

Notices for Sunday 22nd March Lent 5

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Morning Worship with Advocate at 10am and Evening Communion at 6pm

There are plenty of reasons to join us today! All are welcome at both our morning worship and our evening communion, where again we will explore John's gospel and Jesus' power to bring life out of death. You will hear from this month's charity advocate and see where, and who, our tithing helps in March. After the morning service, you are welcome to stay for our APCM (please see the notice below).

OTHER SERVICES & EVENTS

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

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.

You can view the reports, agenda, and last year's minutes here, and a few paper copies are available at the back of church:

- [Annual Financial Statement](#)
- [Church Reports](#)
- [2025 Minutes](#)
- [2026 Agenda](#)

Additionally, the revised electoral roll for 2026 has been published. A copy is available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the PCC. Please request this via email to admin@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk or via phone to 07901 581716

Easter in the Retirement Communities – Monday 23rd March at 11am

Please pray for our Easter services at Badger Court this week. Thanks to those who have volunteered to come along to help with refreshments and chat to residents. We have space for just one or two more volunteers if you would like to come along.

Table Talk – Wednesday 25th March at 12pm at Toby Carvery

This group warmly invites anyone who would welcome some company whether they live alone or not. It is a lovely opportunity to meet together to share lunch and chat. The meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month at the Toby Carvery, Forest Road at 12 noon. Please contact ian@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk if you would like any more details. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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

Help us make Easter Gardens, explore the Easter story with a story trail and play floor is lava with Palm leaves, as we celebrate Palm Sunday a day early in a very wild and messy way! Discover more about Jesus and experience what it might have been like to be in the crowd when Jesus entered Jerusalem as we recreate our own triumphal entry before gathering around the fire for a shared meal. Messy Church is for everyone! Please spread the word, come along to see what it's all about or pray for us. If you have 2 hours to give every 6 weeks, please chat to Hazel - we need help in the kitchen - we can provide all of the ingredients and simple instructions to cook on the day.

Holy Week Services

Please invite friends and family to come along. A full list of events and services can be found [here](#) and paper copies are available at the back of church.

Palm Sunday Communion with Children's Group – Sunday 29th March at 10am

We begin by celebrating together Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when the crowds greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna' and move into hearing the Passion reading, anticipating the events of Holy week when the crowds cry turned to 'Crucify him!' There will be a children's group during the service and we will share in communion together.

Palm Sunday Evening Worship – Sunday 29th March at 6pm

In the evening we will again hear the Palms reading followed by the Passion reading. There will be a time of silent reflection and prayer in preparation for the start of Holy Week.

Easter in the Outwoods – Monday 30th March 2-4pm in the Outwoods – Volunteers Needed!

Please take note of the day change – now on Monday!

Easter in the Outwoods is back for 2026! Last year, we welcomed over 100 people to explore the Christian Easter story through a fun trail, it was well received as a wonderful family day out with eco friendly Easter crafts such as clay easter egg decorations and nature crowns. Please spread the word, invite friends and family and get in touch with Hazel hazel@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk if you can help! We need volunteers on the craft tables, greeters to welcome people and point them to the start of the trail and prize givers to hand out chocolate eggs, stickers and booklets telling the Christian Easter story at the end of the trail. Let's give our community a warm welcome!

Holy Week Compline – Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April at 7:30pm

During Holy Week we will have a service every day at 7.30pm. For the first half of the week these simple, spoken Compline services offer the chance for quiet reflection and prayer as we continue our journey through John's gospel and meditate on the events leading up to Jesus' death.

Maundy Thursday Communion – Thursday 2nd April at 7:30pm

During this communion service we remember the events of Maundy Thursday, as the disciples gathered with Jesus in the upper room on the night before he died. There will be the opportunity for those who would like, to receive washing of feet, in remembrance of the way Jesus demonstrated the life of love and service to which we are called.

Good Friday Reflection Trail – Friday 3rd April 10am-2pm

On Good Friday there will be an opportunity to join us to reflect, meditate and pray in the peaceful setting of our woodlands and Church. Move at your own pace and engage at a level that feels right for you. You are welcome to drop in at any time between 10 and 2 for as long as you like.

Easter Sunday Sunrise in the Woods – Sunday 5th April at 6am

Join us at 6am for sunrise around the fire pit, for a short, reflective first service of Easter. There will be hot drinks and pastries afterwards.

Easter Sunday All Together Communion – Sunday 5th April at 10am

We will celebrate the risen Christ in all His glory with joyful hymns, thankful prayer and grateful communion. After the service the young at heart can head over to the woodland to see if they can spot anything edible and egg shaped among the trees!

Easter Sunday Evening Worship with Songs of Praise – Sunday 5th April at 6pm

This service will have a Songs of Praise theme, enhanced by well-known Easter hymns. We will be looking at the story of the empty tomb according to John.

Loughborough Churches Partnership Walk of Witness – Friday 3rd April at 10am

You are invited to join the Walk of Witness through Loughborough town centre on Good Friday. Readers, actors and singers are required for this exciting event. Please contact andythorpe01509@gmail.com or northstar2@tiscali.co.uk to join or for more information.

OTHER NOTICES

Dave's Tanzania Adventure

If you'd like to hear more about Dave's recent announcement about moving to Tanzania, including how to join in through prayer or financial support, please follow this link to his newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/ebd03d9f75c8/wbmuw451kq-10153919>

If you open it in your browser, you can subscribe to it by going to the button at the top left of your screen. Alternatively, you can get in touch with Dave to be added.

Wedding

Please pray for Bea and George whose wedding Dave will be taking on March 28th.

Baptisms and Confirmations!

We're delighted to be holding a baptism service on April 26th!

There will also be a confirmation service at St. Botolph's 10 am service on 21st June.

If you are interested in either of the above, please email Dave: dave@stmaryincharnwod.org.uk to find out more.

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](#).

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

A few nominations have come in now, thank you to those who have stepped forward. There are still a few vacancies, and nomination forms are available at the back of church.

Restoration of St Mary's Roll of Honour

Last year, we let you know that the Roll of Honour had been affected by damp as a result of issues with the porch guttering.

After discussion, the PCC felt that it was important to preserve this item of church history, so options for replacement and restoration were researched. These were presented to the PCC at our most recent meeting and the PCC agreed to opt for professional restoration of the Roll.

There is a cost involved – to be finalised after receipt by the restoration company but estimated to be in the region of £2,000. Unfortunately, the Roll did not qualify for grant support as, being a mass produced item, it is not defined as a War Memorial, and in light of the building development work planned for the near future, the PCC decided not to use Development Fund assets to pay for the restoration.

They agreed instead to ask for donations towards the cost. Therefore, if anyone would like to make a donation, please have a word with Katherine or leave an envelope, clearly marked with 'Roll of Honour', in the offertory plate. Thank you in advance for your generosity – with your help, the Roll of Honour will be restored and able to be displayed again to honour the Nanpantan men who fought for their country.

A donations page has been set up on ChurchSuite which can be accessed via this [link](#)

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](#)

RECHARGE Christian Men's Conference – Saturday 21st March 9:30am-4:30pm at New Springs Arena Loughborough

Our heart is to see men strengthened in their faith, equipped in their leadership at home and in the workplace, and encouraged in their walk with Christ. We believe this day will be a real blessing to local churches as men return refreshed, challenged, and spiritually built up.

Steve Derbyshire will be bringing a word from God, alongside meaningful worship and opportunities for fellowship with other Christian men from across the area.

The cost is £15 for the day, with an optional surcharge of £4 for lunch if you wish. Please follow this link <https://newsprings.churchsuite.com/events/b32zq8n2> , or contact phil@newsprings.org.uk

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