra boxes with any spare gifts.

Update on lighting

We finally have full approval to start work on the lighting system, start date 2nd Nov aiming for completion by 20th Nov.

We are still seeking additional funding (please see the flyer at the door) and so any further donations would be gratefully received.

Visiting speaker

At the service on 25th October we welcome Brent Cutts from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF fly small planes to difficult places and we greatly look forward to hearing Brent describe their work. To help them, we plan to give MAF a donation plus the collection that day.

Service of Memories – 1st Nov at 3.00pm

This special service is a chance to recall and give thanks for the lives of those that we still love and remember. It will be held on Sunday 1st November at 3.00pm, led by Lisa. Tea and cakes will be served following the service.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered please contact the Parish Office on 01949 842859 or stmbottesford@gmail.com.

If you can offer a cake for this service, please let us know.

'AUTUMN REFLECTIONS'

A Quiet Day in Framland Deanery on Saturday 14th November 10am - 4pm at Dove Cottage Day Hospice, Stathern
£10 per person to include refreshments and buffet lunch. Booking forms from Judith Wells: judithwells@hotmail.co.uk 01949 842804

Christmas Fair – Sat 28th Nov 10am - 2pm – admission free!

Come along and enjoy seasonal refreshments, children's activities, stalls and games – and, of course, Santa's Grotto!

We have local arts, crafts and produce on offer, and the Primary School choir will be performing.

Join us for some early Christmas shopping and an opportunity to help raise funds for our beautiful church.

Friends of St Mary's Quiz night

Saturday 14th November at 7 for 7.30pm

Join us for an evening of fun and fierce competition with supper included.

Please book your team of up to 6 with John Daybell (01949 842780) or at the church office.

Congratulations!



Huge congratulations to Revd Mike and Revd Chris on their ordination as Priest and Deacon respectively. Their ordination services were attended by a number of our parishioners and we all wish them well on their journeys in faith. Revd Mike will preside

at our next Communion service on 1st November with Revd Chris assisting.

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, Ian Beech, Geoff Campion, George Dawes, Jim Farley, Beryl Fentem, June Leek, Win Lockey, Barbara Walsh and Julia West.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of John Holmes, Michael Kirkland, Viv Money and Pauline Palmer.

Heavenly Father, be with all in need, comforting them and all who care for them. Amen

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=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVtBVYlZBdzog>

Meeting ID: 890 3534 4573 Passcode: 870177

Bottesford Community Hub and Charity Shop

Come and meet friends old and new on a Wednesday and Saturday morning 9.30-12 noon for tea or coffee and cake, plus pick up a bargain. Can you spare us a few hours once or twice a month to join our friendly team of Volunteers? Donated cakes would also be very welcome. Contact Linda -

lspencer631@gmail.com

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)
	Bereavement Group 2.30pm third Tuesday of the month
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

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

Address.....

Email.....

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

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

(Please tick as appropriate)