

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

“THE CHURCH ON THE HILL”

PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2026 Vol. 156 No 6



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

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

‘One day as Jesus saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them. “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” (Matt 5: 1-3)



“Bless you!” is often heard in response to someone sneezing, though there is no conclusive explanation why. Theories abound. The most popular one is that, in Tudor England, a sneeze signified the plague; so it can’t be that. Some think sneezing was associated with expelling a demon, which was obviously good news. But there’s no evidence to support that idea, either.

So, what does it mean to be ‘blessed’? In the original Biblical Greek, the word ‘makarios’ might best be translated as ‘fully satisfied’. Some translators use the word, ‘happy’. But being ‘blessed’ is not about any favourable or lucky circumstances we might find ourselves in. Rather, our being blessed is the joyful contentment of a life captivated by the living Christ.

Jesus promises the ‘good life’ to those who will realign their behaviour to his ways. Is it achievable? Not perfectly. But we are invited to participate in a life of discipleship which, however flawed, shadows the footsteps of Jesus and brings us that hard-to-describe blessing as we journey.

A prayer: “Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.” (Richard of Chichester 1197-1253).

God bless you this month.

Fr Andrew



High Days and Holy Days

1st June – Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries, the Eastern and Western Churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.

In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing

is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. “All generations shall call me blessed...”

21st June - Father' Day, a time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?



How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first

Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on 19th June, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

24th June - John the Baptist, preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.



June Reflection with Rev Bob

June is bursting out all over
June is bustin' out all over!
All over the meadow and the hill,
Buds're bustin' outa bushes,
And the rompin' river pushes
Ev'ry little wheel that wheels beside a mill.

*From Carousel Rogers and Hammerstein
Musical*

We are in the middle of the year, and June is here leading to sunny days and nature is putting on a fine show, we begin to feel better and go outside to enjoy the beginning of Summer with its lazy days and some looking forward to holidays. But we also need rain and this year has been a dry one, lot of debate about climate Change and we all have our own ideas. Jesus said that we should look at the trees and the birds. Matthew 6.25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life" When we look around our garden's parks by the sea the world of Nature carries on regardless of us, Jesus was saying worrying about things does not help, in fact it can make us ill. Jesus is the way the truth and the life, we follow and yes things will happen which challenge us in our daily lives as it is a journey with Jesus as the head. The world is full of concern, power, corruption, money and control sometimes pushed by a Media and Politicians that push there agendas which may not be of God and we have to discern what is right for us, following Christ means going against the grain and as Dietrich Bonhoffer said "The Christian must treat his enemy as a brother, and requite his hostility with love. His behaviour must be determined not by

the way others treat him, but by the treatment he himself receives from Jesus; it has only one source, and that is the will of Jesus.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* while in prison awaiting execution by the Nazis. We may not face that extreme pressure, but we must be prepared to stand for Christ as a follower and as a disciple. We have seen many being baptised and confirmed and in that we support them in their journey,



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.

"I know that my redeemer lives, and in the end he will stand on the earth."

Job 19:25

In the person of Jesus of Nazareth, God himself entered history, not as a rumour, not as a myth, not as distant thunder, but as flesh, and breath, as tears and touch. He stepped into the courtroom of our guilt, not as a prosecutor, but as our redeemer. As the veil once cast dim our eyes to the light of heaven, the light now walks among us.

History speaks, but not in abstractions, it speaks in changed hearts and transformed lives, men and women who once scattered like frightened sheep later stood unflinching before councils and swords, testifying that they had seen Jesus crucified under Roman authority and risen again.

Jesus Christ is not confined to history, he is not restrained by centuries past, but walks the corridors of the present, he lives in the peace that blooms in the middle of chaos, he lives in the love that halts the storms of hatred, he lives as the healing presence that turns sorrow into rejoicing, and he lives in the heart of every one of us that loves him. And all of this, every testimony, every witness, every act of love, every hope, all flows from one single, beautiful center. The cross.

History bends at the Cross, because eternity touched time there, justice and mercy meet there, wrath and love collide and reconcile there, what we surrender in ounces, Christ bore in oceans, what we give in moments, he gives us in eternity and in fullness.

The bloodshed, the pain endured, the pierced hands raised in blessing, all converge into one immutable truth, we are redeemed by the blood of the lamb, we are reclaimed by God, into freedom, and beyond the power of death.

The sacrifice was immeasurable because of who he is, the forgiveness is inexhaustible because of what he bore, and the resurrection is triumphant because death could not hold him.

We have life and freedom because his sacrifice was victorious. Our redeemer lives, and in the end he will stand on the earth, and we will see him again in glory.

God bless you, Daniel Newton

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

19th April

Rayia Leigh Willett

Matthew Barlow

Aurora Jade Cross

Lewis Martin Kemp



3rd May

Lauren Belcher

Charlotte Sewell

17th May

Kaylie Ruth Fawsitt

Jaycee-Leigh Dorothy Sheeran

Brandon Holton

Elijah Holton

Funerals

5th June

Maureen Wells RIP (St Mary's and Bramcote Crematorium)

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>

If you would like to be Confirmed please speak with Fr Andrew, Rev Bob or Zoe.

2026 Confirmation Paragraphs

Aurora Jade Cross

When I was a child, I was very indecisive when it came to religion. However last year I had a near death experience and ended up in hospital. I was down in the dumps and thought there was no light at the end of the tunnel. My experience changed my outlook on life and in the hospital, I decided to go to the chapel. The more I went the more motivated and comfortable in myself I became. When I came home, I started going to Church every Sunday and finally felt like I was being guided, had a wonderful community to be a part of and something to believe in. This made me find God and find my faith and that's why I converted to Christianity.

Isaac Humphrey

After being Christened as a child, I have rediscovered my faith as an adult through the profound sense of peace and clarity I feel whenever I am in the Church.

Brandon Holton

I came to faith in Jesus when I was not at the best point in my life. Since letting God into my life, I have become a better person through Him. My desire to read His word and attend Church has grown much stronger. I then married my wonderful wife in church, who I believe God blessed me with, and we have now also been blessed with our child. For a while now, I have felt called to be baptised, and I am now preparing for baptism and Confirmation so I can publicly confirm my faith in God to both the Church and the world. P.S. This is only a short summary — there is much more that God has done in my life.

Lauren Rose Belcher

I have been baptised at St Mary's Church, Bulwell. I want to deepen my bond with God.

Note from Lauren's mum: The 7 years of caring for my mum before she passed away were joyous and also very tough because she was so poorly at times and I lost count of paramedics in and out my house. I was an emotional wreck the first year or so. It was our Lord Jesus Christ that carried me. Lauren should not be denied the love and power of God and it's my duty as her mother to bring this to her. She loves attending church singing the hymns and reads very well. I believe that Lauren will acquire a greater understanding of her faith by regular church service attendance and confirmation after her baptism. Rose Johnson.

Jaycee-Leigh Dorothy Sheeran

As a child I knew all the stories from the Bible and when I was a kid, I believed that God was real and I still do and that is why I wanted to get baptised and Confirmed. I used to say, "Hey, Mum, when can I get baptised?" And she used to say, "Well I don't know." But that is not the point, and the point is that I've always been brave just like Noah and the ark which is my favourite Bible story and I joined the Church and I will still there as long as I have to, and I will stay forever.

Evie Nevaya Curwood

I want to be Confirmed because I am ready to confirm my faith.

Lewis Martin Kemp

Confirmation is something I keep dreaming of very vividly, so I truly believe this is the next step in my journey of faith. I don't want to dedicate just one day a week to my Lord and Saviour – I would like to give everything if I can!



The Aumbry Lamp

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.

The Aumbry Lamp has been kindly sponsored from January 2026 to June 2026 in prayerful memory of Norah who passed away in 2024. Carol and Brian Butler have kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp from July 2026 to August 2026. Mavis Polkey has kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp for September 2026 in prayerful memory of Alan Polkey who passed away in 2019. Ann Hotson has kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp for December 2026 in prayerful memory of Ray Hotson who passed away in 2025.



Holy water in church

Congregation members have asked Fr Andrew if St Mary's has a supply of holy water for folk to use or take away. There is a stoup by the south porch entrance with which folk can cross themselves with as they enter and leave the church building, and a holy water urn folk can fill any suitable small bottles with (please bring your own bottle).

The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham
The Rt Revd Paul Williams
Email: bishop@southwell.anglican.org

26th April 2026

To be announced on Sunday, 26th April at 11am and embargoed until then

**TO ALL CLERGY, LICENSED LAY MINISTERS AND CHURCH OFFICERS IN THE DIOCESE
OF SOUTHWELL AND NOTTINGHAM**

I am pleased to share with you that, following a thorough discernment process, the Revd Jim Prestwood, at present Vicar of the Benefice of Lincoln St Swithin, Priest-in-Charge of Lincoln St Faith, and Partnership Dean and Assistant Archdeacon for Lincoln, has been appointed to be Associate Archdeacon in this Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. This will be with effect from 1 September 2026.

In his capacity as Associate Archdeacon, Jim will work alongside the Archdeacons' team (Archdeacons Phil and Tors and Associate Archdeacon Richard) to provide practical ministry support and guidance for parishes, working with clergy and other key leaders to review priorities and help develop areas of ministry in our commitment to Growing Disciples of Christ in the diverse settings across the diocese. Jim will have a particular focus on helping benefices in vacancy or in times of transition.

The role of Associate Archdeacon is a capacity building post, funded centrally by the Church of England, for a fixed term period of 5 years.

Jim's experience and gifts in nurturing vocations, helping churches to reach younger generations, establishing new areas of ministry and forming teams in leading a growing church, will be a blessing to the ongoing life of the diocese.

I know that you will join me in praying for Jim and his family as they prepare to leave the parishes in Lincoln which they have served with such dedication and move into the diocese for this new season of ministry.

With gratitude for our ongoing partnership in the gospel,



The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, The Rt Revd Paul Williams



Bishop's Manor, Bishop's Drive, Southwell
Nottinghamshire, NG25 0JH
01636 817996
www.southwell.anglican.org

Funeral Eucharist of David Hooper

Hi Fr Andrew,

The day went well! I would like to place on record my thanks to:

- Alan Jackson and members of St Mary's choir for helping out with leading the singing
- Chris Barton for helping with serving and swinging the incense.
- John Glover for his help behind the scenes and for making all the coffee.

It was a truly a service to remember and Pa would have been so proud. The buffet afterwards was also very good.

Regards,

Shaun Hooper (Organist at St John's, Carrington)





Notts County Football Club

Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3HJ

0115 952 9000

office@nottscountyfc.co.uk

To everyone at St Mary's Church Bulwell.

I am writing to you to say thank you for your extremely generous donation of Easter eggs for our annual Easter visit to the children's hospital at Queens Medical Centre.

With your support our players were able to share some positivity and smiles to those who are going through an extremely difficult time.

We couldn't do this without your support.

Thanks again,

Kind Regards,

Logan Bruce
Fan Engagement Lead
Notts County Football Club

www.nottscountyfc.co.uk

Notts County Football Club Limited
VAT No. 828477978 | Company No. 04789632



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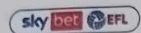
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NOTTS COUNTY FC

THANK YOU TO ST MARY'S CHURCH BULWELL FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF EASTER
EGGS FOR OUR VISIT TO QMC CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

CERTIFIED BY: Logan Bruce

Fan Engagement Lead



St Marys Church, Bulwell
"the church on the hill"



Lunch supplied
"picnic lunch"

please advise of any allergies or
food preferences

Saturday
June 20th
11:30-1:30
FREE

Watch the Kings birthday
celebrations with us

Caring for Gods world around us
What should we do ?



please contact Zoe to book your place-
zoejackson000@gmail.com

Booking is essential for resource and lunch numbers





Praise Party

For children aged 5-11 plus their leaders

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE | 1.20-3.30PM

SOUTHWELL MINSTER

An afternoon of praise & worship with drama,
teaching, workshops, songs, dancing & snacks

Save the date!

More details to follow



Southwell
Minster
Cathedral ♦ Gardens ♦ Palace



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 - they 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". 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.

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.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SOULS PARISH
CHURCH BULWELL

NG6 9AD

SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026

11:00AM - 2:00PM

Cakes Stalls: Toys
Books New & Nearly
Jewellery Tombola New
Hong Kong food Raffle
Splat the Vicar
Plus many more

**HOT & COLD FOOD & DRINK
AVAILABLE**

Confession: A Beginner's Guide to the Reconciliation of Penitents in the Church of England

You might be surprised to come across a structured rite of confession in the Book of Common Prayer, but it is there in 'The Order for The Visitation of the Sick'. You might be thinking, isn't confession a 'Roman Catholic' thing? We can approach God without going through a priest! It's one of the hallmarks of Reformation theology! And yet, there it is in the Book of Common Prayer, with a substantial tradition of practice behind it. So, what is 'confession' from a Church of England perspective, and how do we practice it?

'Confession' or 'The Reconciliation of a Penitent' also appears in the latest Church of England liturgies, Common Worship, as one of the pastoral healing rites. As in the ministries to the sick and dying, the priest stands in on behalf of Christ and His Church to appeal to God on behalf of the person and to communicate to the person on behalf of God. Thus, the priest fulfils Jesus' commission in John 20: 23 (read in St Mary's on Sunday 12th April 2026): "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." In this way, the priest acts like an emissary, saying only what the king - God - says is true and binding, and acting on his behalf. Like other healing ministries, reconciliation actively works against the curse of sin and demonstrates how God repairs what is broken in us and our world.

In contrast to the Roman Catholic practice of confession, most Anglicans do not consider the rite a sacrament, although, because it confers a type of grace, many still consider it a 'sacramental act'. Others consider it a 'Sacrament of the Church', rather than the two 'Sacraments of Christ': Baptism and Holy Communion. Confession is not required to be an obedient church member. Confessing privately to God is still the way most Anglicans practice repentance. However, confession is a discipline that can lead to significant healing and spiritual growth if practiced.

The rite begins with the penitent petitioning the priest,

Bless me, for I have sinned.

The priest then asks about the penitent's sins. The penitent will then recite the confession part of the liturgy, beginning,

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone...

Then the penitent names the sins they have committed, voices their remorse, and asks God and the Church for forgiveness and the priest for 'counsel, direction, and absolution'. At this point, the priest can offer counsel or suggest an act of penance. Acts of penance are not some way of punishing oneself for sin. Instead, they are disciplines to help one grow and resist sin in the future. Finally, the priest pronounces God's forgiveness on the penitent, often making the sign of the cross or placing his hand on the penitent's head. The priest ends by saying,

The Lord has put away all your sins.

The priest then offers a prayer. As the time together ends, the priest then requests,

Go (or abide) in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

This last line is significant because it recognizes and reminds penitents that the priest is a sinner like themselves.

An oft-quoted mantra regarding confession in the Church of England is attributed to the C16 Anglican priest and theologian, Richard Hooker: "All may, some should, none must." Obviously, since we have "an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2: 1) and we have the Holy Spirit within us who "intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8: 26), we can come before God on our own. And yet, in the Anglican tradition, we have a long history of confessing our sins and receiving absolution. The corporate version of

this is an essential part of every Eucharistic liturgy. However, personal confession offers two additional benefits:

- It provides a personalised expression of both the sins surrendered to Jesus and the pardon delivered to the penitent.
- It brings an element of individual spiritual guidance specific to the penitent's struggles.

Just because we can confess our sins to God directly doesn't mean we shouldn't practice confession with a confessor. Quite the opposite is true. By practicing the Reconciliation of Penitents, we lay our sins before God, are assured of his forgiveness, and receive pastoral guidance for the future. It should enhance, not replace, our personal relationship with God.

It's easy to feel intimidated the first time you confess to a priest. After all, you are about to lay all your cards on the table about your failures. It's as vulnerable as a person can be. However, two pieces of comfort are important to remember:

- First and foremost, you are confessing to God, not the priest, and God already knows everything you're about to tell him. No sin is kept in the dark from God. God welcomes you to acknowledge your sin in the light, place it on Christ, and accept his forgiveness.
- The priest hearing your confession is as much of a "miserable offender" (in the old Prayer Book's words) as you are. The priest has also likely heard many other confessions, in addition to knowing the weaknesses of their own heart, so you're not likely to shock or disturb the priest.

Before confessing, you should know that the conversation between the penitent and the priest is entirely confidential. This long-held sacred principle, the Seal of the Confessional must be upheld whenever possible. However, according to the guidance of many Dioceses, an

exception may occur in matters of safeguarding or when the life or well-being of the penitent or another person is in potential danger.

If you think making your confession would be helpful to you, please do speak with Fr Andrew about this, in confidence.

St Mary the Virgin & All Souls

Church Open for Morning Prayer

Every second Saturday of the month

10am until 12pm

10:00 Divine Office

10:30-11:00 Adoration in our Lady Chapel

11:00 Holy Rosary

12:00 The Angelus

All are welcome



Highbury Road, Bulwell NG6 9AD

BULWELL ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 COMING SOON

Global but Rooted in Bulwell.



4-11th July



Follow for updates: @bulwellartsfestivalofficial
Onevisionpartnership.com

The Gift of Giving



GIVING what we can

What is Parish Share & why do we pay it?

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income..." (1Cor 16:2)

We are all reviewing our finances as the cost of living goes up. Churches are also reviewing their finances and are thinking how best they can pay their bills. St Mary's requires money to continue doing what we do – sharing God's love in Bulwell and beyond, and a large proportion of this money comes from our giving as a congregation. Our giving goes towards local costs such as our...

- Worship (including maintaining the organ and paying the organists, CD player/CDs and Digital Hymnal, hymn books, service books, Bibles and lectionaries, robes, candles, bells, bread and wine for Holy Communion, baptism and confirmation gifts and certificates etc).
- Heating and lighting costs, insurance premiums, water rates etc. All of which cost considerably more than a domestic home.
- Printing, photocopying, stationery, flyers, posters and postage.
- Children's work such as Whiz Kids and Muddy Church
- Community, church and social events
- School visits and assemblies
- Services in nursing homes, sheltered housing complexes and Highbury Hospital.
- Expenses incurred as part of the clergy's' ministries.
- Keeping the church, hall and grounds maintained, and arranging for regular inspections.
- Any outward, charitable giving that St Mary's makes.

Our giving also helps Southwell & Nottingham Diocese by means of our Parish Share to pay for:

- The work of the central church organisation on behalf of all the parishes. Negotiating with government departments, working with

other Churches and running the General Synod (the Church's parliament)

- the help given by Diocesan officers to parishes.
- Clergy stipends and the pensions of retired clergy and their dependents.
- Training new clergy for future service.

Each year at Deanery Synod, Treasurers, Churchwardens and Incumbents are invited to pledge their church's amount towards the Diocesan parish share. We have pledged to pay £28,656 in 2026.

Money is part of our following of Jesus. The Bible tells us that a rich man could not let go of his wealth, that Zacchaeus responded to Jesus with joyful generosity, and that St Paul challenged the church in Corinth to give generously. A healthy relationship with money is a normal part of our discipleship, and there are a variety of ways we can support the ongoing mission and ministry at St Mary's:

Envelope Scheme The Envelope scheme is an efficient way of giving, especially for taxpayers. In the packs are a numbered envelope for every Sunday of the year. This enables you to give every week even if you are away.

Standing Order Some people give monthly or weekly standing order direct from their bank account. This is a very efficient way to give to the church as there is less effort required to keep track of your giving to reclaim tax.

Gift Aid If you are a taxpayer and make a Gift Aid Declaration, St Mary's can reclaim the tax you have paid on your giving. This makes every £1.00 given worth £1.25.

Donating Gifts other than Money The rules for Gift Aid mean that the Church cannot reclaim tax from gifts other than money.

If you have any questions on the Envelope Scheme, Gift Aid, using the Blue Envelopes or wish to make a Gift Aid Declaration then please contact our Treasurer, Peter Stanley, our Churchwardens, Eleanor Lang and Martin Walton, or Fr Andrew, and above all, thank you.

BULWELL ARTS FESTIVAL

in partnership with

COMMUNITREE FESTIVAL



GLOBAL DAY

Music, Crafts, Stalls, Bulwell History, Global food and much more
Bulwell Hall Park Saturday 11th July 1-5pm



Bulwell and Top Valley

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COACHING



Take **charge** of your health



Interested in making changes to your...

Weight

Physical activity levels

Mood, thoughts and feelings

Food and drink choices

Lifestyle

Pain levels



Ask about Health and Wellbeing Coaching at your GP surgery today!



facebook.com/BTVPrimaryCareNetwork

Name

Contact number

Bulwell and Top Valley SOCIAL PRESCRIBING



Do these things affect your life?



Worries about money



Worries about housing



Feeling lonely



Language barriers and communication



Worries about work and learning



Taking control of your health

Ask about Social Prescribing at your GP surgery today!



facebook.com/BTVPrimaryCareNetwork

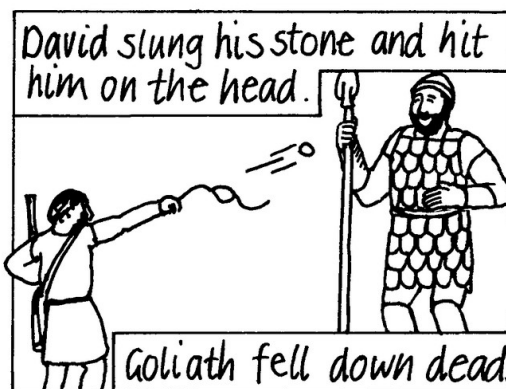
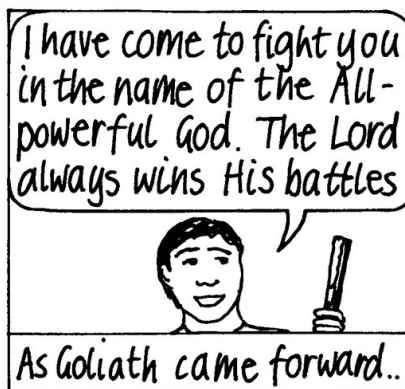
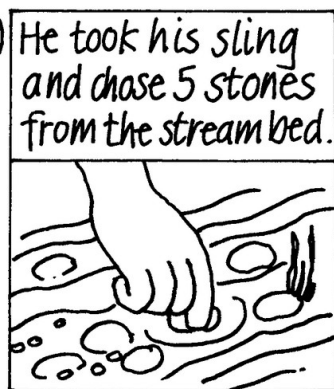
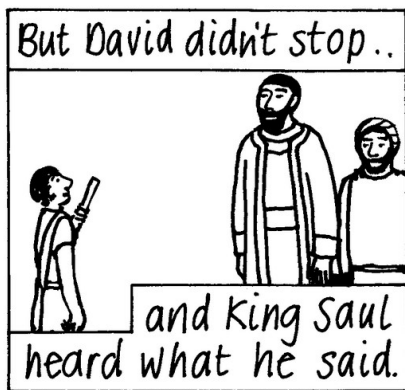
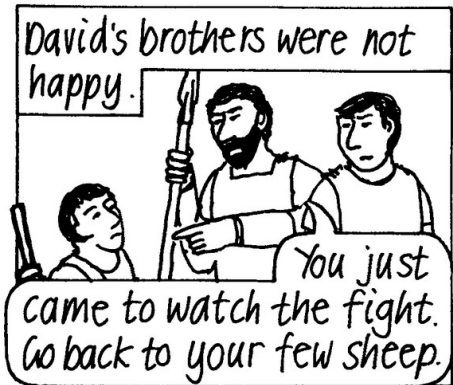
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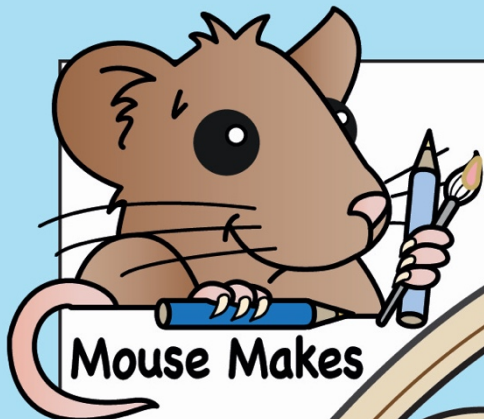
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
 love of **GOD** and the
 fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
 with you all."

2 Corinthians
 13:14



| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
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| H I W | I S D | U D E |
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JESUS • CHRIST
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

GOD • FATHER
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
 ETERNAL • CREATOR
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

HOLY SPIRIT
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
 COMFORTER • GUIDE
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

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

SUNDAY

Choir Practice Warm up 9.00am
Rehearsal after service 11.30 – noon
Please contact the Organist: 07799 331271

Farnaby & Co (First & Third in month) 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 AI- Group - Spokoj 6.15pm – 8.15pm

Bellringing (Practice Night) 7.30pm – 9pm. All ages from 11 years.
Under 18s 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) 7.00pm – 9.00pm Tel: 07793 823440

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

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

FRIDAY

Rainbows 5.15pm – 6.15pm Tel: 07812 160455

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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