

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

### **Services this coming Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, Palm Sunday:**

- 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 readings for our morning services will be Hebrews 9 v 1-7; 11-14 (p975 of the pew Bibles) and Matthew 27 v 45-51 (p811 of the pew Bibles).

**Elmesthorpe Friends Food and Flowers Initiative** will be holding their next coffee morning on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am - 11.30am at Elmesthorpe Village Hall, raising money for the church and other charities. Theme: "Early Easter Experience" - think chocolate, eat chocolate! Games and activities involving chocolate (other alternatives are available!)! All Welcome! Donations always welcome for local food banks.

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

**Easter bring-and-share tea** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 3.30pm in SS&SJ Church Hall. There will be crafts for children and adults, music, poetry and a short reflection. Please sign up in church - **closing date 29<sup>th</sup> March. N.B. This week is your last opportunity to sign up!**

**Prayer Walk, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Meeting at 7pm at LBC Earl Shilton (Baptist church). We'll walk across the road to SS&SJ and pray outside the church, then we'll prayer-walk the route of the walk of witness to the Methodist church, carry on from there to the Catholic church, pray outside the Catholic church and then prayer-walk back to the Methodist church to pray where the Good Friday service will take place. Those unable to walk the distance are welcome to pray together in the LBC community lounge.

We will be praying that the walk of witness and Good Friday service will indeed be a good witness to Jesus and all He's done for us, and that passers-by will hear about and respond to God's love for them.

**Chrism Eucharist** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 11am at Leicester Cathedral. All are invited to attend this service which will be led by the bishops and with the clergy attending too.

**Induction service** – Phil Evans' induction service will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm at LBC Earl Shilton (the Baptist church). We are all invited and food and refreshments will be served afterwards. It would be great if as many of us as possible could attend to support Phil and Beth and LBC. Please pray for them as they begin this new stage of ministry.

**Going the Distance** - 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. There will be plenty of humour involved and it is suitable for couples at any stage of their relationship. For more information, go to **[cff.org.uk/goingthedistance](http://cff.org.uk/goingthedistance)**

**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.

### Holy Week and Easter Services and Events:

#### ➤ **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April -**

**Churches Together Prayer Walk** meeting at 7pm at LBC Earl Shilton (Baptist church) to prayer-walk the route of the walk of witness.

- **Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April –**  
*Churches Together Service of Holy Communion*, 7.30pm at SS&SJ.
- **Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April –**
  - **Walk of Witness**, 10.30am starting at SS&SJ and SS Peter & Paul Churches, walking to the Methodist church for the:
  - **Churches Together Good Friday Service**, 11am outside the Methodist church. Refreshments and hot cross buns will be served in the hall afterwards.
  - **Stop @ 3**, 3pm on the SS&SJ Facebook page. A short time (5 minutes) of reflection and prayer together at the time of Jesus' death.
- **Holy Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April -**  
*Prayers for a Hurting World*, 9am on the SS&SJ Facebook page.
- **Easter Day, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April –**
  - **Sunrise Service**, 6.30am at St Mary's.
  - **All-age Holy Communion**, 9.15am at St Mary's and 10.45am at SS&SJ.
  - **Easter Bring-and-Share Tea**, 3.30pm at SS&SJ Church Hall.

**Please pray:**

- that we may witness to the death of our Lord Jesus Christ through Holy Week, and especially the walk of witness and service on Good Friday.
- for the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, that the war will soon end and that there will be a lasting understanding between people and nations leading to long term justice and peace.
- for the appointment of a Children, Young People and Families Worker following the interview day last month.

**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:**

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.  
Amen.

**Bible verse of the month to learn:**

*'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions'. Luke 12 v 15*

**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:**

