

## **Weekly News from SS&SJ, Earl Shilton, and St Mary's, Elmhurst**

### ***Services this coming Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December:***

- 10.00am – Benefice Holy Communion at SS&SJ
- 3.00pm – Carol service at St Mary's
- 6.00pm – Carol service at SS&SJ

We will be serving refreshments after the carol services. Everyone is welcome, so why not invite family and friends to join you for this special service?

The Bible reading for our morning service will be Matthew 1 v 18-25 (p783 in the pew Bibles).

There will be no prayers to end the day this Sunday.

***SS&SJ Crib Service*** – 3pm on Christmas Eve. Not only is this an opportunity for younger children to dress up in the nativity if they wish (there are no rehearsals – just come along and take part), but for all of us to engage in the events of the first Christmas, as Christmas Day draws near.

***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.

***Poppy Appeal*** – SS&SJ collected £32.26 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The district total was £7979.88. Thank you for your support.

***Prayers to start the day*** will restart on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

***Christmas reflections*** (copies available in church and on our website) are short daily devotions, designed to help us to stop and pause to reflect on the birth of our Saviour in the excitement of Christmas and as we enter into a new year. We hope that you will find that they help you to draw closer to Christ this Christmas.

***Minster Communities Evening*** – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at St John's in Hinckley, 7pm with refreshments available from 6.45pm. Everyone is invited to this next Minster Communities Evening where the Bishop of Leicester will be attending to answer questions about where we have got to, and how the Hinckley and Bosworth Parishes ('the blue area') go from here to form a minster community.

***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=lhtper&referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_campaign=web-referral](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=401283&invite=lhtper&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral)

### **Upcoming services:**

#### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**

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

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

- 9.15am – Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's (please note this service will now be at **9.15am** instead of 10am).

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

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

### ***Please pray:***

- Jesus Christ is the 'Prince of Peace'. Pray for peace in our homes, communities and between the nations this Christmas.
- Jesus began life as a refugee. Pray for asylum seekers, those living on the streets, sofa-surfing and all who long to have a place to call 'home'.

### ***Contacting us –***

- For general church enquiries please contact Beth Evans in the Church Office on 01455 843961 or parishchurch@gmx.co.uk . The church office will be closed until 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- For pastoral matters or if you need to speak to a church minister:
  - before 26<sup>th</sup> December or after 4<sup>th</sup> January - please contact Martin Castle on 07759 002660.
  - from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January – please contact Canon David Jennings on 01455 698805 or on 07710 205582.

### ***Prayer for the week:***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal 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*

**If you would like to donate to either of our churches, you can do so using these QR codes:**

**St Simon &  
St Jude's:**



**St Mary's:**

