

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

Services this coming Sunday, 18th January:

- 10.30am - United service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St Mary's Church, **BARWELL**
- 6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

United service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th January, 10.30am. Every year Barwell and Earl Shilton Churches Together hold a united service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The churches take it in turns to host the service and all churches attend. This year the service is being hosted at **St Mary's Church, BARWELL**. It's a great opportunity to spend time together in worship, prayer and fellowship as a wider church family. **N.B. There will be NO services at St Mary's, Elmesthorpe, or SS&SJ on this day.** Do come and join us at St Mary's, Barwell, instead.

PCC meeting – There will be a meeting of St Simon & St Jude PCC (Church Council) on the 19th January 2026. If you have any comments on the life of the church for the PCC please speak to one of the PCC members who are: Martin Castle, Rob Allen, Barbara Bowley, Shaun Cobb, David Hall, Mitch Irving, Catherine Leach, Elizabeth Nteogwuija, Jean Styles, Robert Styles and Laura Ward.

Sunday Club - Join Catherine and Siobhan in SS&SJ church hall on Sunday 25th January, 10.30am – 12 noon, for games, craft, Bible-teaching and fun! All children welcome. Do ask for more information!!

Funeral - The funeral of Joyce Steptoe, a well-loved member of St Mary's, Elmesthorpe, will take place on Tuesday 27th January at St Mary's Church at 11.30am. The family invite you to attend the service and afterwards from 12.30pm at the Conny Club on Station Road, Earl Shilton, even if you cannot make the service, so that you can have a drink on Joyce!

Elmesthorpe Friends Food and Flowers Initiative will be holding their next coffee morning on Saturday 31st January, 10.00am - 11.30am at Elmesthorpe Village Hall, raising money for the church and other charities. Theme: Burns Night Bingo! Wear something tartan! Donations always welcome for local food banks. For more information, please contact Richard Coleburne 846534 or Jenny Orton 840787.

At the coffee morning the **St Mary's Subscription Draw** will take place.

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.

Please pray:

- for the people of Iran, that justice, peace and freedom will prevail.
- that SS&SJ will, with God's guidance, be able to discern the right person to be appointed to the children, young people and families worker post, and that there will be a strong field of candidates.

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:

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past
ages and made known in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Bible verse of the month to learn:

*'When [the Wise Men] saw
that the star had stopped, they
were overwhelmed with joy'.
Matthew 2 v 10*