

In our prayers this week...

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

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

Please pray

Loving God,
In a world of conflict and uncertainty, we pray for peace where there is war, wisdom where there is division, and compassion where there is suffering. We lift before you those who lead nations and communities, that they may seek justice, truth and the common good. Strengthen all who serve others in times of crisis — the anxious, the displaced, the overworked and the overlooked. As we face concerns about the cost of living, the health of our planet, and the wellbeing of future generations, give us courage to care, to share, and to act with hope. Make us instruments of your love in our homes, churches and neighbourhoods, so that light may shine in dark places and your peace may grow in every heart. 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=MmpXYotzWUhmZlhrYkpHVtBVYlZBdzog>

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 - lspencer631@gmail.com

Monthly Services in the East Vale at 10.30am

2nd Sunday St Peter & St Paul Barkestone

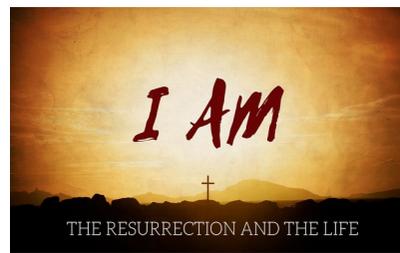
3rd Sunday St John's Muston

Regular Events

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| 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

Reverend Monica Judson
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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 22nd March 2026- Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Romans: 6-11, John 11: 1-45

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Reverend Mike Chaldecott

Evening Prayer 4.00pm Plungar led by Lisa Smith

Dates for your Diary

Sat 21st Mar Easter Wreath Making 9.30
FOSM Quiz Night 7.00pm
Bowls Club

Mon 23rd Mar Lent Course 7.00pm

Thur 26th Mar School Easter Service 2.00pm

Fri 27th Mar Funeral of Vera Musson 11.00

Sun 29th Mar Palm Sunday Service 10.30 led by Graham and Kathie

Mon 30th Mar Holy Week Services 6.30pm

Wed 1st April Holy Communion 9.15am

Thur 2nd April Maundy Thursday Service 7.30pm St Mary's



This week's Worship and Reflection

A Time to Cry "Jesus wept" John 11:35.

My dad was waiting to die of cancer, he'd been battling this debilitating disease for years. As I sat by his bed in the hospice and watched him fading away, weakening, strength draining from him, watching him take his last breaths, I tried to tell him that I loved him, he put his hand on my arm and he lovingly said "I know!". I choked back the tears.

In the middle of the story of Lazarus, in this week's reading in the Gospel of John Chapter 11, there is the shortest verse in the bible:

"Jesus wept."

Two simple words. Yet they tell us something profound about God. Jesus arrives in Bethany after Lazarus has already died. Martha and Mary are devastated. When they see Jesus, they both say the same thing: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." It is the cry of grief, but also the cry of disappointment. "Jesus, you could have done something." And the remarkable thing is this: Jesus does not rebuke them. He does not tell them to be stronger or have more faith. God in Christ does not stand at a distance from human sorrow. He stands in the middle of it. Instead, when he sees their pain and the people around them mourning, Jesus weeps. Tears are often the price of love.

God is still at work beyond what we can see.

In Bethany, people thought the story had ended.

Death does not get the last word.

But Jesus was about to begin a new chapter.

Join us on Sunday to see what happens.

Easter Services

You are invited to experience the events that led to Jesus being placed on the Cross on Good Friday and then experience the joy of His rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

This year we are offering a short service on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week at 6.30pm in St Mary's Lady Chapel. On each of these evenings we will follow Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday evening at 7.30pm St Mary's will hold our last Holy Communion before Jesus is condemned to die on the Cross on Good Friday.

There will then be plenty of opportunities to attend events and worship that will guide us through the terrible events of Good Friday when Jesus died on a cross and an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate His rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. All are welcome to join in with all or in part of what we are offering this Easter time. Please see our diary of dates for full details.

To Pray

Gracious God, you gave up your son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for the fifth Sunday of Lent

Wild Worship for Easter

Free session for families on Good Friday 10-11.30. Explore the Easter story, make Easter gardens and enjoy hot cross buns and chocolate eggs. Please contact the church office to book a place.

Come and Sing

The Cranmer Company of Singers will once again be hosting a charity Come and Sing at St Mary's on Good Friday. This year we will be singing Faure's Requiem. Registration for singers begins at 4.00pm or come and listen to the performance at 7.30. The event is in aid of the Gaza and Middle East appeal through Tearfund.

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 work-

shop this year on Saturday 21st March from 9.30am. Please contact Lisa for more details and to book a place.

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.

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 Card

Many thanks to all who distributed the Easter card around the village.

Sunday Supplement

The next Sunday Supplement on Zoom led by John Bartlett will be on Sunday 29th March at 5.00pm.

Meeting ID: 926 793 2410

Passcode: 098305

Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir

An enjoyable evening was had by all at the recent Friends concert by the Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir and the hugely talented harpist Kylia.

