

Weekly News from SS&SJ, Earl Shilton, and St Mary's, Elmeſthorpe

Services this coming Sunday, 7th December:

- 9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
- 6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

The Bible reading for our morning services will be John 1 v 1-5 (p862 in the pew Bibles).

Sing for Worship – Do come and join us for the following sessions:

- Saturday 13th December
- Saturday 20th December
- Carol services 21st December

Christingle Service – Our all-age Christingle services will be on Sunday 14th December. During the service we will be making Christingles and exploring their meaning. Everyone is welcome to come and join in (9.15am at St Mary's; 10.45am at SS&SJ). We will be collecting donations for the work of The Children's Society. Candle-shaped collection boxes are available in church or alternatively you can give online using this QR code:



Townlands CofE School Christmas Service at SS&SJ, Tuesday 16th December, 10.00am. All are welcome to attend.

St Simon and St Jude's CofE School Christmas Service at SS&SJ, Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am. All are welcome to attend.

Elmeſthorpe Carol Singing - On Wednesday 17th December a group from St Mary's Church will be carol singing in the streets of Elmeſthorpe. We won't be collecting money or knocking on doors, but simply bringing some festive cheer to the village. Do pop out and join us – we are always open to requests! We will start at 5.45pm in Leighton Crescent.

Elmeſthorpe Friends, Food and Flowers Initiative will be holding their next coffee morning on Saturday 20th December, 10.00am - 11.30am at Elmeſthorpe Village Hall, raising money for the church and other charities. Theme: "Christmas Party" - wear your Christmas jumper! Donations always welcome for local food banks.

At the coffee morning the ***St Mary's Subscription Draw*** will take place. Results of the prize draw held 29th November 2025: first prize £40 number 113, second prize £25 number 192, third prize £15 number 56, fourth prize £10 number 116, fifth prize £10 number 111.

Street Pastors Carol Singing - Barwell and Earl Shilton Street Pastors are visiting our local pubs in **Barwell on Friday 12th December** and **Earl Shilton on Friday 19th December** to lead carol singing. We would like to invite anyone from our churches to join us as more voices gives us more sound! We meet at Top Town at 7pm for Barwell, and the ES Methodist Church Lounge at 7pm for Earl Shilton, for prayer before going out to our first pub.

Carols at the Wentworth Arms Christmas Fair – Come and join in! Saturday 20th December, 2.00pm - 6.00pm (details to be confirmed).

Upcoming services

Sunday 14th December – Advent 3

- 9.15am – All-age Christingle service at St Mary's
- 10.45am - All-age Christingle service at SS&SJ

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4

- 10.00am – Benefice Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Carol services – take place on Sunday 21st December. We will be serving refreshments after the services. Everyone is welcome so why not invite family and friends to join you for this special service?

- 3.00pm – Carol service at St Mary's
- 6.00pm – Carol service at SS&SJ

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm – Crib service at SS&SJ
- 11.15pm – Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 11.15pm – Midnight Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 9.15am – All-age Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.45am – All-age worship at SS&SJ

Reverse Advent Calendar - This Advent, SS&SJ church are partnering with SS&SJ School in a 'reverse' advent calendar to provide food for the Hinckley Area Food Bank. Why not set aside an item of food each day or each week, according to your means? We have a collection point at SS&SJ Church so we will arrange for them to be taken to the Food Bank Warehouse.

Prayers to start the day take place at 9am on Mondays at St Simon and St Jude's and Tuesdays and Thursdays at St Mary's, as well as on Facebook on Wednesday. The prayers in church last half an hour and are a wonderful opportunity to pray for our churches, communities and the wider world, so do come and join us.

Easyfundraising is now up and running. It is a simple way of raising money for the church while shopping online or in store. When you make a purchase using the Easyfundraising app, the shop or company you are purchasing from will give a donation to the church at no cost to you. For more information:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=401283&invite=lhptper&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Please pray:

- for the Christmas services at SS&SJ and St Mary's and in the other churches in our community, that many will attend and discover something more of the wonder of God come among us in Jesus Christ. Who might you invite?
- for the approval of the AV System at SS&SJ – that there will be no further delays.

Contacting us –

- For general church enquiries please contact Beth Evans in the Church Office on 01455 843961 or parishchurch@gmx.co.uk.
- For pastoral matters or if you need to speak to a church minister, please contact Martin Castle on 07759 002660.

Prayer for the week:

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

Bible verse of the month to learn:

*'The angel said to the shepherds 'Do not be afraid;
for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people'. – Luke 2 v 10*