

### In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Norman Baird, Andrew Barker, Sally Hill-cote, June Leek, Julie Marshall, Ivy McElroy, Margaret Metcalfe, Irene Robinson, Beryl Smith, Tim Wakefield and Barbara Walsh.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Tracey Bartlett, Eileen Boyce and Peter Holmes.

Please pray for peace on earth.

### Foodbank Trolley

Many thanks to all who contribute to the Foodbank trolley. During the winter weather we are now keeping the trolley inside the church.

### 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 2.00 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

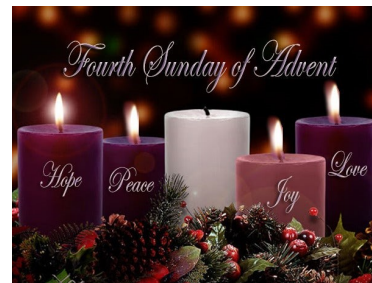
Paper copy

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

**Reverend Monica Judson**  
**Growing Faith Minister**  
07903005304  
revdmonica@gmail.com

**Lisa Smith**  
07415144640  
lisa.smith1970@yahoo.co.uk

**John Bartlett**  
07831 650769  
john@jbeng.co.uk

**Administrator for Bottesford & Muston:**  
**Pamela Kearsley**  
01949 842859  
stmbottesford@gmail.com

### Website & Facebook for St. Mary's

[www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk)

Facebook:

St Mary the Virgin Bottesford

Contact details for each church can be found at: [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) (followed by the church name.)

**Sunday 22nd December 2024-** Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Readings:** Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1:39-55

### Services this Weekend

Morning Worship St Mary's 10.30 led by Chris Judson and Peter Brooks

Carols by Candlelight St Mary's 6.30pm

### Dates for your Diary

### Christmas Eve

Crib Service St Mary's 4.00pm

Holy Communion at Barkestone 8.00pm led by Reverend Monica Judson

Midnight Mass at St Mary's 11.30pm led by Reverend Crystal McAllister

### Christmas Day

Family Service St Mary's **10.00am** led by Reverend Nick Baker

Sunday 29th Dec Morning Worship St Mary's

N.B There will be no In Church Today next week.



## This Week's Worship and Reflection



*"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."*

Matthew 1:24

In my experience, it's a rare boy who wants to play Joseph in the nativity play. For the extroverts there are no lines and little action. For the introverts it involves too close a proximity to the girl playing Mary!!

Joseph doesn't play a prominent role in the nativity story. In Luke's version of events, the version usually read at carol services in the run up to Christmas, Joseph barely gets a mention. All of the action and agency is with Mary instead.

In our gospel reading for this week from Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph meets an angel of the Lord in a dream. The angel tells him not to be afraid about taking Mary as his wife because the baby is special. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, is to be given the name Jesus and is destined to save people from their sins. Big news! Our reading ends with Joseph doing exactly what the angel said, and by doing so, formally adopts Jesus into his own family.

What part might we play in inviting and including others in God's family? Particularly those that the world, or even some within the family of faith, might look down on? Mary was a young girl, pregnant out of marriage: a scenario that sadly even today carries the weight of shame. Yet Joseph, with no fanfare but quietly, listened to God's message and acted upon it, showing courage and kindness. In doing so, he played a vital role in the nativity story that we are still telling over 2,000 years later.

Even where we think we have little to contribute; whoever we are and whatever the rest of society may think, just being there at the right time might be enough. We don't necessarily need to 'big up our part', but we do need to listen to what God wants to say, to us and *through* us, like Joseph did.

So, this Christmas, let's listen well to God's message of light and hope in the nativity story and notice the quiet role Joseph plays in the birth of Jesus. How can you bring that light and hope, quietly, to those around you, so they feel welcome in God's family?

On behalf of the Ministry Team at St Mary's Church, Bottesford and the churches in the East Vale, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lisa Smith

### To Pray

*Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth  
of your son, so we wait for his  
coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth  
pangs of this present age to see,  
with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
Collect for the fourth Sunday of  
Advent*



### Crib Service

Our annual Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve starting at 4.00pm.

Angels, shepherds and wise men are all welcome at the service which is guaranteed to be happy chaos!

### The Rutland Arms

St Mary's Choir and friends hosted a joyous evening of carol singing in the Rutland Arms last Friday and have already been invited back for next year. A total of £200 was collected to be donated to the charity Crisis.

### Sunday Supplement

Every other Sunday evening at 5pm - live worship by Zoom: fresh, interactive and spontaneous. Meet up with people you know from around our churches or make their acquaintance for the first time.

### Wednesday Morning Prayer

The next Morning Prayer at St Mary's will be on Wednesday 15th January at 9.00am.

### The Hub Christmas Hamper

Bottesford Hub and Charity Shop are hosting their Christmas Coffee morning on Saturday 21st including the grand raffle.

### Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day service this year at St Mary's, at the slightly earlier time of **10.00am** will be led by Reverend Nick Baker. We are grateful to the Diocese of Leicester for providing us with ministers for both Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day service.

### Duck Race

The Belvoir Lions will be hosting their annual Duck Race on Boxing Day from 10.00am. Refreshments will be served at St Mary's.

