

Notices for Sunday 1st March Lent 2

SUNDAY WORSHIP

All Together Agape at 10am, led by our children and young people and Evensong at 6pm

Please join us on the second Sunday of Lent for a special service, led by our children and young people. Our children and young people will be sharing their talents and skills: accompanying our worship, leading an action song and performing a short drama that they have written. Concluding with our Agape meal, where all welcome to eat and drink together, it promises to be a full and fulfilling service on Jesus, the Light of the World, as we continue to explore and discover the book of John together. Later, we join together for Evensong, all are welcome.

OTHER SERVICES & EVENTS

Ronald West and Badger Court Communions

Please pray for residents and staff at the retirement communities as Adele leads communion services there this week

Messy Church Goes Wild – Saturday 28th February 4-5:30pm at St Mary's

Please join us, if you can, to welcome our local community on the day or pray for us wherever you are on Saturday afternoon. We're still looking for people willing to serve food and drinks and also for car park stewards (on 2nd Saturdays at the scout hut), if you can help out (even occasionally or on a specific date), please email hazel@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk This week's theme is *Messy Lent*. There's lots of fun to be had plus plenty of hot chocolate and marshmallows too!

Men's walk and pub lunch – Sunday 1st March after morning worship

Please join us for a bit of fresh air, exercise, conversation and a well-deserved Sunday roast!

A small group of us have planned a 12km circular route from St Mary's, through the Charnwood hills and taking in the Bulls Head pub in Woodhouse Eaves. We will leave immediately after church, aiming to reach the pub by 1.30pm.

Please note, the first 8 km of the route will be strenuous. You may join us at the pub at 1.30pm and then for the final 4km back to church, which will be gentler.

Please let Dave know if you intend to come so that we can book a table, or two! If you'd like to come but the cost of the meal is prohibitive please let Dave know. dave@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

Sunday Supper Social – Sunday 1st March at 7.30pm

The Sunday supper social group will meet at the Priory at 7.15 pm on Sunday the 1st of March., All are welcome.

Please RSVP to Hazel Fish: hfish854@gmail.com You would be welcome to attend at short notice.

Experience Easter at Holywell School 3rd and 10th March

Please pray for our team of volunteers working with Years 3 and EYFS, that they will find the right words to help the children really engage with the Easter story.

Woodland Working Group - Saturday 7th March 1.30-4pm

Please come and help out with the maintenance of our lovely church site, if you are able. We are a friendly group and always open to new members as we seek to keep the church and woodland in good order. No particular skills are needed, but enthusiasm and a good pair of strong gloves come in useful. Looking at the forecast, waterproofs and strong boots would be recommended for this weekend! Come anytime between 1.30-4pm and stay on for woodland worship if you would like to.

Woodland Worship - Saturday 7th March at 4pm

Come and engage in the beauty of God's creation! Woodland worship is a relaxed, liturgy-based service which takes place every 1st Saturday of the month. Centred around the fire pit, the service focuses on God, creation and reflects on our impact on the world. Now it will be dark you might wish to bring a torch. Everyone is welcome.

Monday Morning Group – Monday 16th March at 10:15am

This month's meeting, the last of our winter series at Emmanuel, is on 16th March. '99 Not Out: Music and Discussion with Derrick Clarke who looks forward to celebrating his 100th birthday this year.

We start with coffee at 1015 and the meeting at 1030. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome to this and to any of our monthly meetings.

Afterwards we have lunch in the Church Centre, which needs to be booked in advance. If you've not already put your name on the list, please contact Martin on 01509 561281 or 07899 917916 by 11 March.

Minster Community Prayer and Share with information/conversation about future ministry Tue 17th March, 7pm at St Botolph's Shepshed

Please join us for another Prayer and Share evening - a great way to get to know others within the Minster Community (MC) as we worship and pray together. Stuart Burns and Liz Rawlings from the central diocese team will be joining us to share information and lead a conversation about what future ministry might look like in our MC and how we might gather and support one another. The evening will be in two halves:

7-8pm Open to All – Prayer, Worship, and information about the three lay ministry roles – associate minister, focal minister and locally authorised.

8-9pm A gathering of all those who hold the bishops' license, lay or ordained.

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday March 22nd at 11.30am

This year we are going to try something different and hold the APCM after the Sunday morning service. Please come along if you can, all ages are welcome, and those who are on the electoral roll can vote! The meeting is generally no more than an hour and is a great way to celebrate and give thanks for all that went on at St Mary's in 2025 as well as to think ahead to the coming year. We hope to provide links to the Annual Financial Statement and Church Reports next week.

OTHER NOTICES

Resources for Lent

As Lent begins this week we'd like to encourage everyone to commit to finding a way to spend more time with God, and to practise self-denial and generosity. We are not running a lent course but instead suggest you might like to give the regular bible study group that meets every Tuesday evening a try – speak to Dave if you are interested or email dave@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk. Alternatively there are resources from the Church of England called 'Draw Near to God' available [here](#) in a variety of formats – as booklets for adults and for families, as digital downloads and in the free app 'Everyday Faith'

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2026 and Diomail

If you would like to contribute to the Bishops' lent appeal you can find out more about it on this [video from Bishop Martyn](#). For other news from around the diocese, please [sign up to diomail](#).

Electoral Roll – last call for forms to be completed

It is that time of year again when we need to make sure the Electoral Roll reflects the congregation of St Mary's before the APCM on the 22nd of March. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like to be added, please email helena@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk and we will forward you the relevant form. Alternatively, please see the back of church for a hard copy should you require one. I will need to finalise the Electoral Roll by end of February/beginning of March so will need completed forms by Sunday 15th February. Thanks, Helena Wilkinson.

Photos for use at the APCM

The intergenerational team would like to use photos for the APCM and for the church service beforehand. They will not be put onto the website or onto any social media. It is important that permission is granted before the photos,

particularly of children, can be used. If you would like any further information regarding this, please speak to Hazel Wragg.

Nominations for PCC, Deanery Synod and Church Wardens

There are a number of vacancies on the PCC for which nomination forms will be available at the back of church from this Sunday. Serving on the PCC is both a privilege and responsibility - members serve with the vicar to lead the church, helping everybody to play their part in God's mission; they are charity trustees and the main decision makers for the church. This may sound rather daunting, but we share responsibility and endeavour to make decisions prayerfully and with love and grace; and people have actually said they enjoy our meetings! Anyone who is age 16+, a communicant and on the electoral roll for at least 6 months is eligible to stand and can be nominated by any members of the electoral roll. If you think you might be interested, or would like to encourage someone else to stand, please have a conversation with any of the current PCC members.

Every year the Church Wardens are re-elected. Phil Sheppard was newly elected last year and has kindly offered to stand again. Ian Clements has served for 10 years and PCC agreed that it really is time for him to have a well-deserved break and to be able to focus on the many other roles he fills at St Mary's! We are therefore looking for a new Church Warden to serve with Phil. Please speak to Ian, Phil or Katherine for more information and an 'insider view'. As Katherine wrote last year 'There's no right or wrong way to be a warden; each person brings their own unique gifts and talents to the job, and the worshipping community they serve also shapes the role. (At St Mary's our wardens are incredibly lucky to be supported in quite a few of their responsibilities by other people)' Nomination forms will be available at the back of church and candidates must be 21+ and communicants on the electoral roll. If you think God might be calling you to any of these roles and are interested to find out more, please talk to anyone currently in post or email Phil, Ian, or Adele. And if you don't feel called yourself, please consider who else you may be able to encourage to stand.

Rota Availability

The time has come to think about the rotas for the next quarter. As always, your help is invaluable and very much appreciated. Please can you update your availability on ChurchSuite by Friday 13th March; I will be starting to put them together the week beginning 16th March. If there are any issues, please let me know.

kirsty@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

Town-Wide Youth Away Day – Saturday 21st March 9am-9pm at Emmanuel Loughborough

Soar Project are holding a town-wide away day for youth in yr7-y13. Book in before 28th Feb and all-day tickets are only £15. Half-day tickets are also available. To view the poster and to book your place, please click [here](#)

Friends of Launde Abbey Updates

Information about the Launde Abbey Programme of retreats, quiet days and concerts for 2025 can be found here:

<http://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events>

ADVOCATE SLOT

Our charity for March is The Bridge (East Midlands)

Working for the community since 1993, The Bridge deliver a number of specialist housing related advice, support, and assistance services and accommodation options to homeless and vulnerably housed people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. <https://thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk/>

Please pray:

- that the Bridge would continue to build on its thirty years of experience in this field, and continue to make a difference
- for all who seek their services
- for continued generous funding and partnership with relevant support services