

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, Deborah Cosgriff, June Leek, Ruth Morris and Barbara Walsh.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Richard Brown and Richard 'Allan' Palmer.

Please pray for Christians Against Poverty and all those who provide debt relief and financial support to those struggling with the rising cost of living especially rising food, petrol and energy costs resulting from the war in Iran.

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 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 - 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)
- 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 Paper copy
 I would like one of the ministry team to contact me. (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

in church today

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 19th April 2026- Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2: 36-41, Luke 24: 13-35

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 at St Mary's led by Lisa Smith, Holy Communion 10.30 at Muston led by Reverend Monica Judson

Dates for your Diary

Mon 20th April St Mary's PCC 7.00pm

Tues 21st April Bereavement Group 2.30pm
St John's PCC 7.00pm

Wed 22nd April Funeral of Richard 'Allan' Palmer 10.30am

Sun 26th April Morning Worship led by Pamela and Tonya

Mon 27th April Friends of St Mary's AGM 7.00pm

4th May Flower Festival St Mary's 12-4.00



This week's Worship and Reflection



On the Road to Emmaus

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

In this season of Easter, we are spending time with the followers of Jesus in our Bible readings, as they wonder together in confusion about what just happened to Jesus, and then marvel as they encounter their risen Lord. This week's gospel comes from Luke 24:13-35 and is the story of two disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

We're only told the name of one of the disciples – Cleopas – not one of the Twelve. The other may have been his wife, Mary. They were walking home, from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a journey of seven miles, when a stranger begins to walk alongside them and starts asking them questions.

Cleopas tells the stranger all about Jesus; their hopes and disappointments, their confusion and sorrow. But this stranger is in fact Jesus himself (not that they know this yet!) Jesus listens and then opens up the Scriptures to them, explaining everything that was written about him. The disciples then have a choice, do they let the stranger go on his way? Instead, they decide to invite him to stay with them. They share a meal and in the breaking of bread, Jesus is revealed. They are amazed and immediately go back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples they have seen the risen Jesus.

There is a model in this story for our own discipleship – our own walk with God. When we are confused or sorrowful, do we turn to Jesus in prayer? When we don't understand something, do we look to Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what He might be teaching us through what is happening? Do we break bread with one another and notice in each other's faces the presence of God?

My prayer this week is that we draw on the strength of God through prayer and the word, in fellowship and in the breaking of bread, so that like Cleopas and Mary, our hearts burn within us and we are fired up to tell others about what we have seen and heard. Amen.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your
risen life and fill us with your
peace, to the glory of God the
Father. Amen

*Collect for the third Sunday
of Easter*

Silver Wedding Anniversary

John and Elizabeth are marking their 25th anniversary with a service to Renew their Marriage Vows at St. Mary's Church at 2:30 on Saturday, 25th April followed by Afternoon Tea. Everyone is welcome to join them for this celebration. Please contact the church office or John or Elizabeth if you plan to attend.

Thank you from Windmill Forest Church

A huge thank you to everyone from St Mary's who baked cakes for our Easter trail last weekend. Our Easter trail went really well with 155 children attending plus babies and adults, and we had many positive comments on the delicious cakes we served. Thank you!

Bereavement Support Group

Third Tuesday of the month, starting on 21st April 2.30pm, St Mary's Church.

Come and join us for support and shared experiences within a safe and welcoming group.

Refreshments provided. Further details from Judith Wells 01949 842804

Return Of The Zoom...

Time: Apr 19, 2026 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759582989?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759582989?pwd=DjYKpY1viWUjBLm6rfauHmQop1g1uW.1)
[pwd=DjYKpY1viWUjBLm6rfauHmQop1g1uW.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759582989?pwd=DjYKpY1viWUjBLm6rfauHmQop1g1uW.1)

Meeting ID: 897 5958 2989

Passcode: 766041

Flower Festival

St Mary's Church Flower Arrangers are hosting a Flower Festival to celebrate 'Welcoming Spring' on Monday 4 May from 12.noon – 4pm. Everyone is most welcome to come along to admire arrangements, sip hot and cold drinks and nibble cake. There will be stalls to browse and a raffle. If anyone would like to donate a bunch of flowers to help bring beauty to the day please bring them to Church on Sunday 3 May Morning Worship ready to be on display on the following day.

For further details please contact Linda Simmons on 07958716765 or linda.simmons@mail.com

Kelly's Heroes

The next Friends of St Mary's concert will be the Irish band Kelly's Heroes on Saturday 9th May at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.30). Tickets cost £15 (£12 for members of FOSM) and are available from the church office, Linda Simmons on 07958716765. Licensed bar and nibbles.

Friends of St Mary's AGM

Please come and join us on Monday 27th April 6.30 for 7.00pm to hear about what your kind generosity and support has achieved in the past year to support St Mary's projects.