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

Services this coming Sunday, 15th November:

- 9.15am – Morning worship at St Mary's
- 10.45am – Morning worship with baptism at SS&SJ
- 6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

The Bible readings for our morning services will be from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (p960 of the pew Bibles) and Matthew 25:14-30 (p807 of the pew Bibles).

SS&SJ AV installation – The AV installation is progressing. Please note that there is equipment in the church waiting to be installed. Please can you ensure that you and any children keep away from this equipment in order to protect it. Many thanks.

Thank you to the children at St Simon and St Jude's School who made and then placed the poppy images in the Lady Chapel during a short service on Wednesday 11th November. Do go and look at them.

Evening of praise and worship – Sunday 15th November, 6.00pm at Gabriel Christian Fellowship, Earl Shilton Methodist Church Hall, Wood Street. An opportunity to give God the glory collectively in song and offer up a sacrifice of praise. Guest speaker: Mike Buck. Refreshments provided after the service.

Earl Shilton PCC - There will be a meeting of St Simon & St Jude PCC (Church Council) on 16th November 2026. If you have any comments on the life of the church for the PCC, please speak to one of the PCC members who are: Revd. Martin Castle, Rob Allen, Barbara Bowley, Shaun Cobb, David Hall, Elizabeth Nteogwuija, Jean Styles, Robert Styles, Laura Ward and Malcolm Higgins.

Sing for Worship - Join us for fellowship and singing in SS&SJ Church on the following Saturdays:

- November 21st
- December 5th
- December 19th.

Everyone welcome! 11am for an 11.15am start.

Sunday Club - Join us in SS&SJ Church Hall on Sunday 22nd November, 10.00am – 12 noon, for breakfast, games, craft, Bible-teaching and fun! All children welcome. Pre-school children need to be accompanied by an adult. Do ask for more information!!

Toy Appeal Service – Sunday 22nd November, 10.45 at SS&SJ. If you are able, please bring donations of new (*not pre-loved*) toys, gifts and books for ages 0-16 years for the *Hinckley and Bosworth Christmas Toy Appeal* on this date when Lynne Sharpe will be with us to talk about the appeal. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you are able to donate or not. There will also be a collection bin in church.

Churches Together United Advent Service – Sunday 29th November, 6pm at LBC Earl Shilton, Mill Lane. All are invited to join us as we celebrate the start of Advent together.

Rainbows Festive Fun Run - On Friday 4th December, around 4,000 pupils and hundreds of staff across Rise Multi Academy Trust schools (including SS&SJ School) will be taking part in our annual Fun Run, raising vital funds for Rainbows Children's Hospice. Together, we're taking on an exciting challenge to collectively travel 2,575 miles – the distance from Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough to Santa's Workshop at the North Pole! We're hoping to raise at least £5,000 to support children and families across the East Midlands. If you would like to donate/find out more, go to: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/risemat26

Cursillo Group Reunion – The next meeting is on Saturday 5th December, 10.00am at the vicarage.

Jubilee Singers & Earl Shilton Handbell Group Christmas Concert – Sunday 6th December, 3pm at LBC Earl Shilton, Mill Lane, LE9 7AW. FREE CONCERT – Everyone is welcome! An afternoon of wonderful festive music. Refreshments and cakes available. Donations kindly received in support of Hinckley Area Foodbank.

Accord Singers Christmas Concert - 12th December 7:30pm at St Mary's Church Barwell. Accord Singers are an *a cappella* choir from the Hinckley area. The concert will feature of variety of music ranging from the 17th century to the present day. Tickets £7 which includes a door raffle and light refreshments. Available from Colin Sewell 01455 842944 or email Colin at sewell-colin@virginmedia.com

SS&SJ finance sub-committee - a sub-committee of the PCC to oversee the church's financial affairs, ensuring effective stewardship, financial sustainability and sound governance, complying with the legal requirements of the Charity Commission and the Church of England. If you

might be interested in joining the finance sub-committee, please talk to Martin.

Thank you to St Mary's for the generous gift of £108.47 to Christian Aid's Venezuela Earthquake appeal.

Prayers to start the day take place at 9am on Mondays at St Simon and St Jude's and Tuesdays and Thursdays at St Mary's, as well as on Facebook on Wednesday. The prayers in church last half an hour and are a wonderful opportunity to pray for our churches, communities and the wider world, so do come and join us.

Advent and Christmas services and events:

Friday 11th December

- 6.30pm - **St Mary's Christmas lights switch-on.** Do join us for the St Mary's lights switch-on which will include carols, refreshments and a thought for the season.

Sunday 13th December – Advent 3

- 9.15am – All-age **Christingle** service at St Mary's
- 10.45am - All-age **Christingle** service at SS&SJ

Sunday 20th December – Advent 4

- 10.00am – Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 3.00pm – **Carol service** at St Mary's
- 6.00pm – **Carol service** at SS&SJ

We will be serving refreshments after the carol services.

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm – **Crib service** at SS&SJ
- 11.15pm – **Midnight Holy Communion** at St Mary's
- 11.15pm – **Midnight Holy Communion** at SS&SJ

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 9.15am – **All-age Holy Communion** at St Mary's
- 10.45am – **All-age worship** at SS&SJ

Please invite family and friends to these events - all are welcome!

Please pray:

- for Effy who is being baptised at SS&SJ on Sunday, that she will grow up to know the love of our Lord Jesus Christ for her.
- for the Youth Cafe, run by the Methodist Church, which is meeting in the Parish Hall - for more volunteers to staff it.
- Continue to pray for the appointment of the CYPF minister, that we will be able to make an appointment soon.

Contacting us –

- For general church enquiries please contact Beth Evans in the church office on 01455 843961 or parishchurch@gmx.co.uk .
- For pastoral matters or if you need to speak to a church minister, please contact Martin Castle on 07759 002660.

Prayer for the week:

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible verse of the month to learn:

'See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and this is what we are.'
1 John 3 v 1

If you would like to donate to either of our churches, you can do so using these QR codes:

St Simon & St Jude's:

St Mary's: