

Martin's Message



We may be surprised to find that we quote from the Bible more than we think. Take the phrase 'The writing on the wall'. This comes from Daniel chapter 5 where a mysterious hand writes some words on the wall during the feast of King Belshazzar. Daniel interprets it and the words foretell that the Lord God has numbered the days of Belshazzar's kingdom.

We might also use the term 'by the skin of your teeth' which describes a narrow escape – a quote from Job 19 v 20. Then we might say that 'the sun shines on the righteous...', to quote Jesus in Matthew 5 v45, but we often miss the second part out '...and the unrighteous', showing God's goodness to all, which may be more challenging, as Jesus tells us to love our enemies.

The Bible has clearly influenced and shaped our speech and our culture down the ages, and it continues to inspire. One source states that Bible sales in the UK increased by 134% between 2019 and 2025.

But what is it about the Bible that makes it an enduring best-seller? For me it tells the exciting story of God's relationship with humanity down the ages. It contains wisdom, a source of truth beyond myself, lessons from history and poetic expressions of the human condition. Its heroes are real – capable of both greatness and failure but never abandoned by God. It grounds me, inspires me and as it draws me in, I become part of the story too. Above all, the Bible reveals Jesus Christ to me, the image of the invisible God, the Saviour who died and rose again to bring humanity back into a relationship with God.

SAINTS *alive*

So, how do we go about reading the Bible?
Here are some suggestions:

- Buy a readable translation of the Bible – I like the Good News version – the Vine Christian bookshop in The Hollow Hinckley will help you.
- Download a Bible onto your phone.
- Visit the Bible Society website <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/> – they have an online Bible and lots of good information about the Bible
- Don't be afraid to read a children's Bible to learn the key Bible stories and the order of the Bible.
- Read one of the gospels in the New Testament – Mark is a good one to start with.
- Choose to read some daily Bible reflections – Check out <https://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today>
- Join one of our weekday cell groups where we delve a bit deeper in small groups to learn from the Bible.

Whatever you choose – give it a go and you won't be disappointed!

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge



SS&SJ Church will be open for refreshments during the town council's 'Picnic in the Park' on Sunday 7th June between 12noon - 5pm. There will also be an opportunity to have a go at bellringing, and spaces for you to take time out, pause and pray. Do come along to see us - you will be most welcome.

JUNE SERVICES

Sunday 7th June

9.15am – All-age Worship at St Mary's
10.45am – All-age Worship at SS&SJ followed at
12 noon by a short service of Holy Communion
12noon-5pm – Town Council 'Picnic in the Park'
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 14th June

10.00am – Benefice Holy Communion and
confirmations at SS&SJ with The Bishop of
Leicester
No service at St Mary's
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 21st June – Fathers Day

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 28th June

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

Please check the church website for any alterations



The bellringers are delighted with the new bell ropes at SS&SJ which replaced the old rotting ones. Churchwarden and bellringer, Laura Ward, says 'They are amazing. We all want to say thank you. They are wonderful to ring.'

St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies drawn at the April event:

1st **17** (£40), 2nd **46** (£25),
3rd **92** (£15), 4th **134** (£10) and
5th **192** (£10).

The theme at June's Elmesthorpe Friends, Food and Flowers Initiative coffee morning in the village hall will be 'World Cup Wonders' with a Host Countries Quiz.

**10am to 11.30am
on Saturday 27th June.**

Visitors can also try their luck in the raffle, door ticket or St Mary's Subscription Club draw.

**Donations to the Food Bank are
also welcome.**

**We also look forward to seeing you
on Saturday 30th May – the 'Chelsea
& Roses' event will include a
competition for the best garden
flower + a plant exchange/sale.**

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

