

Martin's Message



Keep the Faith

The football season has re-started and for me that means going to watch Leicester City. Who knows how the season will play out - hopefully some great football and a lot more wins? In any season, as in life, there will be rough patches during which we will be encouraged to 'keep the faith'.

It's an interesting phrase. It means to persevere, to keep going despite current difficulties, trusting that all will be well in the end. Like a lot of phrases, it has its roots in the Bible. Towards the end of his life, the apostle Paul wrote to his friend Timothy, 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith' (see 2 Timothy 4 v 7).

We exercise faith every day. When I get on a bus, I don't ask to see the bus driver's driving licence. I assume the chair I am about to sit on won't collapse.

When it comes to persevering through difficult times and not giving up, exercising faith can be more difficult. For Christians, faith isn't faith in ourselves and our own abilities to see us through – we know how fragile life can be. It is faith in the goodness and power of God in this life, and that the past and the future are in God's hands.



SAINTS *alive*

Nor is it faith to achieve something or become successful. It is about remaining faithful to Jesus Christ, doing the right thing, and living with grace and kindness even when it would be easier to do otherwise.

So whatever season of life you are in, let's encourage one another to 'Keep the Faith'.

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

ST MARY'S BACK MERCY SHIPS

Members of St Mary's, Elvesthorpe have voted and nominated to support Mercy Ships as their chosen charity, writes Carol Brown, one of the churchwardens.

Mercy Ships is an international organisation that operates hospital ships to provide free surgical care and medical training in regions with limited access to healthcare, primarily in Africa.

Further information about the charity is on the notice board in church and a collection box is available. An initial donation has been made. Carol says: "If you are able, please consider giving to this worthwhile cause – your support will be gratefully received."

A PRAYER FOR MERCY SHIPS

Merciful God, we pray for the generous volunteers who are using their skills and talents in your service with Mercy Ships to improve healthcare systems in the regions they serve. Please be with them and their patients. We ask this in humility and gratitude. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 7th September

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 at noon.
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 14th September

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 21st September

10.45am – Morning Worship at SS&SJ
4pm – Open-air service at St Mary's followed by
an afternoon tea.
NO Morning service at St Mary's nor prayers to
end the day.

Sunday 28th September

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.30am – Sunday Club in SS&SJ Parish Hall.
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

Forthcoming event for your diary
St Mary's Church Elmeſthorpe is holding an

'OPEN AIR SERVICE'

in the churchyard
on Sunday 21st September 2025
at 4pm

Afternoon Tea will be served following the
service

All are welcome - please invite and bring along
your family and friends



* Please note there will be
no morning service at
9.15am on that day *

St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

Before memories of sun and sand fade the
next Elmeſthorpe Friends, Food and
Flowers Initiative coffee morning gives a
chance to remember holidays.

Those attending the event in the village
hall on August 30th, if you read this in
time, are asked to take something from the
beach. There will also be the usual
features, a quiz or game – perhaps both –
home-made cakes and other refreshments,
door prizes, a raffle and the monthly St
Mary's Subscription Club draw.

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

1st **34**(£40), 2nd **71**(£25), 3rd **17**(£15),
4th **14**(£10) and 5th **60**(£10).

Those who want to prepare for the
following coffee morning at the same
venue, 10am to 11.30am on September
27th are requested to dress appropriately
for the theme Nursery rhyme revival.

The first computer was in The Bible.

It was an Apple but had limited capacity,
just one byte and that was that.



*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-Elmeſthorpe
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton
www.achurchnearyou.com/Earl-Shilton-with-Elmeſthorpe

Earl Shilton Bellringers Outing

Saturday 5th July



Five towers were visited by St Simon & St Jude bellringers on their eagerly anticipated latest outing.

The team was made up of Terry, Kate, Elaine, Louise, Poppy and Gill who welcomed Neil and Alison Harvey from Sapcote to make up for the absences of Chris Sturgess plus Laura and Emily who were unable to attend.

First church up was St Peter, Claybrooke where they had a challenge. One of the ringers Elaine Banton said: "Access was by a very old, very straight long wooden ladder. Getting down was interesting – you have to be keen and fit to be a bellringer!"

Then it was on to St John the Baptist, Wolvey, a replacement found by Terry Astill for Burton Hastings which had to be cancelled at short notice after a village bereavement.

Next was Keresley St Thomas where lunch was taken in the Garden of Remembrance. Elaine said: "It was an enormous churchyard and the tower had very interesting bells, a lightweight six with metal stays. Access was via a new wooden staircase but with a very deep step and small door into the ringing room. Two of the bells were rung from a step up from the rest.

"They are challenging for most ringers as you don't need to pull hard. However, we soon got the idea and managed to ring them well," she added.

St Peter and St Paul, Kingsbury was next and here they were joined by two local ringers and a friend of Terry's, John Mulvey, who proved a great asset here and at the next one.

Elaine commented: "The bells are beautiful sounding, very rich. Louise and Poppy rang really well on the treble and tenor."

The final tower was at the old abbey church of St Editha, Polesworth. It was carnival day and very busy but Elaine felt they even outdid the PA music with their ringing, a beautiful touch of well struck bells.

As with all such outings they finished the day in the pub, this time at Orton on the Hill.

"Thanks go to Terry for organising it, to Neil and Alison for helping us out and the ringers who joined us. We can't wait for the next one," added Elaine.

Celebration Tea – Saturday 27th September at 4pm

in SS&SJ Parish Hall to thank Barbara Bowley and David Hall for their time serving as churchwardens of St Simon and St Jude's.

Please sign up on the list in both churches or contact the church office if you would like to attend, as that will help with catering requirements.

