

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

Services this coming Sunday, 8th February:

- 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 Matthew 6 v 25-34 (p787 of the pew Bibles).

Children, Young People and Families Worker - Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to work with children, young people and families? If you are (or know someone who is), check out the advert for the post that SS&SJ are currently advertising. This paid role will initially involve working with the two Church of England Schools in Earl Shilton, as well as SS&SJ Church, to enable children, young people and families to grow in their spiritual lives through the Christian faith. For more details see the following link:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/job-vacancies/children-young-people-families-cyfp-worker--earl-shilton.php> or get in touch if you have any questions. The deadline for applications is 11th February.

PCC Meeting - There will be a meeting of St Simon & St Jude PCC (Church Council) on 9th February 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: Revd. Martin Castle, Rob Allen, Barbara Bowley, Shaun Cobb, David Hall, Mitch Irving, Catherine Leach, Elizabeth Nteogwuija, Jean Styles, Robert Styles and Laura Ward.

Ash Wednesday – There will be a service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 18th February, 7.30pm at SS&SJ Church. All welcome.

Mix & Mingle - Friday 20th February, 12.00pm for lunch at The Longshoot. Please sign up in church by 15th February to reserve your table. Why not bring a friend?

Volunteer from St Mary's – If you would be willing to read a part at the World Day of Prayer on behalf of St Mary's, please contact Beth in the church office. The World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6th March at 6.30pm at St Peter and St Paul Church, Melton Street, Earl Shilton. You would also need to attend the rehearsal on Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm.

Hinckley Area Food Bank Lent Appeals – Are you able to give up 40p per day for 40 days and donate the money to food bank to help people in need? Are you able to donate some chocolate or Easter eggs to spread a bit of joy this Easter? Please see the posters in church for more information.

Thank you – The Christingle service at St Mary's raised £148.46 for The Children's Society – thank you very much for your generosity!

Marriage event – *Going the Distance*, 22nd April, 7.30pm at One Church, Leicester, LE3 5AG. This event is an opportunity for couples to explore simple and effective ways to strengthen their relationship and stay intentional about choosing each other when life crowds in. It will help you to spot warning signs, avoid roadblocks and continue your journey together, and will help you to consider topics such as handling conflict, when do you feel most connected, how to communicate better and how to love when it isn't easy. There will be plenty of humour involved and it is suitable for couples at any stage of their relationship. The event is run by an organisation called *Care for the Family*, who produce excellent resources for marriage and family life. For more information, go to cff.org.uk/goingthedistance .

The Great Tommy Sleep Out - This March, Poppy Watsham is taking part in The Great Tommy Sleep Out. Every night, thousands of veterans right here in the UK are facing the harsh reality of sleeping rough. Poppy will be swapping the comfort of her bed for sleeping under the stars with just a sleeping bag to keep her warm to raise money for Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE), helping provide safe homes, mental

health support, employment opportunities, and a community of veterans who support each other. If you would like to sponsor Poppy, please go to <https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/cr-ox8jzw0pd64zw> .

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. N.B. Prayers to start the day will not take place on 16th February or 18th February.

Please pray:

- 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.
- for the process of forming minster communities – for the meeting on Wednesday 11th – that churches will find creative ways of supporting each other and working together to further God's kingdom.

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,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible verse of the month to learn:

'I can do all things through him who strengthens me'.
Philippians 4 v 13.

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:

