

In our prayers this week...

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

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Jean Burton, Vera Musson and James Widdowson.

A prayer for Iran

Ever-loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free. We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty.

Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering. Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation. Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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=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 - ispencer631@gmail.com

Monthly Services in the East Vale at 10.30am

2nd Sunday St Peter & St Paul Barkestone

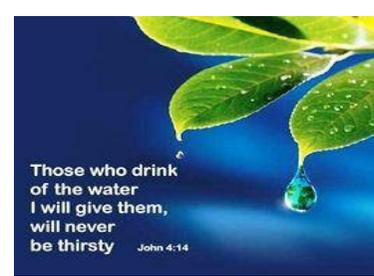
3rd Sunday St John's Muston

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



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



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 8th March 2026- Third Sunday

Readings: Romans 5:1-11, John 4: 5-42

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Peter Brooks and Chris Judson, Holy Communion at Barkestone 10.30 led by Reverend Monica Judson and Reverend Mike Chaldecott

Dates for your Diary

Sat 7th Mar	Barkestone Church Coffee Morning 10-12.30 Radcliffe Male Voice Choir St Mary's 7.30pm
Mon 9th Mar	Lent Course 7.00pm
Tue 10th Mar	FOSM Meeting 7.00pm
Fri 13th Mar	Making posies 10.0am Muston Quiz 7.00pm
Sun 15th Mar	Mothering Sunday service St Mary's 10.30 led by Lisa Smith
Tue 17th Mar	St Mary's PCC 7.00pm
Wed 18th Mar	Sing for Joy 2.00pm
Sat 21st Mar	Easter Wreath Making 9.30 FOSM Quiz Night 7.00pm



This week's Worship and Reflection Romans 5:1-11(Justification

by faith) John 4:5-42 (Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at a well)

We will hear two well known and important readings this Sunday.

Our first reading is from the fifth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans is considered to be Paul's greatest work. We will hear the Apostle Paul demonstrating that we are justified before God by faith alone, rather than by our own efforts. This is the passage that set light to the fire that was to become Protestant Reformation five hundred years ago.

The reformation has not only shaped our worship here today, but also other aspects of life in this country.

However, this week we are going to reflect on our gospel reading from John chapter four. This is a very rich passage which can be looked at from several different perspectives and from which we can learn many things about God and about ourselves. We will be looking at this passage through the lens of faith. This continues the theme that Reverend Monica outlined last Sunday and of course connects with our first reading from Romans.

Our gospel reading concerns an encounter between Jesus and a woman of dubious repute, who also turns out to be a Samaritan. There are three accounts in the New Testament concerning particular Samaritans: Most famously the parable of the Good Samaritan, but also, we are told that on one occasion Jesus healed ten lepers but only one returned to thank him and it is noted that he was a Samaritan. Then we have today's passage, concerning the Samaritan woman at the well.

Probably, like me, you've been told in the past that the Jews didn't like the Samaritans, in fact they seem like an anathema to the Jews. A little while ago I decided to do some research to find out who the Samaritans were and why the Jews felt the way they did about them. It's a complicated story, but I learned that the animosity cuts both ways. It's a story of a family separated by circumstances, who developed some distinctive practices during their separation. Each side consider themselves to be in the right and look down on the other.

Today is the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of encounter—encounter with God, certainly, but also with ourselves, our own truth, and with the deep thirsts we often keep hidden. Today's gospel reading bring us to a well in the heat of the day, where Jesus meets a woman who has spent years avoiding encounters. Our first reading brings us to Paul's bold proclamation that "since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Two stories. One theme.

God tends to meet us not at our strongest, but at our time of most need; our thirstiest if you like. In our gospel reading the well is the place to go to satisfy our basic need for water, to satisfy our thirst. The Samaritan woman comes to the well at noon, the hour when no one else will be there. She carries not only her water jar but the weight of her story, her reputation, her disappointments. She comes alone at that time because she expects nothing good from others and she is ashamed of herself.

However, Jesus was already there. He is tired. He is thirsty. He is vulnerable. The Son of God sits at the well in need. This aspect of the gospel might surprise us: God meets us in weakness, not power.

This conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is the longest conversation involving Jesus recorded in the bible. For this reason alone, it will be worthwhile to consider what is said in a bit more detail. Another interesting point is that this is the most explicit reference by Jesus that he is the Messiah. The Samaritan woman also becomes the first evangelist recorded in John's gospel as she returns to her people to tell them all about Jesus.

Chris Judson

To Pray

*Eternal God,
give us insight to discern your will
for us, to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Collect for the third Sunday of Lent

Barkestone Coffee Morning

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Barkestone are hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 7th March 10am- 12.30 pm in the church. Croissants, cakes, sausage baps, healthy treats too! etc. All ages welcome.

Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir

Tickets are now available for the next Friends of St Mary's concert on Saturday 7th March featuring the Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir plus the acclaimed harpist Kyla Tsz Yam Pai. Doors open at 6.30 and the concert starts at 7.30. Tickets are £15 (£12 for members of Friends) from the church office, Linda Simmons 07958716765 or Eventbrite.

Mothering Sunday Flowers

This year's Mothering Sunday service will be on Sunday 15th March. Every year Pim Mabbit donates flowers and foliage but this year is unable to make the posies for the congregation. We are therefore looking for a few volunteers to help make the posies on Friday 13th March from 10.00am. Please speak to Kathie Lyndsell if you can help.

Windmill Forest Church Easter Trail

This will be held on Saturday 4th April 11.00-2.00. If anyone is available

to help or to make a cake, please let Pamela in the office know.

Easter Day Sunrise Service

There will be a service of Holy Communion on the north terrace of Belvoir Castle at 6.30am on Easter Day led by Reverend Eddie Wynn. Refreshments will be available to purchase afterwards at the café. Please let the church office know if you are planning to attend.

Easter Wreath-Making

Once again Lisa will be running her popular Easter wreath-making workshop this year on Saturday 21st March from 9.30am. Please contact Lisa for more details and to book a place.

Muston Quiz Night

The next Muston Quiz will be on Friday 13th March from 7.00pm at the Old School.

FOSM Quiz Night

The next Friends Quiz Night run by John Daybell will be held on Saturday 21st March at 7.00pm at the bowls club. Tickets cost £10 (£8 for members) and include a two course supper. Teams of up to 6 players. Please contact John Daybell for a booking form.

Easter Lilies

If you are able to make a donation towards Easter lilies, please speak to Pamela in the church office or Graham Lyndsell, the treasurer.