



The recent men's football World Cup was full of incident – and some controversy! But for me there was one moment which has caught my attention. At the end of the third- place play-off match between England and France in Miami, seven Christian players got together in a circle to pray. Four were English and three were French.

It struck me as a confident, yet simple demonstration of faith. Perhaps it might encourage us in being more confident to own the Christian faith ourselves and not be afraid of what others might think.

But I think it also showed something beautiful at the heart of the Christian faith, that the living Lord Jesus Christ seeks to unite people across identities, such as nationality, that otherwise may divide us. In his letter to the first Christians in Rome, the apostle Paul writes 'there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.' (Romans 10 v 11)



SAINTS *alive*

Now it isn't always an easy thing to be in a Christian community with all our many differences. It requires patience, understanding and hard work. But it is immensely rewarding and, in a society where we are perhaps less tolerant of our differences, it is a powerful witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.

The church is like a body, each member a different part of that body. We'd love you to join us if you haven't already, because we are incomplete without you!

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

New AV System at SS&SJ

St Simon and St Jude's Church are installing a new Audio-visual system. It is expected that this work will take place in September and will include the installation of a retractable screen at the front of the church, as well as an improved sound system.

Priest-in-charge, Martin Castle, explains that like any change, it will take some getting used to. However, it will mean that we can display words and images on the screen that will help people to follow the services more easily. We will be able to show videos of Bible stories and news from the Diocese and other organisations we support. It will also help the schools when they come to the church to hold their seasonal services. We will also be able to enable bereaved families to show a photomontage of a loved-one at a funeral service which we can't offer now.

While the AV system is being installed, we will be meeting in the Parish Hall. Please see the service details for when this will be.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 6th September

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

Sunday 13th September

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

Sunday 20th September

10.45am – Morning Worship at SS&SJ
2.30pm – Open-air service at St Mary's
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 27th 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 (Please note they will take place on Facebook on Mondays 7th & 14th September)
Tuesday & Thursday – St Mary's
Wednesday – Facebook

Please check the church website for any alterations

Forthcoming event for your diary

St Mary's Church Elmhurst is holding an
'Open Air Service' in the churchyard
on **Sunday 20th September 2025 at 2.30pm**
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 *

As autumn approaches here are some dates for your diary...

- All-age Harvest Festival Services – Sunday 4th October – 9.15am at St Mary's and 10.45am at SS&SJ
- Memorial Service – Sunday 1st November at 4pm at SS&SJ – an opportunity to remember loved one's who have died and to light a candle in their memory.
- Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 8th November – 9.15am Holy Communion Service with an Act of Remembrance at St Mary's. 10.50am – Act of Remembrance and Service at the War Memorial in Earl Shilton.

And looking ahead to Christmas

- The Christingle services will take place on Sunday 13th December and the Carol Services on Sunday 20th December.

St. Mary's Subscription Club

★ LUCKY NUMBERS

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

1st **181** (£40), 2nd **99** (£25), 3rd **172** (£15),
4th **6** (£10) & 5th **195** (£10)



It's a Seaside Special
at the next Elmhurst Friends, Food and
Flowers Initiative coffee morning in the
village hall on Saturday 29th August
from 10am to 11.30am.

Organisers are looking for the best beach photo taken by those who will be attending. Perhaps it might be a memory of a family holiday when children built sand castles, paddled in the briny or rode on a donkey. It could be someone looking as if they'd just swum the channel Captain Webb style when they had only been out a few yards or a shy bather emerging from the changing hut and being caught on camera, yet again it might be something entirely different but in the right setting – only you will know what it is.

However, whether or not you show off your inner photograph skills you are sure of a great morning in good company, with refreshments, home-made cakes, themed delights, a quiz and games.

There is also a chance of winning something, a raffle or door ticket prize as well as cash for fortunate members in the St Mary's Subscription Club draw.

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



SS&SJ Bellringing day out



A few weeks ago, the Bell Ringers had their yearly outing, visiting 5 different Churches around the Rutland Water area to ring their bells. We visited,

- St Mary's in Ashwell,
- All Saints in Oakham,
- St Peters in Empingham,
- St John EV in Ryhall,
- and finishing at All Saints in Stamford.

It was a wonderful opportunity for newer ringers to gain more confidence and grow friendships. It was a wonderful day and we hope to have many more to come.

Rev'd. John Tonkin

Reading in "Church Times" of the death of the Revd John Tonkin at the age of 97 took me back to my days on "The Hinckley Times", writes Mitch Irving.

Mr Tonkin was vicar of Holy Trinity, Hinckley (1966-74), rural dean of Sparkenhoe II (1971-74) and an honorary canon of Leicester Cathedral (1983-93). I enjoyed a good working relationship with him and always looked forward to "The Open Door" (changed days indeed!) ,the church magazine, for any snippets I could pick up.

Similar relations around that time I had with the Revd Geoffrey Willett (coincidentally the same name as a friend of mine also son of a police officer) but it was a more formal arrangement with the likes of the Revd E W Platt at St Mary's, Hinckley.

I was not a regular worshipper at any church then but had "Church Times" every week to see any changes in local clergy. It would be some years before the reunion with a girl friend, later my wife, saw me firm up my faith at SS&SJ but was never a believer in the theory that you can be a Christian without going to church although many do lots of good work.



RATBY
co-operative
BRASS BAND



THE RATBY DAYTIME BRASS BAND

St Simon & St Jude Church
Church Street, Earl Shilton
LE9 7DA

Wednesday

23rd September 2026

Lite bite available from 12 noon

Concert starts at 12.30pm

Drinks and cakes served in the interval

Concert ends at 2.15pm

Free Admission

All Welcome

Voluntary donations welcome