

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 James Hazelden, Ivy McElroy and Nora Parkin.

Please pray for safety in schools throughout the world.

Thursday Prayers

An invitation to 15 minutes of peace and quiet at our prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 9.00pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035344573?pwd=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVTBVY1ZBdz0g>

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 - ls Spencer631@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 9.30-12.00

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.adchurchnearyou.com
(followed by the church name.)

in church
today

Sunday 15th February 2026- Sunday next before Lent

Readings: 2 Peter 1:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9
Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Lisa Smith, Morning Worship 10.30 at Muston led by Graham and Kathie Lyndsell

Dates for your Diary

Mon 16th Feb- St Mary's PCC 7.00pm

Wed 18th Feb- Sing for Joy 2.00pm
Ash Wednesday Service
7.30pm St Mary's led by Reverend Monica Judson

Fri 20th Feb- Service of Remembrance for Faye Daniel-Fox 3.00pm
St Mary's

Sun 22nd Feb Morning Worship led by Chris Judson

Mon 23rd Feb- Lent Course 7.00pm St Mary's



This week's Worship and Reflection



The Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-9

“...a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.’” Matt 17:5b

The story of the transfiguration is on the one hand fantastical and extraordinary – and for many, hard to believe. Yet it appears in three gospel accounts – here in Matthew, in Mark and also in Luke – and because it is so strange, many scholars now agree that there must have been a real historical event of this kind. On the mountaintop, Peter, James and John see Jesus' face and clothes shine like the light of the sun, and hear him speaking with Moses the law giver and Elijah the great prophet. Then they hear the voice of God confirming Jesus as His Son whom He loves, and that they should listen to Him.

I am reminded of the old advert for Ready Brek back in the 80's which showed people who'd eaten Ready Brek for breakfast glowing on their way to school or work!! I'm not sure that Jesus had eaten Ready Brek here! I have never seen someone glow with light quite like this – but I have noticed someone's face kind of shine if they're close to God in joyful worship, or in the first flushes of love. And I am reminded too of those words from the baptism service that call us to 'shine as lights in the world, to the glory of God the Father'.

Jesus himself says earlier in Matthew's gospel (Matt 13:43) that all God's people would shine like stars in God's kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we receive the light of Christ and are called to shine like lights in the world – so that others will see and want to meet Jesus too. Do we feel shiny? It's easy to become tarnished by the world's cares and sorrows. But this story reminds us that we all have this Christ-light inside of us and as eyewitnesses of His glory, God wants us to be guiding lights for others to find the truth about Jesus.

It's no accident that the transfiguration is our gospel today when we are at a pivotal point in the church's year. We have come through Christmas and Epiphany, and now during this coming week, the journey of Lent begins when we prepare for the mystery of Easter. The transfiguration story is about being surprised by the power, love and beauty of God. But it also calling us to recognize that same power, love and beauty within Jesus and to listen for it in His voice – not least when He tells us to take up our cross and follow Him. The word to the disciples on that mountaintop then is just as much a word to us today. If we want to find the way – to God and to the promised land – we must listen to Him.

This week, let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, open our ears to listen to His voice and seek ways to shine as lights, serving God and each other in the world where we are.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful
lives: set straight our crooked
hearts, and bend our wills to love
your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for the Sunday next before Lent

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.



World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Mary's on Friday 6th March at

11.30am. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. The service will be followed by a light lunch. If you would like to stay for lunch,

please contact Judith Wells or the church office for catering purposes.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 7.30pm for Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent.

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.

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 Kylia 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.

FOSM Quiz Night

The next Friends Quiz Night run by John Daybell will be held on Friday 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.