

In our prayers this week...

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

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Brenda Cooper, Kathleen Panter and Jane Thompson.

Please pray for all those bereaved over the Christmas period.

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

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)



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 4th January 2026- Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12

Services this Sunday

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 6th Jan	Tea and Cakes 2.30pm
Friday 9th Jan	Muston Coffee Morning 10.00
Sunday 11th Jan	Covenant Service at the Methodist Chapel led by Reverend Dawn Brown 10.30
Monday 12th Jan	St Mary's PCC 7.00pm
Tuesday 13th Jan	St John's PCC 7.00pm
Monday 19th Jan	Churches Together 7.00



This week's Worship and Reflection



Epiphany: “Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’” **Matthew 2:1b,2**

Happy New Year to you all! A new year is upon us and for some this will be a time of great excitement for new adventures to come. For others it's a time heavier with sadness and worry. Maybe for many, a mixture of the two. And so, we come to the story of the Epiphany, the familiar story of three Magi, sometimes called Kings or Wise Men, who see a new star rising, understand its meaning as signifying the birth of a new King of the Jews, and set off on a journey to find him. In Christian churches all around the world, the figures of the three Magi and their camels will be added to Crib scenes this weekend, to show their arrival in Bethlehem, worshipping the baby Jesus and bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

There is a tradition in parts of Ireland of celebrating Epiphany as ‘Women's Christmas’ – a time for women who have carried the domestic burdens of the year to pause, rest, reflect and celebrate together before moving into the new year. I like that idea!

The feast of the Epiphany invites us all to do the same – to pause and think about our own faith journey to find the King – our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To consider how we worship Him in our lives. To give thanks for the good gifts that God gives us. And to renew our commitment in this new year to follow Him.

So, at the start of this new year, we pray that we may come again to Jesus, by whatever route we can and with the best gifts we can find. Amen.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

*Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Collect for Epiphany

Wednesday Communion

There will be no Wednesday Communion on Wednesday 7th January. Wednesday morning Communion will continue monthly starting on February 4th.

Christmas Donation

All the money raised at our Christmas services last year have been donated to The Salvation Army. We are pleased to report that a cheque for £1000 has been sent to The Salvation Army this week.

Covenant Service

On Sunday 11th January, there will be no service at St Mary's. Instead we will be joining our Methodist brothers and sisters for their annual Covenant service at the Methodist Chapel at 10.30am. We encourage everyone to come and join us at this service.

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 - ls Spencer631@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.



Christmas Services

Our Christmas services around the benefice were well attended this year. We were particularly grateful to Bishop Saju for leading our service of Midnight Mass (above).