

In our prayers this week...

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

Please pray for those grieving the loss of James Hazelden, Ivy McElroy and Nora Parkin.

Please pray for all those affected by the tragedy in Bottesford last Sunday.

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=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVTBVYlZBdz09>

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

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.)

in church today

Sunday 1st February 2026- Candlemass

Readings: Hebrews 2: 14-end, Luke 2: 22-40

Services this Sunday

Service of Holy Communion 10.30 at St Mary's led by Reverend Monica Judson

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd Feb Funeral of Nora Parkin 11.00am

Tuesday 2nd Feb Tea and cakes 2.30pm

Wed 3rd Feb Holy Communion 9.15 St Mary's

Sunday 8th Feb Morning Worship at St Mary's 10.30 led by Pamela and Tonya
Morning Worship at Barkestone led by Rev'd Mike Chaldecott

Tuesday 10th Feb Muston PCC 7.00pm

Friday 13th Feb Muston Bingo 7.00pm



This week's Worship and Reflection



Candlemas – Jesus is presented in the temple
“...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” Luke 2:32

On Sunday we are celebrating the feast of Candlemas which ends the church's Christmas and Epiphany season. Candlemas, like the rest of Epiphany, is full of stories of light – pointing us towards Jesus - unlike the dark January days which are thankfully now at an end! Candles

too are about light, and Candlemas is traditionally a time when all the church candles for the year are blessed and people light candles in their windows. Like many others, I will be finally taking down my Christmas tree and lights, as the year turns towards Lent and Easter, a few short weeks away.

In the gospel reading for Candlemas (Luke 2:22-40) we read about Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple when he is 40 days old, as was the Jewish custom, to present him to God and offer a sacrifice of two doves or pigeons. There, the holy family meet Simeon and then Anna, two devout people who had waited faithfully in the temple to meet the Messiah, the Saviour many Jews had been waiting a long time for.

Holding a new baby is often an emotional experience – a new life and the hope they represent. But Simeon and Anna's response to meeting Jesus was profound. Anna gave thanks to God and spoke about Jesus to everyone there. Simeon immediately knew he was holding the Messiah: he called Jesus 'a light', not only for the Jewish people but also for the Gentiles, non-Jews. A radical claim indeed for the temple crowd, and a puzzling one for his parents.

For us, Candlemas is yet another reminder that Jesus came to be the light of the whole world – a light no darkness can overcome – a message the world needs right now. And that when we choose to follow Jesus and live His Way, we receive His light and are called to BE lights, showing others the way to meet Jesus for themselves.

This week, let's shine as lights in the world, to the glory of God the Father.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory
of Israel: make your home among
us, and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father
your God and our God. Amen

Collect for Candlemas

Lent Course

Lisa will be running a Lent Course entitled *Lent Wise: Five Spiritual Essentials for Real Life*, on the following dates; Monday 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March from 7.00-8.30pm. The course will take place at St Mary's Church and refreshments and all resources will be provided. For more information and to book a place, please contact the church office on 01949842859 or stmbottesford@gmail.com



Easter is early!

Yes, Lent is fast approaching and once again we are hoping to donate plenty of Fair

Trade Real Easter Eggs to Grantham Foodbank. The eggs also come with a booklet about the Easter story and are palm oil free. If you are able to sponsor an egg (price £5.50), please speak to Kathie Lyndsell.

Churchyard Survey

Many thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire about St Mary's churchyard. The results were as follows:

Use all the land on the north side	33
Use part of the land	9
Close the churchyard	0

The PCC therefore plans to use the land on the north side for additional graves.



St Mary's Spire

On the 22nd and 23rd January, a structural engineer and steeplejacks came to St Mary's to inspect the spire. The good news is that the damage to the spire was not as bad as we had anticipated and they

will be returning on 14th February to carry out repair work.

Melton Bible Course

Melton Mowbray Team Parish is running the new edition of The Bible Course and you are invited to join them on Monday evenings at St Mary's Melton at 7.30pm. The course begins on 16th February until 27th April. For more information contact the team rector on

maryebarr17@gmail.com

Friends of St Mary's

The Friends 2026 programme is nearing completion. The highlights include:

Saturday 7th March: Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir

Saturday 9th May: Kelly's Heroes (Irish music and song)

Saturday 28th June: St Mary's Summer Village Fair

Saturday 25th July: Helix Ensemble (award winning chamber orchestra)

Saturday 5th/Sunday 6th December: Christmas Tree Festival

In addition the Friends are planning their usual Quiz Nights, dates to be announced. Further information about the above events will be announced nearer the time.