

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, Geoff Campion, Jim Farley, Beryl Fentem, Michael Howett, Pamela Kearsley, June Leek, Win Lockey, Barbara Walsh and Julia West.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Sylvia Adlington, Deborah Cosgriff, John Holmes and Michael Kirkland.

Gracious God, we pray for the leaders of our world: presidents, politicians and kings. Stir their hearts and challenge their minds we pray, let love conquer hate, peace replace war, and justice prevail, so that all will come to see You as King and Lord of all. **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://uso2web.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 9.30-12.00

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

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

(Please tick as appropriate)



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 20th September 2026 - Sixteenth

Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Philippians 1: 21-end; Matthew 20: 1-16

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Lisa Smith

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Fri 18th Sept | Funeral of John Holmes 10.30 |
| Sun 20th Sept | St Mary's Morning Worship led by Lisa Smith 10.30am
Muston Harvest Festival 10.30am |
| Tues 22nd Sept | Funeral of Deborah Cosgriff at St Mary's at 1.30pm |
| Sun 27th Sept | Morning Worship including baptism of Aidan Rose led by Rev Mike Chaldecott and Chris Judson
Plungar Harvest Festival 4.00pm led by John Bartlett |
| Weds 30th Sept | Funeral of Michael Kirkland 11.30am |
| Fri 2nd Oct | Muston Bingo Night 7.00pm |
| Sun 4th Oct | Morning Worship led by Paul Taylor and Tonya Pacey (Communion service will be held on Sunday 11th Oct led by Rev Peter Sutton) |



This week's Worship and Reflection

"I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you."



Matthew 20:14b

Our gospel reading this week is Matthew 20:1-16, also known as 'The parable of the workers in the vineyard'. It's a story Jesus tells his disciples about what the kingdom of heaven is like.

It's like a landowner who goes out to the marketplace at different times of the day to hire workers for his vineyard. Each agrees to work for one denarius. At the end of the day, each worker receives their one denarius as agreed, but the workers who were hired first and worked the longest grumble about it not being fair that those who were hired last and worked the least should be paid the same.

On first reading this story we might be tempted to agree with the grumbling workers – it doesn't seem fair, does it? Until we look at this story from Jesus's perspective. The landowner in the story is God. The workers are Israel – God's people - you and me. The vineyard is the kingdom of heaven. And what's being given to the workers isn't a reward for their effort or length of service, it's a free gift – the gift of God's grace.

G God's **R** Riches **A** At **C** Christ's **E** Expense

The free, unearned gift of God's forgiveness and salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I wonder who we identify with in this story? Do we feel, like the disciples, that we are among the first workers to be hired for the vineyard, long in service, part of God's inner circle? I think this story is reminding the disciples (and us) that in reality, God is out in the marketplace looking for the people hired last, who everybody else tried to ignore, welcoming them on the same terms and surprising them (and us) with His generous grace.

I pray that rather than grumble, we can respond to God's abundant love and grace with thankful hearts, knowing that there is more than enough to go around. Amen.

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

'AUTUMN REFLECTIONS'

A Quiet Day in Framland Deanery
Saturday 14th November 10am - 4pm
at Dove Cottage Day Hospice, Sta-
thern

£10 per person to include refresh-
ments and buffet lunch.

Booking forms from Judith Wells:
judithwells@hotmail.co.uk
01949842804

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. Peter Brookes will be building the shoeboxes for collection at St Mary's from 1st October onwards, 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.

An invitation to celebrate

We are delighted to invite members of our church family and friends to join us for two very special occasions as we celebrate the ordination of Reverend Mike as a Priest and Chris Judson as a Deacon.

The services will take place at Leicester Cathedral at 3.00 pm on Saturday 3rd Oct 2026 and at 10.30 am on Sunday 4th Oct 2026 respectively.

These events are significant and joyful milestones in Mike and Chris' ministries, and it would be wonderful to have you there to share in the celebration, worship and thanksgiving.

Please do come along if you are able, as we give thanks to God and pray for Mike and Chris as they begin new chapters in their respective ministries.

Due to the ordination service on 4th Oct 2026, there will be no Holy Communion at St Mary's that day as would usually be the case on the first Sunday of the month. There will be a service of Morning Worship instead. Holy Communion will be celebrated on 11th Oct 2026.

Reverend Mike will preside at his first Eucharist on Sunday 1st Nov 2026.

Chris is to be licensed as curate to the parishes of Bottesford, Muston, Redmile, Barkestone and Plungar from 4th Oct 2026.

Newark & Sherwood Concert Band

Big thank you to all who came along to this fantastic evening of entertainment - we have added another £1,200 to the Friends of St Mary's funds to maintain our beautiful church.