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

Services this coming Sunday, 22nd November – Safeguarding Sunday:

- 9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.00am – Sunday Club in SS&SJ Church Hall
- 10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
- 6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

The Bible readings for our morning services will be from Ephesians 1:15-end (p949 of the pew Bibles) and Matthew 25:31-end (p807 of the pew Bibles).

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 warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the start of Advent together. Refreshments will be served after the service.

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.

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

- December 5th
- December 19th.

Everyone welcome! 11am for an 11.15am start.

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

Elmesthorpe PCC - Everyone present at the PCC meeting on 10.11.2026 agreed that we should donate £250 to our chosen charity, Mercy Ships, and £150 to Barwell and Earl Shilton Street Pastors to support the work they both do to support the vulnerable.

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.

Carol singing with the Street Pastors – You are warmly invited to join the Street Pastors in singing carols around Barwell and Earl Shilton and in the pubs. The more, the merrier! **Barwell: Friday 11th December**, start at 7pm at Top Town tree; **Earl Shilton: Friday 18th December,** start at 7pm at the Methodist Church Lounge.

The Hopkins brothers charity tractor run – 19th December, starting at 4pm in Kirkby Mallory; next stop Earl Shilton. They are also holding an auction and raffle on 20th December, 7.30pm, all proceeds supporting LLR Mind. For more information: https://www.facebook.com/HopkinsBrothersCTR

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:

- that our churches may be safe spaces for children and vulnerable adults.
- for the Hinckley and Bosworth Toy Appeal.
- 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:

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
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:**