

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, Deborah Cosgriff, Jim Farley, Beryl Fentem, Michael Howett, Michael Kirkland, June Leek, Barbara Walsh and Julia West.

Please pray for those grieving the loss of Stewart Colledge, Christine Dunn, Andy Morley, Mary Robinson and Evelyn Watson.

Please pray for our new government and unity in our country.

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 - 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

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.....

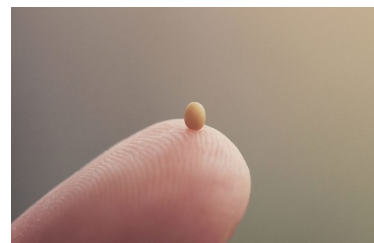
Email.....

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 26th July 2026- Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Romans 8: 26-end, Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Services this Sunday

Service of Morning Worship 10.30 St Mary's led by Peter Brooks and Revd Mike Chaldecott

Dates for your Diary

Tues 28th July Muston PCC 7.00pm

Fri 31st July Funeral of Christine Dunn 9.30 Rushcliffe Oaks

Sun 2nd Aug Holy Communion 10.30 St Mary's led by Revd Peter Sutton

Tues 4th Aug Tea and Cakes 2.30pm Muston PCC 7.00pm

Wed 5th Aug Holy Communion 9.15

Fri 7th Aug Muston Quiz Night 7.00pm



This week's Worship and Reflection

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

For the last couple of weeks at church we have been listening to parables from Matthew's gospel which Jesus uses to describe the powerful and transformative growth of God's kingdom on earth, starting from humble beginnings and spreading widely and deeply.

Last week we listened to the parable of the weeds. I don't know about you but I'm not very good at waiting. I know in Paul's letter to the Colossians we are told as God's chosen people to be patient, but it's something I really struggle with. In a lot of these parables in Matthew, it's all about waiting. The farmer waits for the harvest and the birds wait for the mustard seed to grow. The servants wanted to go straight in and rip out the weeds but that would have risked harming the good crop and the harvest. Maybe God's kingdom is a bit like this too; we have to be patient.

This week we have five more parables which Jesus uses to describe the kingdom of heaven, small things like the mustard seed, yeast, a treasure that can be buried and a pearl, that turn out to have a significant impact and the potential to lead to big changes.

Although the mustard seed is not actually the smallest of all seeds, (this is an orchid seed) in first century Palestine, it probably was the smallest seed sown, maybe *Salvadora persica*, sometimes locally called the "mustard tree". It grows into a lush bush which can support a bird's nest. Unimpressive to start with but eventually providing home for other creatures.

Next Jesus uses the image of a small amount of yeast hidden in the flour producing a large effect once the dough has risen like just a small effort from us, maybe a smile and hello to a stranger can change someone's day.

The yeast and the mustard seed imagery remind us not to underestimate the power of small beginnings. With the treasure in the field and the pearl, the protagonist is willing to part with everything of earthly value to obtain them and this reminds us that God's Kingdom is not of this world but requires thorough commitment and sacrifice.

We may spend our lives looking for God in extraordinary places. Do we expect dramatic miracles or moments of absolute certainty? But Jesus points us somewhere else entirely.

In all these parables Jesus talks about everyday events in his time. The kingdom is hidden in plain sight. The ordinariness of the tasks invite us to see signs of the kingdom of heaven in our day-to-day lives, Might we be walking past them in our daily lives and failing to notice?

Pamela Kearsley

To Pray

Lord God,
your son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from
despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Collect for the eighth Sunday
after Trinity*

Events at Muston

The next Muston Quiz Night will be held on Friday 7th August at 7.30pm. Tickets are £2 per person and there will be a bar plus tea and cake. The PCC are also holding a Cheese and Wine Evening on Friday 4th September from 7.00pm. Tickets are £15.

Patronal Festival Evensong

Save the date. There will be a service of Choral Evensong with Archdeacon Richard Trethewey at 6.30 on Sunday 6th September followed by refreshments. More details to follow.

Ride and Stride

This year's Ride and Stride is on Saturday 12th September. Peter Brooks will once again be riding on behalf of St Mary's. If you would also like to take part, please see Pamela for a sponsor form.

Safeguarding Survey

The diocese and cathedral will soon be taking part in a safeguarding audit and they would like people across the diocese to take part through an online survey. There are posters up in church containing a QR code or

you can access the survey on [Leicester.anglican.org/safeguarding/audit](https://leicester.anglican.org/safeguarding/audit). The survey closes on the 8th August.

Confirmation

This year's confirmation service will take place on Sunday 6th September at 10.30 at Hose Church. If you are interested in preparing for confirmation, please speak to a member of the ministry team. There is also a preparation course being run in Harby. Details are on the notice-board in the porch.

Bottesford Community Hub

The Hub would be grateful to anyone who could spare 15 minutes on a Saturday either at 8.45 and/or 11.45 to help get the stock out and put it away.

Diocesan Centenary Worship Gathering

On Sunday September 13th, Leicester Diocese will be celebrating their centenary with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally. Everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets are free and can be booked through Eventbrite. More details can be found at <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diomail/>

Lighting at St Mary's

The PCC is planning to install a new lighting system at St Mary's and work will commence at the end of September. This will not only improve the lighting, but will also save money through lower energy costs. It will also mean no one has to climb very high ladders to change light bulbs anymore!