

In our prayers this week...

Please pray for all who are unwell including Andrew Barker, 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, Pauline

Poyser, Eric Sands, Jane Thompson and William (Willie) Young.

Please pray that amongst the busyness of Christmas preparations, we find space in our lives to remember who we are welcoming and what that means for us.

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

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

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

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.)

in church today

Sunday 30th November 2025- Advent

Sunday

Readings: Psalm 122:1-end, Matthew 24:36-44

Services this Sunday

Morning Worship 10.30 at St Mary's led by Laura Taylor

Advent Carol Service 4.00pm at St Mary's

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 29th Nov	St Mary's Christmas Fair 10.00-2.00pm
Tuesday 2nd Dec	Tea and Cakes 2.30pm
Friday 5th Dec	Carols round the tree 4.15
	Muston Christmas Bingo 7.00pm
Saturday 6th Dec	Wreath-Making Workshop 9-12.00 St Mary's
Sunday 7th Dec	Holy Communion 10.30 St Mary's
Tuesday 9th Dec	FOSM meeting
Saturday 13th Dec	Children's Activity Morning 10.30am



This week's Worship and Reflection



Advent

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Happy New Year!! This may seem a strange greeting for a reflection on Advent Sunday! But we have arrived at the start of a new Church Year, the beginning again of telling the 'good news' at the heart of our Christian faith that Jesus comes into the world to save us and redeem us, so that we can love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. Advent is a time to get ready to welcome Jesus – into our hearts, our homes and our communities – and to think about what that means for us when we do.

Preparations for Christmas are well underway for many of us. I love the lights and tinsel, the nativity plays and gifts under the tree as much as the next person – I really do! But there is also a protest of sorts at the centre of the Christmas story. God breaks into human history in a demonstration of gentle rebellion against the ways of the world. While the world tears itself apart through war and violence, God sends His Son, Jesus, to show us how to love. While the world focuses on wealth and power, God is born in a humble stable to lead a life of service and sacrifice.

So, as we approach this Advent season, there is a challenge here for us. If there is a divine protest in the Christmas story, how can we join in the demonstration against the status quo in favour of a transformed and better future? What might we do this Advent to help bring in the kingdom of God and share God's love wider than our own family and friends?

There are opportunities at St Mary's this Advent through the Grantham Foodbank reverse Advent Calendar, buying a Real Advent Calendar to share the Christmas story, or bringing a toy to the toy service for local families in need. Maybe you know a neighbour who is alone to share a meal with, or when you're out Christmas shopping, you can stop for a chat and offer a hot drink to someone on the street. And if we're feeling anxious about stepping out in faith, reaching out to new people, we have these words of comfort from Isaiah 43:1,4:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. I am the Lord your God, ... you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you."

May we hear the whisper of the angels this Advent who say, "Do not be afraid", put our fears aside, and join in the protest!

Amen.

Lisa Smith

To Pray

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen
Collect for Advent Sunday

Advent Group

Lisa is running an Advent group called Advent: Scripture and Song at her house on Monday evenings in December (1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd) 7-8.30pm. All resources provided. Let Lisa or Pamela know if you'd like to come via the Church Office 01949 842859.

Wreath-Making Workshop

This year's Christmas wreath-making workshop will be held on Saturday 6th December at St Mary's from 9.00-12.00. Please contact Lisa or the church office if you would like to book a place.

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 and secondly help with serving refreshments on Boxing Day morning for the Duck Race. Please speak to Pamela if you can help.

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.

Children's Christmas Activities

Reverend Monica will be running a

children's Activity Morning on Saturday 13th December from 10.30-12.00. Please contact the church office to book a place.

Agape For Advent Zoom

Time: Nov 30, 2025 05:00 PM London
Join Zoom Meeting

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzd09&omn=89810045302)

[i/9267932410?](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzd09&omn=89810045302)

[pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzd09&omn=89810045302](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9267932410?pwd=Wng4OXQobFMwT3ZNSUhoaU9JcVAzd09&omn=89810045302)

Meeting ID: 926 793 2410

Passcode: 098305

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 have 50 copies available for anyone who would like one.

Christmas Events at Muston Old School

St John's PCC are holding a Christmas bingo night on Friday 5th December from 7.00pm. There will also be a Christmas coffee morning on Friday 19th December with stocking fillers and festive fun.

Monthly Communion

Reverend Monica will be starting a monthly Communion service on the first Wednesday of the month. All welcome.

Grantham Foodbank

Grantham Foodbank are once again launching their reverse Advent Calendar appeal whereby each day instead of receiving, you give an item. Items have been chosen according to the needs of the Foodbank with a couple of Christmas themed treats. Lists are available at St Mary's and there is one on the Foodbank display.