

Martin's Message



HOPE

'I see nothing but uncertainty, contention, conflict, beliefs unsettled and nothing established in place of them'.

These words were written by the British artist George Frederick Watts back in 1885 following personal tragedy and at a time of economic decline and environmental damage caused by the industrial revolution. They could have been written by someone today, 140 years later.

Shortly after writing those words, George Frederick Watts painted 'Hope'. It depicts Hope as a blindfolded, world-weary woman, sitting on the world, plucking a broken harp with one string remaining, and a single, distant star in the sky. Does the painting depict the loss of hope, or the boldness of hope which helps us to carry on, when all around us seems bleak and despairing?

I sense that there is today a lack of hope among many people. Life has become more challenging for a lot of people over the last few years. Some even say that fear of the future is one reason behind a declining birth rate in the UK. Conflicts around the world threaten global security. If I am honest, there are times when I find myself struggling to be 'hope-full', as my reservoir of hope is depleted.

SAINTS *alive*

I don't have any easy answers so I'm going to grapple with it some more. My starting point is that we can't escape the things that can make us despair, but to counter them we must ground our hope in something (or someone) more solid and certain.

The author of Psalm 42 in the Bible asked himself why he felt unsettled in his soul and low in spirit. Then he reminded himself 'Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God'.



So, this is where I'll begin, as I seek to have my hope renewed. I reckon it's not a not a bad place to start. What do you think?

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 5th October

9.15am – All-age Harvest Festival St Mary's
10.45am – All-age Harvest Festival at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 12th October

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 19th October

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 26th October

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
10.30am – Sunday Club in the SS&SJ Parish Hall

Prayers to start the day at 9am as follows:

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



On Sunday 5th October we have our Harvest Festival Services. As you are able, please could you bring tins and packets of food as harvest offerings. At St Mary's, the gifts will be distributed to The Salvation Army, The Hinckley Area Foodbank and individuals locally. At SS&SJ, the gifts will be distributed to Lawrance House in Hinckley and others who live locally.

Please consider supporting the work of Christian Aid. At both churches, loose money on the collection plate/box, will be given to the work of Christian Aid. If you want to give online and/or find out more about their harvest appeal, please visit:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/harvest-appeal>

St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

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

1st **105**(£40), 2nd **101**(£25),
3rd **159**(£15), 4th **193**(£10)
and 5th **95**(£10).

Next Draw: **Saturday 27th September 2025**

**at Elmhurst Village Hall EFFFI
Coffee Morning
10.00-11.30**

Nursery Rhyme Revival!

Bring memories of your childhood favourite rhymes!
Be prepared for silly games and activities!

There will also be a special raffle as part of our support of Macmillan Cancer Research

Donations always welcome for local Food Banks

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:

Rev'd Martin Castle (Priest-in-charge)
07759 002660 revdmartincastle@gmx.com



www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mary-Elmhurst
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton
www.achurchnearyou.com/Earl-Shilton-with-Elmhurst