

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

# **“THE CHURCH ON THE HILL”**

PARISH MAGAZINE

October 2026 Vol. 156 No 10



*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

Dear Friends,

As we step into October, the season shifts around us - leaves turning, light softening, the year gently preparing to rest. Autumn has a way of inviting us to slow down, to notice, to breathe. It reminds us that change can be beautiful, and that God often speaks most clearly in the quieter rhythms of life. October in and around our church and parish carries that same spirit of reflection and renewal, and it brings with it several important moments in our shared life of worship and community:



### **Harvest Festival (with Holy Communion) - 10am, Sunday 4th October**

Our Harvest celebration is always one of the most joyful Sundays of the year. It is a chance to give thanks for God's generosity and to respond with generosity of our own. This year we are collecting in date packets and tins for the Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank, whose work is more vital than ever. If you are able, please bring something to contribute - a small act of kindness that becomes part of a much larger blessing.

### **A Service of Healing & Benediction - 6pm, Sunday 11th October**

A quiet, contemplative service offering a space for prayer and healing before the Blessed Sacrament, an assurance of the presence of Christ who meets us in our need. Whether you seek physical healing, peace of mind, or simply a moment of stillness, you are welcome. Benediction is one of the most tender services in our calendar - a place where burdens may be laid down and grace received.

### **Bible Sunday (with Holy Communion) - 10am, Sunday 25th October**

This year marks the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's translation of the Bible, a moment that changed the course of Christian history. Tyndale's courage and conviction helped place Scripture into the hands and hearts of ordinary people, shaping the faith of generations.

On Bible Sunday we will give thanks for the gift of Scripture - living, challenging, comforting, and always new - and pray that we may continue to be shaped by God's Word.

**Remembering Saints & Angels (A Service for the Bereaved, with Holy Communion) 10am, Sunday 1st November, followed by a buffet lunch.**

This gentle and beautiful service is one of the most important of our year. We gather to remember those we love but, for a little while, see no longer: to speak their names, to honour their lives, to light candles in quiet remembrance, and to hold one another in prayer.

Whether your bereavement is recent or long standing, you are warmly invited. Grief has no timetable, and God meets us tenderly whenever we come.

**Sung Evensong - Patronal Festival 6pm, Sunday 1st November, followed by Cheeses & Wine**

Later that same day we gather again for a festive Evensong to celebrate our patron saint, the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a service rich in music, prayer, and thanksgiving - a moment to rejoice in the heritage and vocation of our parish. The Cheeses & Wine afterwards offer a chance simply to enjoy one another's company.

As we move through this month of gratitude, remembrance, and celebration, may you find moments of stillness, glimpses of beauty, and the quiet assurance of God's presence in every step.

With my prayers for a blessed  
October,

Fr Andrew





## High Days and Holy Days

### 1st October – St Theresa of Lisieux, patron of France

Theresa of Lisieux (1873-97) should be the patron saint of teenage girls and young women who want to make the most of their lives, despite being constrained by family and school or work.

Theresa grew up in a strict, devout Roman Catholic middle-class family in France, one of four sisters. Her father was a watchmaker. Like her sisters, she entered a Carmelite convent at 15, and stayed there. She was never able to go anywhere, do anything extraordinary, or hold any responsibility. She died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis. Yet this quiet young Carmelite nun became so nationally popular that she was declared patroness of France 50 years after her death. Not bad for someone who didn't get out much!

So how did Theresa do it? By not intending to do it at all. Theresa never set out to become famous: instead, she quietly determined in her spirit to seek God, and, having found Him, to honour Him in her life, to live as closely as she could to the teaching in the gospels.

The result was a life so spiritually radiant that her convent asked her to write a short spiritual autobiography of her pilgrimage. Theresa obliged with 'L'Histoire d'une Ame', which soon became so popular that it was translated into most European languages and several Asiatic ones. Theresa also prayed for people who were ill, and there are many reports of miraculous healings that took place in answer.

After Theresa died in 1897, her book just went on selling. People found the artless sweet simplicity of her observations on her pilgrimage as a Christian compelling. Theresa reminded people of what Christianity was really all about: simple but utter devotion to Christ, not endless outward

observance of religion. Theresa helped many in the Roman Catholic Church in France to remember the first principles of their faith.

#### **4th October – St Francis and the Life of Simplicity**

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Churchgoers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that He came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

## 31st October – All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening



Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset

of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that

Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



### **October Reflection with Rev Bob**

As I write this it is the beginning of September and we can already feel the night's drawing in change in Nature trees with falling leaves squirrels and other creatures preparing for the winter, October will be when St. Mary's celebrates our Harvest Festival Sunday 14th October remembering Gods provision for us in food water, light darkness and natures provision

even though the weather has been very hot, and the threat from El Nino weather pattern from the Pacific. It also reminds us of the seasons we have autumn, winter, spring, summer. Before modern farming, farmers used the seasons to plant and grow, how to use fields to not over produce. Maybe sometimes to step back and explore Gods wonders vastly different, . when God created this world, the bible says he did it in six days then rested. How often do we stop, switch off the phone, retreat into the country or just silence, many cannot stand silence it unnerves them, Jesus very often went off to be with his Father to reflect, pray, communicate with God the Father.

Here is a prayer by David Adam, stop a while with God.

### A Celtic Prayer of silence

I weave a silence on my lips  
I weave a silence into my mind  
I weave a silence within my heart  
I close my ears to distractions  
I close my eyes to attractions  
I close my heart to temptations  
Calm me O Lord as you stilled the storm  
Still me O Lord, keep me from harm  
Let all the tumult within me cease  
Enfold me Lord in your peace.

*David Adam, 1936-2020, English priest, rector of Lindisfarne*

The Book of a Thousand Prayers



***"Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest for a while"***

***Mark 6:31***

The church at its best is a quiet refuge amid the chaotic maelstrom of society, a place of serenity where we can find sure footing on the solid ground of scripture, and renewal by the Holy Spirit working among God's people.

Silent spaces, especially within a church environment are essential for prayer, contemplation, and peaceful receptivity.

But also, and arguably a more immediate concern once the church doors open, is that for those who are in a state of grief, the peaceful welcome, and calming atmosphere of this space is vital for the emotional and spiritual health of a soul searching for comfort, and possibly help.

The church can be a hospital for healing, and a hospitable place for resting that mirrors Matthew 11:28-30.

Silence is important because the world is noisier than ever. The relentless over-stimulation of non-stop noise, and the culture of constant busyness is robbing us of that space for quiet attentiveness, and personal reflection.

Jesus modelled a life deeply rooted in quietness, frequently withdrawing to peaceful, lonely places early in the morning or on mountainsides to pray, seek guidance, and find rest away from the heavy demands of public ministry.

As the world's noise grows deafening, the church must remain that quiet refuge for the weary and worried. Rather than mirroring the noisy culture of life outside the church, the best way to draw people into a church is not to add to ways they are shouted at, and over-stimulated by. Rather we must invite them into an escape from all that, into a sacred space of unhurried presence, quiet reverence, and stillness before God. In a world that is hungry for silence, the church has the opportunity to lean into its counter-cultural distinctives and hold fast to its transcendent identity. In an ever more brutal, harried, and loud world, Jesus Christ's church can be the quiet place we so desperately need.

God bless you, Daniel Newton

## From the Parish Registers

### Weddings

*12th September*

Myles Ward and Kaylie Fawsitt

*26th September*

Peter Saunders and Rebecca  
Brereton



### Funerals

*25th August*

Margaret Lowe RIP (St Mary's and Bramcote Crematorium)

*27th August*

Derek 'Frank' Smith RIP (Bramcote Crematorium)

*15th September*

Sarah Ann Bella Clarke RIP (Bramcote Crematorium)

*8th October*

Christine Joyce Camps (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.



## 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.

*Carol and Brian Butler have kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp from July 2026 to August 2026. Wendy Shah has kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp from August 2026 to December 2026 in prayerful memory of Norah who passed away in 2024. 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).

## Coffee Morning at the Rectory, 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Thank you to the lovely Louise and Sophia Fisher for hosting the Coffee & Cake Morning at the Rectory in August!

Kind thanks also go to Cherie and Emily at Bulwell Cooperative Funeral Services for their generous donations of cakes.



# An announcement from the Diocese regarding the Area Dean

The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham  
The Rt Revd Paul Williams  
Email: [bishop@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@southwell.anglican.org)



## TO ALL DIOCESAN AREA DEANS, CLERGY AND LICENCED LAY MINISTERS, LAY CHAIR, TREASURER AND ADMINISTRATOR IN THE DEANERY OF NOTTINGHAM NORTH

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Deanery of Nottingham North has been without a substantive Area Dean for a period. On behalf of many colleagues across the deanery, may I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those who have faithfully supported and guided the deanery through this season.

I am pleased to inform you that the Revd Mark Fraser has accepted my invitation to be Area Dean for the Deanery of Nottingham North. Mark brings considerable experience as a previous Area Dean, as well as from his parish ministry in this diocese since 2008. I'm sure that the deanery will be blessed by Mark's leadership as we continue to discern how God is shaping our mission in Growing Disciples.

Mark's term of office will commence on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026 for a period of 3 years. I know that you will give Mark your encouragement and prayers as he continues to build on the firm foundations that the Deanery Leadership has laid.

With gratitude for our ongoing partnership in the gospel,

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



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Nottinghamshire, NG25 0JH

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[www.southwell.anglican.org](http://www.southwell.anglican.org)

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## **Safeguarding Update from the Diocese**

See the following email from Martin Cooper (Chief Executive, Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham) regarding the latest appointments to the Diocesan Safeguarding team:

Dear all

I hope you are well and have had a good summer.

I am pleased to confirm that two new colleagues joined the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) on Tuesday.

Danielle Brown is our Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (ADSO) and Emma Prothero will bring additional capacity as a Caseworker. Danielle has a background as a Senior Probation Officer and University Lecturer and Emma has previously worked for the Police and one of our diocesan Multi Academy Trusts. Please join me in welcoming them to the Team.

I am pleased to confirm that Elisha Ward will continue to work with us as an Independent Safeguarding Consultant to support the Team as we recruit a new Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO), who will be known as the Director of Safeguarding. Please join me in praying for this key appointment.

The appointment of a Director of Safeguarding and increasing casework capacity were two recommendations arising from the INEQE audit, the report which we expect to be published by the end of September.

I continue to work closely with Sally Hodges, as Independent DSAP Chair, and Gemma Barber, as Regional Safeguarding Lead, to draw on wider support and advice. I am grateful for the flexibility and hard work of the DST, including our sessional trainers, for all they have done to enable us to provide the best service possible.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure good safeguarding practice across the Diocese.

Best regards

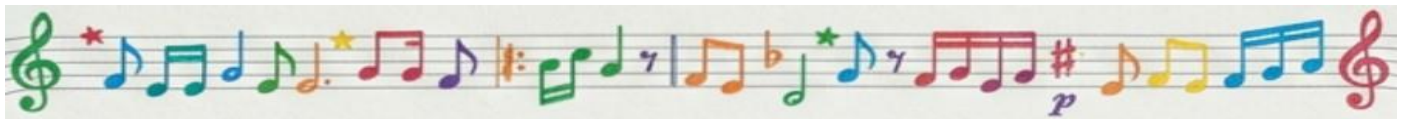
Martin



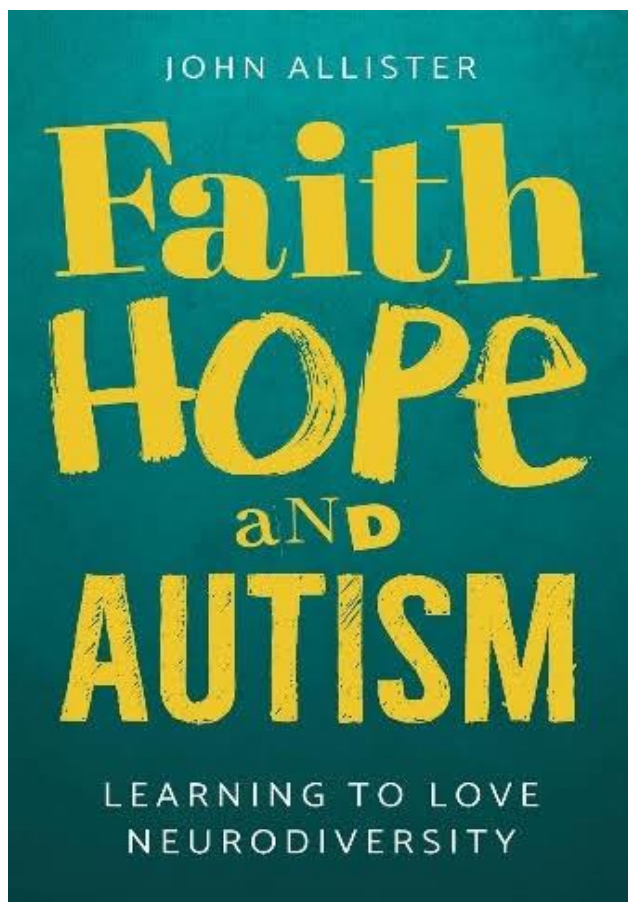
## Carol for St Mary's – Ian Bevell

St Mary's Director of Music and Organist, Ian Bevell, has authored the following Carol for St Mary's, out now!

[https://youtu.be/jBTomxzQ6j0?si=\\_mfu7qrq3ssFxqxk](https://youtu.be/jBTomxzQ6j0?si=_mfu7qrq3ssFxqxk)



## A New Book on Faith, Church and Autism



Congregation members will remember the Revd. John Allister who came to speak with us about neurodiversity and the Church in July 2025.

John's wisdom and experience re: neurodiversity has been distilled into his new book, Faith, Hope and Autism, available online and from all good bookshops. If you are neuro-diverse, have friends or family members who are neuro-diverse, are a PCC member at St Mary's, or lead groups in Church that are blessed with neuro-diverse folk, John's book is essential reading.

Fr Andrew

## **Fr Andrew's talk from the Churches Fellowship for Psychical & Spiritual Studies Conference, 12<sup>th</sup> September – Part 1**

My talk is entitled, **'From One Place to Another – Our Journey after Death'**. And I would like to begin with a little story about life and death in a vicarage. Humour, as we know, often open doors into deeper truths...

One cold morning, Reverend Joe was warming himself in front of the fireplace when his eldest son, who was also a vicar, entered the room and stood next to him.

"Good morning, son," said Reverend Joe, "How did you sleep?"

"Good morning, father," replied the son, "I had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed that I was in heaven, and that you were there too."

A moment later, the middle son, who was also a vicar, came in and stood beside his father and his brother.

"Good morning, son," said Reverend Joe again, "How did you sleep?"

"Good morning, father," said the middle son, "I had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed that I was in heaven, and that you and my big brother were there also."

Finally, the youngest son arrived. He wasn't a vicar. He was more of a free spirit, a bit of a hippie. "Good morning, son," said Reverend Joe, "How did you sleep?"

"Sup, dad," said the youngest son, "I slept terribly. I dreamed that I was in hell."

"Oh my goodness," said Reverend Joe, "what was it like?"

"Exactly like being here," said the youngest. "All of the vicars were blocking the heat."

Humour like this reminds us that death, for all of its solemnity, is not only a theological concept but a profoundly human experience. Death

touches families, it touches relationships, and it touches the ordinary rhythms of life. It is something that we all think about, even if we rarely speak about it openly.

And this is where I want to begin: with the simple, unavoidable truth that every one of us, without exception, will one day experience death. Death is the one experience that unites us all, regardless of our culture, background, belief, or circumstance. And yet, despite this commonality, death remains one of the least understood aspects of our existence.

We speak of death quietly, often reluctantly. We avoid saying the word “death” in our conversations. We fear death, we resist it, and we try to push it to the edges of our awareness. We surround ourselves with distractions, achievements and comforts that help us forget our mortality. And yet, even with all our avoidance, death has a way of returning to our consciousness. It comes to us in moments of illness, in the loss of our loved ones, in the quiet hours of the night, or in the sudden shock of unexpected tragedy. Death comes to us in the questions children ask, in the stories we hear, and in the gentle awareness that our lives are fragile.

Death, then, deserves our attention, our reflection, and our hope. And the Christian tradition, in its wisdom, does not shy away from death. It speaks of death not as a catastrophe, not as a failure, but as a journey. Our death is not simply an ending; it is a crossing from one reality of existence into another. It is a moment of profound transformation.

And within that transformation, there is mystery. Some souls, it seems, pass swiftly into the fullness of God’s nearer presence. Other souls seem to linger, hesitate, or remain in a state we might call “between worlds” or “between realities”. And in this talk, I would like us to explore this journey; drawing on Scripture, Christian tradition, mystical theology, and

real experiences from ordinary people - experiences that reveal that the boundary between life and death is thinner than we might imagine.

When we speak of death, we often imagine a single moment. Our heart stops, our breathing ceases and we are gone. But Christian theology suggests something rather more nuanced. Death, Christian theology suggests, is not a moment: rather, death is a transition. Death is the point at which our soul - the living centre of a human person - separates from our body. And this separation is not annihilation. We do not simply cease to exist. Our identity, our memory, and our relationality endure. Our soul - the real 'who we are' - remains recognisable, conscious, and capable of love. As St John of Damascus once wrote, "our souls do not sleep."

This insight is deeply comforting. It means that the deepest parts of us - our capacity to love, to remember, to hope, to recognise, to desire - do not vanish at death. They continue. They endure. They are sustained by God. And because of this, death is not a plunge into darkness but a movement into a different kind of light. It is a movement into a reality where God's presence is clearer, where truth is more immediate, and where love is more fully known.

I once sat with a parishioner during her final hours. Margaret, as I will call her, had been in and out of consciousness for some time, breathing shallowly, her family gathered around her bed. As I prayed the words of commendation, Margaret's daughter whispered, "Mum's looking at something." And Margaret's eyes were briefly open, and she was smiling - not at anything or anyone we could see in the room - but, it seemed, at somebody beyond it. Then Margaret closed her eyes once more and died peacefully. Later, Margaret's daughter said to me, "I think Mum saw who was coming for her."

Moments like this are not uncommon. Many families describe similar experiences: a sudden look of recognition, a peaceful smile, a sense of

presence. These moments suggest that the veil between the earthly and the heavenly realities ‘thins’ at death. The soul begins to perceive what the living cannot. And, as midwives help to deliver us into this world, it seems that ‘heavenly midwives’ help to deliver us into the next.

Scripture gives us glimpses of this ‘thinning’ between the earthly and the heavenly realities. In the gospels according to St Matthew and St Luke, Jesus promises the thief on the cross, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” St Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, expresses his desire “to depart and to be with Christ.” In the book of Acts, St Stephen, at his martyrdom, sees “the heavens opened.” These are not metaphors. They are windows into the truth that no soul dies alone. God’s mercy surrounds the dying, and the presence of Christ is so very near. This is why Christian tradition speaks of our soul’s continued existence and God’s presence at death as givens. At death we do not cease to exist. At death we transition from here to the hereafter.

Christian tradition also speaks of an ‘intermediate state’: the condition of our souls between death and our final resurrection and the consummation of the world. In the intermediate state, our souls, upon leaving our bodies, enter into a state of heightened awareness. St Gregory the Great wrote that the soul “sees, then, with clarity what it could not see in life.” St Catherine of Siena describes the soul’s first moments after death as a “swift awakening,” a sudden recognition of God’s nearer presence.

This intermediate state is not a static waiting room. Neither is it a place of punishment. It is a place of mercy. St Isaac the Syrian wrote that “God’s mercy burns in our soul like fire”; purifying, healing, and drawing our souls ever towards divine love. Our purification is never punitive. It is restorative. It is our soul’s gradual release from fear, anger, regret, and

attachment. It is our soul's healing from the wounds inflicted on us by life. And it is our soul's preparation for the fullness of God's presence.

The intermediate state is, then, a realm of awareness, of purification, and a continuation of our soul's movement toward God. The Book of Revelation describes souls underneath an altar; conscious, praying, longing for fulfilment. And the Church Fathers speak of this intermediate state as a journey: of our soul's awakening, recognising, healing, and orientating his or herself toward the Divine Presence. St Augustine writes of our soul's "gradual ascent"; a movement from earthly attachments towards the pure love of God. St Gregory of Nyssa describes our soul's journey after death as a "continual stretching forth"; a dynamic movement towards the infinite beauty of God.

*Part 2 of 'From One Place to Another – Our Journey after Death' will be published in next month's edition of The Hill.*



# The **SACRAMENTS** transforming everyday life



**WHY SACRAMENTS? - BAPTISM  
CONFIRMATION - EUCHARIST**

**filmed on location in Rome and around the UK**

**a CaFE resource**

Made with AI

# Harvest Festival

(with Holy Communion)

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026 @ 10am

This year we are collecting in-date packets and tins  
for the Betwood and Bulwell Foodbank,  
whose work is more vital than ever.



Followed by our  
Harvest Brunch  
in the Upper Hall

... Come along and enjoy... ..

Toasted teacakes, pastries and more!

A festive Halloween-themed border surrounds the central text. It features various orange and purple pumpkins, some with carved faces, round candies with swirl patterns, ghost faces, and spider webs. The background is a dark purple with small white stars and orange dots.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# HALLOWEEN PARTY

FRIDAY | 30 | OCTOBER  
4:30PM - 6PM | 2026

FAIRWAY VIEW CARE HOME  
SWALE CLOSE

CHILDRENS DISCO, GAMES, PRIZES,  
★ FACE PAINTER,  
PRIZE FOR THE BEST COSTUME  
COME ALONG & JOIN THE FUN!



*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.*

# The Gift of Giving



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:

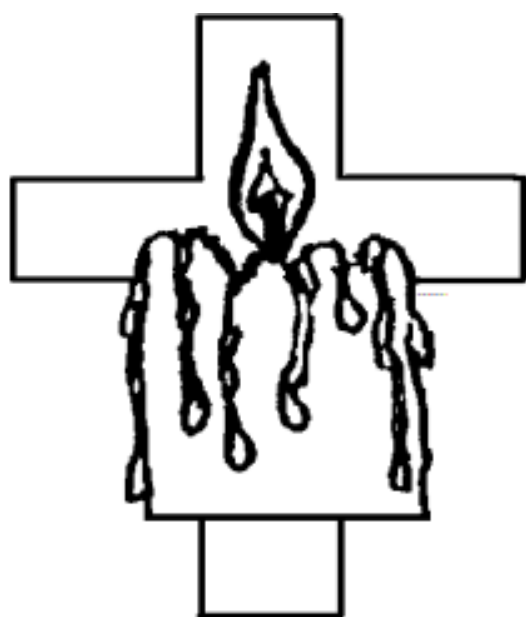
**Envelope Scheme** The Envelope scheme is an efficient way of giving, especially for taxpayers. In the packs are a numbered envelope for every Sunday of the year. This enables you to give every week even if you are away.

**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.



# **What's on at Sozein**

January - December 2026

**SOZEIN**

**A Churches' Ministry of Healing Trust**

The Old Vicarage  
Church Lane  
Horsley Woodhouse  
Ilkeston  
DE7 6BB

01332 780598  
[neil.broadbent@sozein.org.uk](mailto:neil.broadbent@sozein.org.uk)  
<http://www.sozein.org.uk>

Registered Charity No 1044449

# WHAT WE DO

- 1 Sozein is available to parish teams and individuals seeking help in creating good practice in the Christian healing ministry.
- 1 Teaching, Retreats & Quiet Days for clergy, laity, individuals & groups.
- 1 Increase learning by providing a day library for the Ministry of Healing, Christian Spirituality and Mysticism.
- 1 Listening & attending to folk needing spiritual support.
- 1 Spiritual accompaniment.
- 1 Provide rooms and gardens for prayer and quiet.
- 1 Homeopathic remedies for ailments.
- 1 Our 'Blog' may be found at <http://sozein.org.uk/Latest Topic.html>
- 1 Any queries? Do contact us.



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2026

Ring for details

- Coffee Morning on Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> from 10.00a.m. Raffle, cakes, books.
- Summer Tea Party on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon. Raffle, cakes, books, crafts & gardens. Bring your friends as well.
- Coffee Morning on Saturday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> from 10.00a.m. with raffle, cakes, crafts and books.

As part of our fundraising programme, homeopathic consultations are also available from Neil. Please ring for an appointment.  
Alternatively, look at <http://sozein.org.uk/Fundraising.html>

## Sozein Quiet Days

=All these are new talks, which will be led by the Revd , unless otherwise indicated. Enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and relax in our various delightful Gardens. A Donation is requested, suggested minimum is £15. Please ring the number below to attend.

|                                              |                            |                      |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Revd Dr Martin S Israel                      | Mon Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>    | Revd Neil Broadbent  |
| Finding God in Poetry                        | Mon March 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Revd Michael Huggett |
| Were Julian and the Mystics inspired or ill? | Tues May 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Dr Pauline Lovelock  |
| Aspects of Inner Healing                     | Tues June 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Canon Rosemary Drew  |
| Love makes us what God wants us to be.       | Tues Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> | Revd Andrew Fisher   |
| A day with St Thérèse of Lisieux'            |                            |                      |
| Celtic Spirituality                          | Tues Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>  | Mr Pete Vause        |
| The Great Yearning                           | Tues Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>   | Revd Neil Broadbent  |

### MORNING

9.45 Arrival  
 10.00 First Talk (in the library)  
 Silence  
 11.00 Coffee in silence  
 12.00 Eucharist (prayer room)  
 12.30 Bring a packed lunch,  
 drinks are provided

### AFTERNOON

1.30 Second Talk (in the library)  
 Silence  
 3.30 Responses & resources  
 3.40 Tea  
 4.00 Depart

Tel: 01332 780598 to reserve a place. Bring a packed lunch.  
 The Trustees ask that all donations be paid on booking.  
 Thanks for cooperating. Concessions are available.

**Our salvation consists wholly in being saved from ourselves. *The Revd William Law***

## Contemplative Prayer

Please ring Barbara on 01332 780598 with any names of people you wish us to pray for.

### Why the need for silence?

Silence can seem threatening at first. Yet silence is the country where the saints learned their language. If you find the silence strange, just sit quietly with it and you will find it changes and becomes warm, friendly and invigorating. Silence creates space. At first, we think it empty space but then we begin to find God in the space. We find that, as the noise settles we can hear ourselves think. We can listen to the words that come from our own hearts, the anxieties that we have been avoiding, the questions that we need to ask. We find we can read scripture, or a devotional book and discover in it new depths of meaning. Everything begins to speak of God. Accept the silence as a friend and after a short time you will be reluctant to let it go.

“All human evil comes from a single cause, man's inability to sit still in a room.”

Blaise Pascal (Mathematician, Philosopher and Physicist, 1623-1662)

Neil's publications are available for downloading from [www.sozein.org.uk](http://www.sozein.org.uk)

If you are looking for a confidential chat on how to live your spiritual journey or other religious or spiritual concerns, why not ring Sozein?

If you change your e-mail address or other contact details, please tell us.

„God is love, yea all love; and so all love that nothing but love can come from him. *William Law*

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always  
ready for his return at the end of time  
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



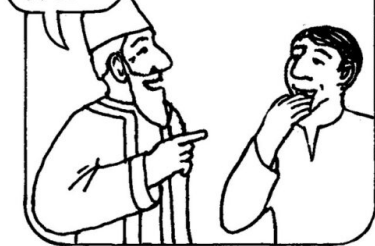
He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



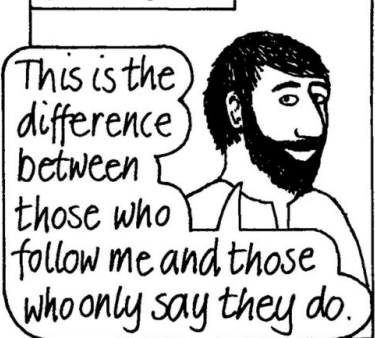
He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.

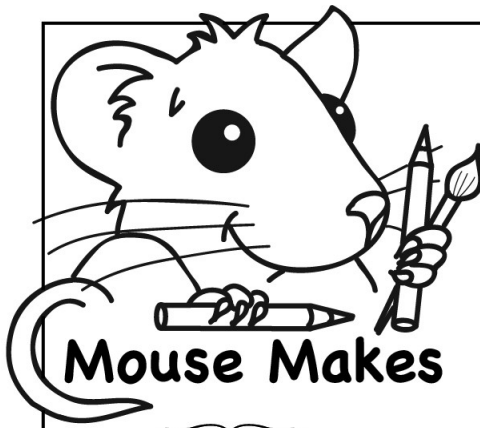


Then his master came back



Jesus said





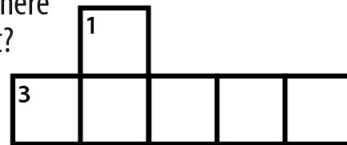
The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?



3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



**B I B L E S U N D A Y**

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

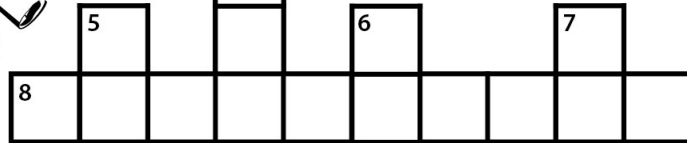
5. The first book of the Bible.



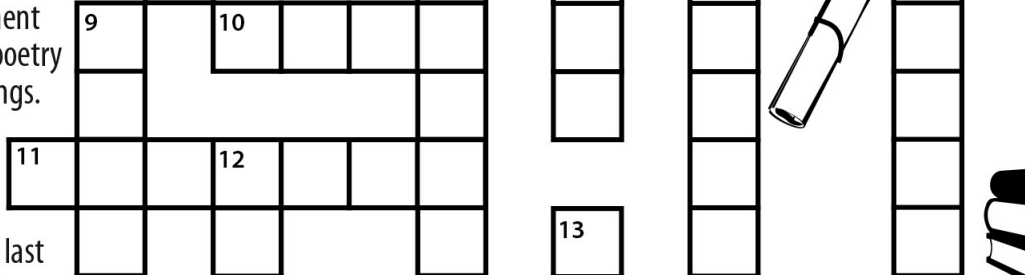
6. God's word is like?

A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.



9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.



11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the

\_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Hebrews 4:12

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



## 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](mailto:info@bestwoodbulwell.foodbank.org.uk)

Polish Speaking Al- 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<br>a.j.fisher@outlook.com              |
| Honorary Associate Priest                                                                                   | The Revd. Bob Stephens                     | 07757422260<br>revbob63@sky.com                      |
| Reader/Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)                                                                          | Juliet Twumasi                             | jto2025@hotmail.com                                  |
| Churchwardens                                                                                               | Eleanor Lang                               | 0115 9277212<br>ellielang@btinternet.com             |
|                                                                                                             | Martin Walton                              | 07746 535552<br>martinwalton57@outlook.com           |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)                                                                           | Maureen Pates                              | 0115 976 4612<br>maureen.pates@googlemail.com        |
| Prayer Chain Ministry                                                                                       | Jackie Bramford<br>(Pastoral Care Visitor) | jackiebramford@hotmail.co.uk                         |
|                                                                                                             | Daniel Newton                              | newtondaniel826@gmail.com                            |
| Children & Young Peoples' Ministry                                                                          | Zoe Elliott                                | zoejackson000@gmail.com                              |
| Tower Captain                                                                                               | Michael Varney                             | 07858 653002<br>MichaelVarney2015@outlook.com        |
| Director of Music                                                                                           | Ian Bevell                                 | 07799 331271<br>ianbevell@gmail.com                  |
| Temporary Notice Sheet Editor<br><i>Submissions please on the Monday prior to the Sunday of publication</i> | Karen Wolf                                 | 07853 668160<br>1Karenwolf1@gmail.com                |
| Magazine Editor<br><i>Submissions please first week prior to the month of publication</i>                   | Jackie Pichowicz                           | jackie.habegger@gmail.com                            |
| Foodbank                                                                                                    | Nigel Webster                              | 07527 048226<br>info@bestwoodbulwell.foodbank.org.uk |