

Martin's Message



CHURCHWARDENS

On Tuesday 17th June our churchwardens were officially appointed for the year ahead at a service led by the Archdeacon of Loughborough, Claire Wood, at St Peter's, Glenfield.

The role of churchwarden dates from the 14th century. A churchwarden has legal responsibility for looking after the church building and ensuring that worship takes place. That is why they are sworn in at an annual service.

But there is more to being a churchwarden than legal responsibilities. They help set the tone for the church community, looking out for those who are struggling, and making newcomers feel welcome. They are leaders in the church and are concerned for the wellbeing of the minister and their family. So much of the work of the wardens goes unseen.

This year Dave Elliott is continuing as churchwarden at St Mary's, where he is joined by Carol Brown. They are ably supported by Nigel Jackson as deputy warden. I am also delighted that Laura Ward has been appointed churchwarden at St Simon and St Jude, with Rob Allen as a new deputy warden.

So, here's a big cheer for two stalwarts who have just retired as churchwardens at St Simon and St Jude's –

SAINTS *alive*



Carol, Dave, Laura and Martin following the service at Glenfield.

Barbara Bowley, after 12 years fantastic service and David Hall, whose technical skill with all things electrical and electronic is invaluable. They are continuing as deputy churchwardens at a time of transition.

Do pray for them and encourage them. And is there a way in which you could support them and help them to ensure that our churches continue to be welcoming communities where the Lord Jesus Christ is worshipped for centuries to come?

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for our churchwardens and deputy wardens.
May they be rooted and established in your love.

Give them wisdom and strength through the power of your Holy Spirit, that they may serve you with willing hearts and minds.

In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

JULY/AUGUST SERVICES

Sunday 13th July

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Sunday 20th July

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Sunday 27th July

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Sunday 3rd August

9.15am – All-age worship at St Mary's
10.45am – All-age worship at SS&SJ
followed by a short service of Holy Communion
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Sunday 10th August

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Sunday 17th August

9.15am – Morning Worship at St Mary's
10.45am – Morning Worship at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Sunday 24th August

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Sunday 31st August

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to End the Day on Facebook

Prayers to start the day at 9am as follows:

Monday – St Simon and St Jude's
Tuesday & Thursday – St Mary's
Wednesday – Facebook

There will be NO Prayers to start the day at St Mary's until 22nd July and at SS&SJ until Monday 4th August

St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

A "Day at the Races" on Saturday 27th June was the title of the event timed to coincide with Royal Ascot.

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies at the May event were as follows:

1st **112** (£40), 2nd **157** (£25)

3rd **184** (£15), 4th **200** (£10)

and 5th **151** (£10).

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies at the June event were as follows:

1st **186** (£40), 2nd **182** (£25)

3rd **30** (£15), 4th **135** (£10)

5th **3** (£10)

The next draw will be on Saturday 26th July 2025 at Elmhurst Village Hall EFFFI Coffee Morning from 10 - 11.30am when the theme will be "Hidden Treasure" Bring along something that is a treasure to you - not necessarily valuable, but something that you could never part with!

Dress like a pirate!!



Donations always welcome for local Food Banks.

The theme for the 30th August EFFFI Coffee Morning is 'Seaside Special'

If you wish to get in touch please contact the church office:

Parish Church Office at St Simon & St Jude Church Hall High Street. Earl Shilton Leicestershire. LE9 7DH 01455 843961 parishchurch@gmx.co.uk

If you would like to contact our church minister his contact details are as follows:

Revd Martin Castle (Priest-in-charge) 07759 002660 revdmartincastle@gmx.com



Anyone who types in the following domain names will be redirected to our church and benefice sites on AChurchNearYou.com:

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mary-Elmhurstorpe

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton

www.achurchnearyou.com/Earl-Shilton-with-Elmhurstorpe

DEAF BUT HEARS GOD'S WORD

Emily Owen is a remarkable woman by any standard.

At the age of 21 and already having lost the hearing on one side and damage to a facial muscle which affects the way she looks, Emily was given a life or death ultimatum, go totally deaf or die! That was when she had a third major operation in six years but throughout that time her faith was rock strong and remains so, writes Mitch Irving.

He says: "I met her when I went on a retreat 'In Between Times' that she led at Launde Abbey and told those attending how she has written several books, many of them Bible based but including a personal memoir of her life to date, and of God's goodness. I had seen her before when she gave a brief talk at a book signing morning at The Vine in Hinckley."

Problems with her health began in her early teens when she had difficulty walking in a straight line and suffered terrible headaches. Two massive tumours were discovered and the subsequent operation caused her to go deaf in the first ear, only for the problems to re-emerge when she had started at university which resulted in her losing her hearing completely and having to give up hopes of a career in education.

"Her testimony was an example to many. The title of the retreat she said came from the fact it was between Easter and Pentecost but it is also indicative on a personal level to her of the gaps in her life amidst the major operations – even now when she goes for annual checks scans show the many tumours in her body."

For those attending the retreat there was also a surprise when it was revealed that BBC TV cameras and presenter Pam Rhodes would be filming two episodes of "Songs of Praise", one of which has already been shown, during their stay.

"I encountered her a couple of times and she was really lovely, apologising for interrupting our retreat," adds Mitch.

VINE MANAGER LEAVING

Manager of The Vine for the last seven years, Jessica Harrison, is leaving the Christian bookshop and coffee bar in Hinckley around the time you may be reading this.

Deputy manager for only a few months, Grace, will be stepping up to the mark and has already introduced a few fresh ideas and become a familiar face to regulars.

If you have not yet discovered one of the best kept secrets in the town The Vine is up a small slope next to the United Reformed Church in The Borough and is well worth a visit.

GIVE FREELY – AS PCC RECEIVES

In the Old Testament people were encouraged, if not required, to give a tenth of their produce or property each year to thank God for his goodness.

It was known as a tithe which means tenth and, in the same way today, SS&SJ parochial church council (PCC) makes donations to charities and good causes in the same proportion from what they receive, in dividends from the shares they hold, interest, and the total amount of regular giving by worshippers.

St Simon & St Jude PCC has just made this year's allocations to the ones they support.

Beneficiaries of the full portion of £849.76 each are the Church Mission Society, Home for Good, Christians Against Poverty and the Barwell and Earl Shilton Street Pastors. Those getting a half portion of £424.88 are Mercy Ships and the Children's Society.