

### 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 that people will come to know Jesus as the light of the world.

### 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](mailto:ispencer631@gmail.com)

### 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=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)



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](mailto:revdmonica@gmail.com)

Reverend Mike

Chaldecott

(Deacon)

[Revmike1985@gmail.com](mailto:Revmike1985@gmail.com)

Lisa Smith

07415144640

[lisa.smith1970@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lisa.smith1970@yahoo.co.uk)

John Bartlett

07831 650769

[john@jbeng.co.uk](mailto:john@jbeng.co.uk)

Canon Judith Wells

(Pastoral Care)

01949 842804

[judithwells@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judithwells@hotmail.co.uk)

Administrator for

Bottesford & Muston:

Pamela Kearsley

01949 842859

[stmbottesford@gmail.com](mailto: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 21st December 2025-** Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Readings:** Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1: 18-25

### Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 at St Mary's led by Pamela Kearsley and Tonya Pacey

Holy Communion 10.30 at Muston

Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm at St Mary's

### Dates for your Diary

Saturday 20th Dec Christmas at Bottesford Hub 9.30-12.00

Monday 22nd Dec Funeral of Kathleen Panter 11.30am

Advent Course 7.00pm

Wed 24th Dec 4.00pm Crib Service at St Mary's, Holy Communion at Barkestone 8.00pm

Midnight Mass 11.00pm

St Mary's led by Bishop Saju

Christmas Day Family Worship 10.30am

Boxing Day Church refreshments for the Duck Race

Sunday 28th Dec Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's



## 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; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen

Collect for the fourth Sunday of  
Advent



### Christingle

Many thanks to everyone who donated toys for Grantham Foodbank and helped put together the Christingles for last week's service.

### 12 Joys of Christmas

The Church of England has produced a booklet entitled 'Twelve Joys of Christmas' which contains meditations for Christmas and the new year. We still have copies available at St Mary's for anyone who would like one. Please help yourself.

### Christmas Cheer at Bottesford Hub

The final session for 2025 at Bottesford Hub and Charity Shop will be on Saturday 20th December. There will be free tea and cake and the Hub Christmas raffle will be drawn.

### Volunteers, please!

We are looking for some helpers for two Christmas events at St Mary's. Firstly help with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm, especially after the service to help pack away and secondly help with serving refreshments on Boxing Day morning for the Duck Race. Please speak to Pamela if you can help.

### Sunday Supplement

Topic: Nearly Christmas Zooming  
Time: Dec 21, 2025 05:00 PM London  
Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzdzo9&omn=86344961099)

[j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzdzo9&omn=86344961099](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzdzo9&omn=86344961099)

Meeting ID: 926 793 2410

Passcode: 098305

One tap mobile

+442080806592,,9267932410#,,,,  
\*098305# United Kingdom

### Monthly Communion

Reverend Monica is now holding a monthly Communion service on the first Wednesday of the month. All welcome.