

*St Mary the Virgin & All Souls Church
Highbury Road, Bulwell, Nottingham
NG6 9AD*

“THE CHURCH ON THE HILL”

PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2026 Vol. 156 No 2



*St Mary's is a down-to-
earth Christian
Community seeking,
serving and worshipping
God by sharing the love
of Jesus*



CHURCH SERVICES & GROUPS

WEDNESDAY

Little Acorns Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am

Email Zoe Elliott at: zoejackson000@gmail.com for more information

Bellringing (Practice Night)

(all ages from 11 years, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult) .7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tel: Tower Captain, Michael Varney 07858 653002

THURSDAY

Midweek Mass

9.30am – 10.00am (Said. First Thurs of the month follows the Book of Common Prayer.
Last Thursday of the month Walsingham Mass)

Care Home Service

10.00am – 11.30am at one of the local Care Homes

Bible Study/Nurture Courses

2.00pm Please contact the Vicar for more information

Pub Social

7.30pm First Thursday of the Month at the William Peveril (Wetherspoons) in Bulwell

FRIDAY

6pm Choir Practice

SATURDAY

10am-12noon Church Open for Prayer 10am – 12pm **every 2nd Saturday**

Beginning with Tierce, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and the Angelus

Muddy Church

11.30am Third Saturday of the month during term time

Email Zoe Elliott at: zoejackson000@gmail.com for more information

SUNDAY – SERVICES

10am – 11am First Sunday of the Month – Family Service (and Baptisms)

10am – 11am Second Sunday of the month - Parish Mass (sung) with Whiz Kids Sunday School during Mass

10am – 11am Third Sunday of the Month – Family Service (led by our Whiz Kids Sunday School)

10am – 11am Fourth Sunday of the month - Parish Mass (sung) with Whiz Kids Sunday School during Mass

10am – 11am Fifth Sunday of the Month – Healing Service (with Anointing)
with Whiz Kids Sunday School during the service

Please see notice sheets for any additional and seasonal services.

BELLRINGING

Sunday Service Ringing 9.30am – 10am. Practice Evening (Weds) 7.30pm – 9.00pm

(all ages from 11 years, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult)

Tel: Tower Captain, Michael Varney 07858 653002

SERVERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please contact the Vicar for more information

CHURCH CHOIR

(Ages 11 and upwards)



Your Vicar Writes

'I can resist everything but temptation!' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.'* Temptation is a test of whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like him, we can feel under spiritual attack at our most vulnerable moments, especially when we are stressed.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about putting his own needs first. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we need to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this was not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson.

The third temptation was to worship the devil: Satan took Jesus up a mountain to offer Jesus worldly power. In contrast, Jesus' calling as Messiah was to be marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is to be our experience of living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, like Jesus, we will find strength in the Spirit's power and the victory of the cross. *'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!'* (Corrie Ten Boom).

God bless you, *Fr Andrew.*



High Days and Holy Days

2nd February

Candlemas/The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

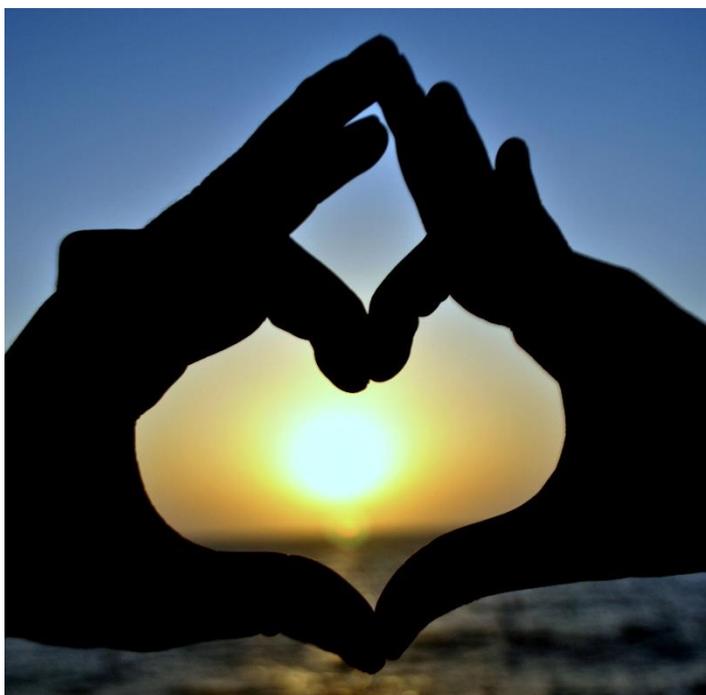
The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

3rd February

St Blaise, the Cure for Sore Throats

St Blaise is the saint for you if you have a sore throat, or a pet who is ill. He was born in Sebastea, ancient Armenia, (now Sivas, in Turkey) sometime during the late 3rd century, and became a physician. But his compassion did not stop there: he went on to become bishop of Sebastea, and thus a physician of souls. Known for his dedication to prayer, Blaise taught by his own example of virtue and sanctity, as much as by his words. His ministry was accompanied by many miracles of healing, and people (and animals) came flocking to him from near and far.

When in 316 the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia began a persecution of Christians, Blaise was arrested. As he was being led to prison, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking to death on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and begged for help. Blaise prayed, and immediately the child was cured. Regardless, the governor had him beaten and beheaded. But the miracle was not forgotten by the people who loved him, and Blaise became the patron saint of illnesses of the throat, and of wild beasts.



14th February

The Two Valentines

If you dig into the history of Valentine's Day, you discover it has a complicated past. There seems to have been two Valentines: Valentine of Terni and Valentine of Rome. But there was only one road involved: the Via Flaminia, or Flaminian Way.

According to some sources, Valetine of Terni was a third

century bishop found “guilty” of having encouraged some young men to convert to Christianity. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he was furious, and had Valentine of Terni arrested.

Valentine of Terni was then taken to Rome on the Flaminian Way, which was the road linking Rome and Terni. In Rome, Valentine of Terni was beheaded in 273. His remains were then taken back to Terni for burial. An 8th century basilica named after him is found on the Flaminian Way.

Valentine of Rome was a priest who was also martyred in the middle of the third century, this time under the authority of Claudius II. But Valentine of Rome’s death may have occurred on the Flaminian Way, where another basilica, bearing his name, has also been found. This one was completed by Pope Theodosius about three centuries later. The two stories have understandably become confused. Two Valentines, both martyred, in a time of persecution of Christians, and one Flaminian Way. Even Common Worship’s choice of c.269 as the date of death is at best a guess.

One thing seems sure: our present-day custom of sending cards and flowers to declare our love has nothing to do with either Valentine. Instead, these may come from the poet John Donne in about 1632. He wrote a marriage song which includes religious commemoration of Valentine along with fertility symbolism. Even the pagan Lupercalia festival may have gone into the mix which flavours our current celebrations of the day.

17th February

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be ‘shriven’, or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today’s pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she’d be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

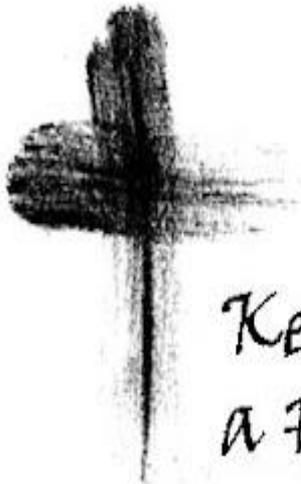
Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil’s Palin in 1619 runs: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.”

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...



18th February Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



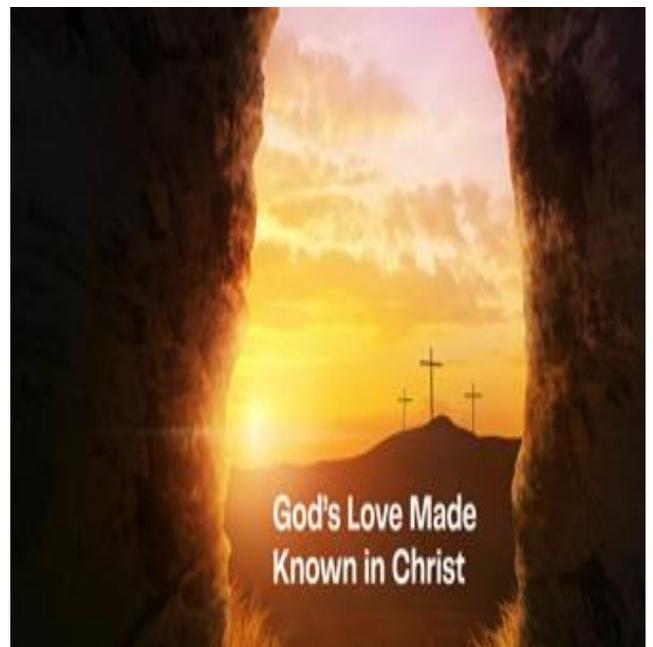
February Reflection with Rev Bob

This month the 2nd in the new year is normally associated with romance and Love and Valentines Day, when you are supposed to send you love to a unsuspecting person and not sign the card tradition.

Because Easter is sooner Ash Wednesday falls in the same month, but love is an essential part of God,s love for us and Ash Wednesday symbolizes the start of lent and all things associated with giving up something or doing something.

With the world in so much turmoil what can we do as individuals, to do something different, The Princess of Wales shared on her birthday a short video of her healing process through Nature as we are in Winter we have snow and we care for those on their own and other things that improves others' lives. So let, s take a step in God, s creation the cold winter, s day, sun shining on frost, snow where children can make snowmen, skating, warm clothes and drinks which make you snug and warm, which is fine but not all are in that situation and struggle with the cold.

The community we live in is not a rich one, but it has a spirit about it and we at St. Mary's share in that spirit of community. Valentine, s day is a symbol of human love, Ash Wednesday is beginning the journey of God, s love for us through Christ, wilderness, temptation, betrayal, death and resurrection and life eternal. We follow that journey encouraging others to join us to follow Jesus on his journey. God Loved the world he gave his only begotten Son.





If you're looking for a place to meet new people, get plugged into your local community, boost your wellbeing, and support a worthy cause, then

look no further! Here are different ways you can get involved by volunteering with St Mary's church today.

Gardening

St Mary's Church is set in beautiful grounds, maintained by the Council and volunteers. There is something hands-on to do in every season, from planting and weeding to cutting grass and raking.

Food Bank

Sadly, with the cost-of-living crisis, food banks have never been more in demand. The support offered is often a lifeline to the most vulnerable members of the community. From processing donations and making up bags of food to listening and praying with people in need, there are many ways to volunteer.

Cleaning and Maintenance

All old buildings require regular attention and St Mary's is no exception! Volunteers work on all kinds of odd jobs and repair work to ensure our building can remain open and safe for the community to use. From cleaning the brass work to hoovering the carpets, painting and decorating to restoration work, there are opportunities to use your skills – or learn new ones – and help preserve our amazing building.

Welcoming

Whether it's someone who's visited the church for generations or someone coming along for the first time, a friendly face can make all the difference. Having someone on hand to welcome people and to sign post them to what they need means that people can get the help they need from their visit – and they will be more likely to recommend St Mary's to others.

Children's Groups

From St Mary's Toddler Group to the Sunday School or Muddy Church, there's always a lot happening at St Mary's church! Our children's groups rely on volunteers to welcome visitors, help with setting up and tidying away, be a listening ear and to get involved in the activities!

Hospitality

St Mary's often serves refreshments after services and is open during the week (not just on Sundays!) From cooking and baking, to serving tea and coffee or talking to guests, there's lots you can be involved in. The City Council



has renewed St Mary's Food Hygiene rating - the Council were very impressed and have awarded St Mary's 5 Stars out of 5 Stars!!

Admin and Tech Support

For St Mary's to stay open and run the range of activities we do, admin and tech support is needed. This could be managing databases, updating the church website and social media pages, or even filming or photographing an event or service St Mary's is hosting.

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the position of Editor for the weekly newsletter "The Mirror" and/or the monthly magazine "The Church on the Hill". You will need a computer with internet access and an email address. You need to be able to use word processing software such as Microsoft Word, and the ability to send and receive emails, and attachments.

Time commitment - Around two hours a week (for the Mirror) or two hours a month (for the Hill}

Volunteers are needed to help protect the mission and ministry St Mary's offers to our communities. However you choose to volunteer, you'll be making a vital difference to the lives of others as well as helping to keep St Mary's open and in use.



Some things to make you smile...

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress. One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God." The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Hymns for Professionals

Dentist – Crown Him with many crowns

Contractors – The Church's one foundation

Obstetricians – Come labour on

Golfers – There is a green hill far away

Politicians – Standing on the promises

Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.

We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.' ”

Any church member aged over 18 can join our lay ministry programme. It requires a minimal amount of training and time. The first course is six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend or a vegetable in a covered dish.

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order.”

It hurts

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: “That’s because it’s empty, you have to put something into it!” That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: “That’s because it’s empty, you have to put something into it!”

Winnie the Pooh and Lent

by the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? And Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she



explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passiontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.

Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. One year I gave up Facebook for Lent, having spent far too much time scrolling through it each day. It freed me to do other, more constructive things. And instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18th February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed'- the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in a mixture of ash and holy oil at a special service that day. The ash is usually the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by

the giving up of something – like chocolate – which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the ‘riches of God’s kindness, forbearance and patience’ as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus’ choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully. And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God’s riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!



The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans has been appointed as the new Dean of Southwell Minster.

Dr Evans will be installed as the Dean of Southwell at Choral Evensong in Southwell Minster on 19th April 2026 at 3.30pm. For the last 16 years, Dr Evans has been Rector of St Marylebone in central London and before served as Rector of Uppingham and the Rural Dean of Rutland. Dr Evans says:

It is a great joy to have been asked by Bishop Paul to become the next Dean of Southwell and to be returning to the East Midlands. I am indebted to the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans who has brought so much to the cathedral and Chapter through his time as Interim Dean and I am looking forward to working alongside my Minster colleagues and the congregation in proclaiming the hope-filled message of God's healing and reconciling love, throughout the county, city, towns and villages of Nottinghamshire and beyond.

In welcoming Stephen to his new role, the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, said:

I know that Stephen will bring considerable experience, wisdom and vision for the further development of the Minster. We are thrilled he will be taking on this senior role in the diocese at a time of exciting growth and development, as we seek to make a bigger difference in every community.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally DBE commented:

Over the past 15 years, Stephen has been a faithful shepherd of the congregation at St Marylebone whilst showing an extraordinary desire to bring transformation to the broader community.

Stephen has embraced numerous community roles – from Vice-Chair of two schools to Chaplain across four local hospitals. His vision for renewal and dedication to people's holistic needs shine through in the church's initiatives like 'Changing Lives', which grew into one of London's largest community projects.

He will be a huge loss to Marylebone and the Diocese, but I am confident he will be a source of great blessing to Southwell and Nottingham in his new role as Dean.

Ann Carter-Gray, Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter, says:

I am delighted with our appointment of Stephen Evans and on behalf of Chapter very much looking forward to working with him. Stephen brings considerable experience from other roles to the Minster. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Revd Canon Dr Neil Evans for taking on the role of Dean on an interim basis.

“Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3

In Matthew's gospel we hear that the disciples attempted to turn away the little children who approached Jesus for a blessing, prompting Jesus to intervene, saying “let the children come to me and do not hinder them.” In a world where children were often overlooked or pushed aside for those deemed more important, Jesus elevated their status, not only rebuking the disciples for hindering the children, but even going as far as to say that “the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

St Therese of Lisieux discovered that her littleness was the foundation and source of her relationship with God, and this began her way of spiritual childhood. Therese knew that in her weakness she was not able to ascend the steep staircase towards heaven without divine aid. In her diary Therese describes herself using the metaphor of a little bird, who aspires to fly towards the bright sun, the Divine Furnace of the Holy Trinity, but she is too little, too weak to ascend to the heights of the Divine Sun.

Despite its weakness the little bird does not despair, it is not troubled, its little heart is at peace, and at times, although assailed by storms, the little bird is content to fix its gaze upon its beloved Sun, being refreshed by its rays, and stretching out its little wings, trusting that it will one day be lifted and carried to the furnace of the sun's love.

Just like the little bird who was completely reliant on divine assistance to reach the heights of the bright sun, the little children also needed Jesus to intervene on their behalf.

The kingdom of God belongs to children because they embody the very qualities needed to enter it, the qualities that Jesus hopes to see in all of us, humility, trust, and a lack of self importance. The kingdom of God is not about exalting the prideful, or the rich and powerful, it is about giving life and dignity to the least of these.

The kingdom values the weak, the vulnerable, and the humble of heart, the ones who have no status or wealth, but give all that they have freely and lovingly. And so just like the little children, and the little bird, let us look to Christ that he may lift us up above our weaknesses and carry us to heaven's bright sun.

God bless you, Daniel Newton

St Marys Bulwell

“Whiz Kids” Sunday School

Join us on a Sunday morning
during the service 10-11am

Children from schoolage up welcome



Prayer



Friendship



Bible stories



crafts



Singing

WELCOME

FRIENDLY

For childrens under 5years we have a cosy children's corner, parents are welcome to use under parental supervision



St Marys Church, Bulwell "the church on the hill" Little Acorns Toddler Group



LET'S PLAY TOGETHER



FREE

LIMITED SLOTS

**Wednesdays
9.30 - 11.30
termtime only**



CONTACT ZOE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ZOEJACKSON000@GMAIL.COM
OR
SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE-ST MARY THE
VIRGIN AND ALL SOULS

Church Memorial Book

During the last few weeks, the official Coronation Roll has hit the news headlines. The first roll was produced (as far as is known) in 1308. The latest roll has all the details written on it from King Charles III and Queen Camilla's Coronation. The previous rolls likewise. It was written by Stephanie von Werther-Gill and took 56 days to complete, without any breaks, so she didn't lose the rhythm of the writing. The heraldic work was done by Tim Wood. It is 21 metres long and contains 11,600 words. This is first time vegan paper has been used, previously vellum, (calf skin) has been used.

Entries in the Church Memorial book are written by Jillian Naylor (Calligrapher). The paper in the memorial book is Goatskin Parchment (watermarked). This paper is used for writing laws and other important documents of the land and has a 500year lifespan. The book was started by the then Churchwarden, Eric Rydeheard, who had an interest in calligraphy. Names written in the book then were those whose ashes were interred in St Mary's Churchyard.

Nowadays the entries are by request and can include loved ones buried in the churchyard or buried elsewhere. The font used is Foundation Hand. The pages are turned over regularly, and names are remembered in prayer.

If you would like a person's name adding to the Church Memorial Book please contact Jillian Naylor, with the following information. Loved one's name, date of death (date - month – year), and age at death. If you are not the next of kin, please obtain the next of kin's permission.

Entries in the Memorial Book are by donation (minimum £5 please) to the Parochial Church Council - cash, cheque (made payable to 'Bulwell PCC') or the card machine at the back of church.

Jillian Naylor, 0115 916 1787 jillian.naylor@ntlworld.com

Festive Fun! – A Few of St Mary’s Christmas Events and Services in Church and around our Parish...







From the Parish Registers

Weddings

20th December 2025

Mr and Mrs Brandon Holton

Funerals & Burials of Ashes

8th December 2025

Burial of Ashes of the late Violet Irwin RIP (Northern Cemetery)

16th December 2025

Funeral of the late Sharon Parkes RIP (Gedling Crematorium)

23rd December 2025

Funeral and Requiem Mass of the late Ray Hotson RIP

5th January

Funeral of the late Dennis Foster RIP (Wilford Hill Crematorium)

6th January

Funeral of the late Margaret Skerratt RIP
(Wilford Hill Crematorium)

10th January

Burial of Ashes of the late Marshall 'Chris' Bowley RIP

12th January

Funeral of the late Beatrice 'Joyce' Pearl RIP

21st January

Funeral of the late Robert Naylor RIP



Confirmation Services 2026

Confirmation is a special service in which folk confirm the promises that been made when they were baptized. During the service the bishop lay's his hands on the candidates' heads and ask God's Holy Spirit to give them the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of his life. See:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmation>

The Diocesan Confirmation Services for 2026 will be 10th May 6pm at St. Margaret's, Aspley and/or 23rd May 7pm at Southwell Minster. If you would like to be Confirmed please speak with Fr Andrew or Rev Bob.



The Aumbry Lamp i

The Aumbry Lamp is the 7-day candle that burns before the aumbry in the Lady Chapel, announcing the Sacramental Presence of Our Lord in the aumbry. Sponsoring the aumbry lamp is a wonderful way to show gratitude for answered prayer, or as a tangible way to extend our petitions before God. Lamp sponsorship covers the cost of a candle for one month and can be sponsored for just £10 for a month. Please speak with Fr Andrew if you would like to sponsor St Mary's aumbry lamp.

We are delighted to announce that The Aumbry Lamp has been kindly sponsored from January 2026 until June 2026 in prayerful memory of Norah who passed away in 2024.



If you would like yourself or a loved one to be prayed for, please speak with/contact St Mary's Pastoral Visitor,

Jackie Bramford,
jackiebramford@hotmail.co.uk

or Daniel Newton
newtondaniel826@gmail.com.

Re: safeguarding/data protection. If you are requesting prayer for somebody other than yourself, please obtain the person's permission in the first instance. Failing that, give their first name only. Any details about health matters should only be shared with the person's permission. Where an individual is seriously ill or not an adult, this permission may be given by the person's caregiver, guardian or family member.



Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Now we have passed through Christmas and into the new year, it is time to start thinking about and planning our 2026 pilgrimage to Walsingham. Those who have been with us before will be looking forward to it again. If you have not had this experience, maybe this is the year to give it a go and join

the church family on this journey of faith. If you have any questions, please speak to Father Andrew or Les.

We will be leaving St Mary's by coach at 11am on Friday 12th of June and returning at 7pm on Sunday 14th June. The fully inclusive price for food and accommodation is £188.80 for adults and £113.40 for children. Coach travel is £60 per person. Places are limited so please book early with a deposit of £40.

ST MARY'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

WHAT IS THE PCC?

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of a parish church. It is also a charity.

WHAT DOES THE PCC DO?

The PCC is a team made up of members of clergy and lay members of the church. Together they are responsible for the overall mission, ministry and wellbeing of their church, the church members, parishioners and the church buildings.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

The PCC should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for public worship and provide an opportunity for people of all ages to meet for prayer and worship.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The PCC has an important part to play in promoting the mission of the church, amongst the congregation and in the wider community.

PASTORAL CARE

The PCC and its members have a duty to support their clergy and members of the congregation and parish.

FINANCE

The PCC appoints a Treasurer, to manage the day-to-day finances of the parish. PCC members are Trustees of a charity and, as such, are responsible for managing the Church's finances.

BUILDINGS

The PCC is responsible for the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church, and any other buildings owned by the church.

THE PCC MEETING

The PCC is required by law to meet at least four times a year.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF ST MARY'S CHURCH BY BEING A MEMBER OF YOUR PCC?

If you are 16 years old or over, have been on the church electoral roll for at least 6 months and are an actual communicant, **YOU** can stand for election to your PCC. Someone interested in becoming a member of the PCC will be:

- A committed member of the congregation.
- Interested in and involved with the life of the church and the local community.
- Willing to learn and to share ideas, experience and gifts.
- Caring.
- Able to listen to another's point of view.

SOME GOLDEN RULES OF PCC MEMBERSHIP

- Attend meetings (and on time!)
- Read the papers before the meeting, be prepared.
- Ask if in doubt (especially important for new members).
- Try not to fall out with your fellow members.
- Listen to all the arguments being put forward before making up your mind.
- Enjoy being a member of the PCC!

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

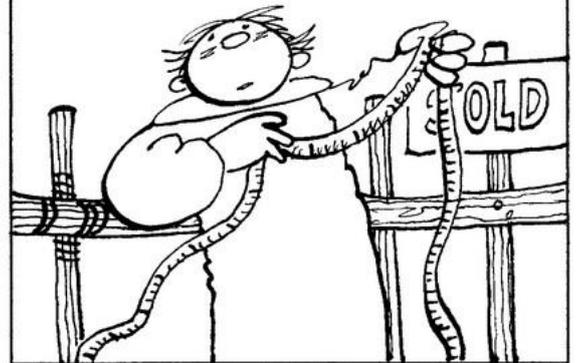


OH!
NO!!

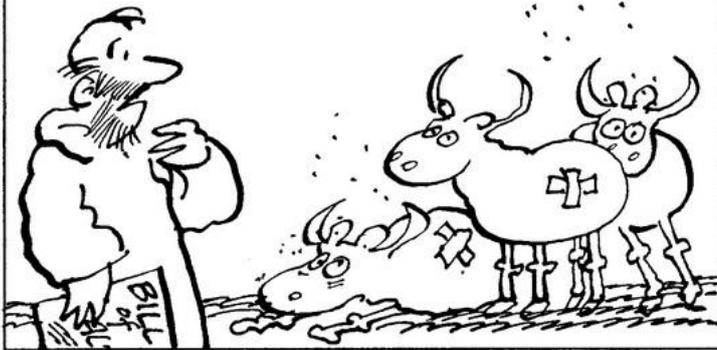


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

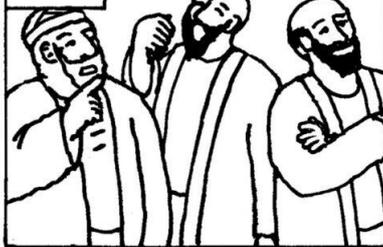
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



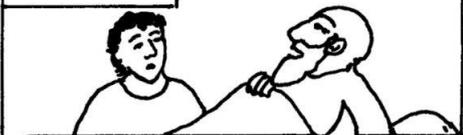
No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



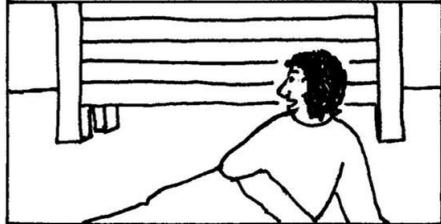
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.

The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



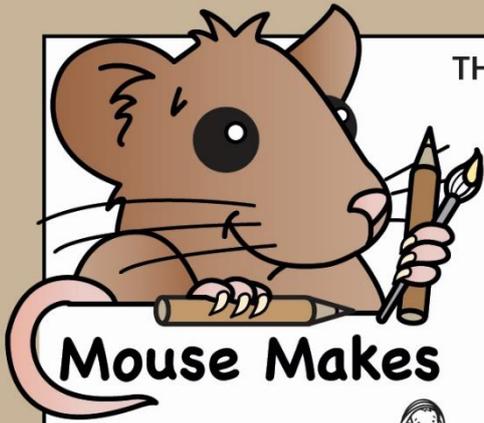
Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.





Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

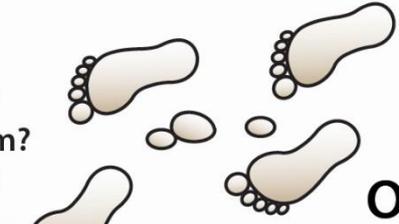
Put God first

Worship only Him.



What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

W L D G
R O G L O R Y L O
I B A P T I S E D
V O F O O T H D
S E R V E B T I
J O R D A N J E G



F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L O R D N H
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
E I A M J E S U S F N G D E
N L K P D E S E R T E R O A
T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D
I M J E R U S A L E M F S J
W I L D E R N E S S J U M P

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH

JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT



THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

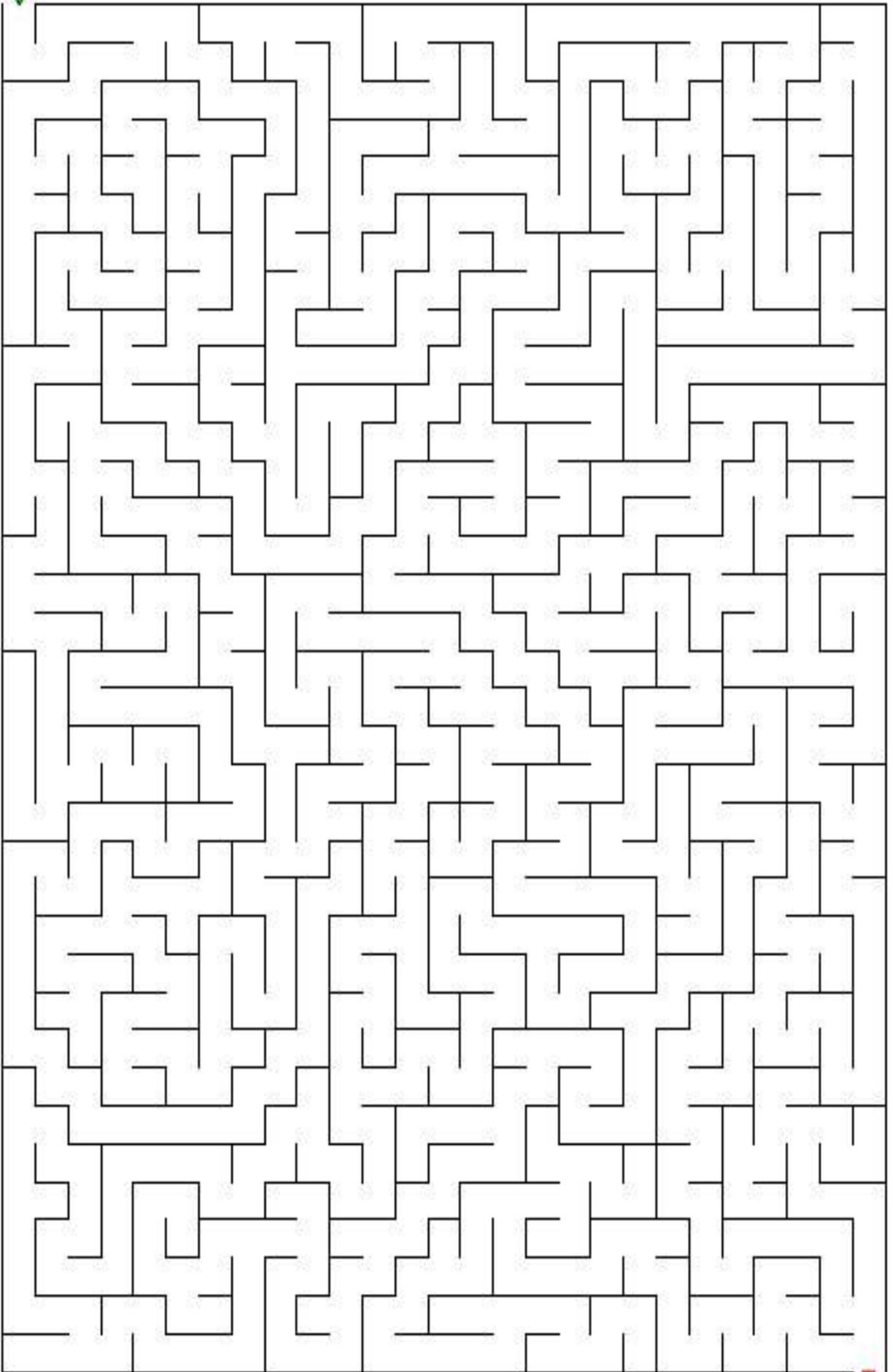
Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.





ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Some meetings are term-time only - please check with organisers. Meetings are held at St Mary's church unless otherwise stated.

SUNDAY (First & Third in month)

Farnaby & Co 7.15pm to 9.25pm.

MONDAY

48th Nottingham Beavers (boys & girls, 6-8 years) 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Tel: 0115 877 6569 or 07976 300013

TUESDAY

87th Nottingham Brownies (7-10 years) 6.15pm -7.30pm
Tel: 07596 758440.

WEDNESDAY

Trefoil Guild (first Wednesday of the month) 12pm - 2pm
Tel: 0115 916 3249

Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank 1.00 – 3.00pm Tel: 07527048226
Email: info@bestwoodbulwell.foodbank.org.uk

Polish Speaking Al- Group - Spokoj 6.15pm - 8.15pm

Bellringing (Practice Night) 7.30pm - 9pm. All ages from 11 years. under 18s must be must be accompanied by an adult. Tel 07858653002

THURSDAY

88th Nottingham Brownies (7-10 years) 6.00pm – 7.30pm Tel: 07817 3786543

87th Nottingham Guides (10-15 years) 7.00-9.00pm Tel: 07793 823440

Rangers (age 14+) 7.00pm to 9.00pm Tel: 07786 226663

Pub Social

First Thursday of the Month at the William Peveril (Wetherspoons) in Bulwell

FRIDAY

Rainbows 5.15pm to 6.15pm Tel: 07812 160455

Choir Practice Alternate Fridays. Please contact the Organist.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar	Fr Andrew Fisher	0115 975 5358 a.j.fisher@outlook.com
Honorary Associate Priest	The Revd. Bob Stephens	07757422260 revbob63@sky.com
Reader/Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	Juliet Twumasi	jto2025@hotmail.com
Churchwardens	Eleanor Lang	0115 9277212 ellielang@btinternet.com
	Martin Walton	07746 535552 martinwalton57@outlook.com
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)	Maureen Pates	0115 976 4612 maureeni.pates@googlemail.com
Prayer Chain Ministry	Jackie Bramford (Pastoral Care Visitor)	jackiebramford@hotmail.co.uk
	Daniel Newton	newtondaniel826@gmail.com
Children & Young Peoples' Ministry	Zoe Elliott	zoejackson000@gmail.com
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Magazine and Notice Sheet Editor	<i>Situation Vacant</i>	<i>Situation Vacant</i>
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