



Martin's message

Congratulations go to Bob and Joanne, Thomas and Eavey and David and Lucy who got married at St Mary's, Elmesthorpe this year. I really enjoy taking weddings, especially as I get to know each couple as they plan and prepare for their wedding day. They are joyous occasions.

When I started taking weddings I had only been married to my wife Becca for a few years. In December this year we will celebrate our 19th Wedding Anniversary. Looking back, I wonder how any advice I might give to couples embarking on married life has changed over the years.

What always strikes me whenever I take a wedding is just how powerful the vows are that couples make to each other. They promise, in the presence of God;

'to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.'

These vows cover all the seasons we may experience throughout married life, and I am sure many of us could give examples of how we kept these vows through some difficult times. That is something to be celebrated and brings much delight to God.

Ultimately a married relationship is meant to be life-giving, the vows made providing stability and security for each person to flourish in the relationship. Sadly, for different reasons many marriages end, some from necessity, and that can bring with it feelings of guilt, hurt, betrayal and shame. I mention this, not to make anyone feel these things, but to remind you

that Jesus came not to condemn but to save, not to judge but to forgive, not to write people off but to restore them (see John 3 v 16-17)

Whether you have been in a relationship for many years, or are nearer the start of your relationship, do consider getting married at either of our churches. If one or both of you have been married before it is still possible to get married or have a marriage blessed in church.

For more information, or to arrange a conversation with me, please contact the church office on 01455 843961 or e-mail us at parishchurch@gmx.com.

God bless,

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge



Congratulations to Bob and Joanne O'Hagan who were married at St Mary's, Elmesthorpe on Saturday 2nd May. They thank everyone at St Mary's who made them feel very welcome.

OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 4th October

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

Sunday 11th 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 18th 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 25th October

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.00am – Sunday Club with breakfast in SS&SJ Parish Hall
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Prayers to start the day at 9am as follows:

Monday – St Simon and St Jude's (except Monday 19th October)
Tuesday & Thursday – St Mary's
Wednesday – Facebook

Please check the church website for any alterations

Memorial Service

Sunday 1st November, 4.00pm
at St Simon & St Jude's Church, Earl Shilton

You are warmly invited to our annual memorial service. The service will give you an opportunity to remember and give thanks for the loved ones you have lost and to light a candle in their memory, should you so wish. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge grief and to receive God's peace and comfort.

Tea and coffee are provided after the service should you be able to stay.



St Simon & St Jude's Church, Almey's Lane, Earl Shilton, LE9 7DA.
01455 843961 parishchurch@gmx.co.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Simon-St-Jude-Earl-Shilton

St. Mary's Subscription Club

★ LUCKY NUMBERS ★

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies drawn at the September event:
1st **136** (£40), 2nd **75** (£25), 3rd **76** (£15),
4th **172** (£10) & 5th **5** (£10)

Elmesthorpe Village Hall EFFF!

Coffee Morning 10.00 – 11.30am

Saturday 31st October 2026

Seasonal, of course!!

Fancy dress encouraged!

Soup and savouries for refreshments!

Following an invitation to coffee morning regulars for suggested charities to support, Doctor Matthew Woods from EMICS (East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme), gave us a very informative talk and insight into the work the charity does - 'essentially air ambulance without the helicopter'. We were all overawed by the scope of the EMICS service and the dedication and commitment to performing such vital work on a voluntary basis. We were also overwhelmed by the amount of equipment, its cost and its potential, so precisely stored within the response vehicle which we were privileged to view during the visit. We all came away from the coffee morning on September 26th with new thoughts and appreciation in our minds for those who dedicate their life to helping others.

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



"Save the PCC" read the slogan on a tee-shirt in a photo in The Times, writes Mitch Irving.

What? Is there a move to do away with the decision making body of every church? Perish the thought, some may say.

However this PCC was not that group of sterling characters who, in the name of service, sit through hours of reports and debates. No, the one in question is the Prince Charles Cinema on Leicester Square, London, described as "a ninth wonder of the world" whose future is being threatened by a "punitive" rent rise. Award winning director Danny Boyle has said if it closes: "Life will continue but London will die a little".

Talking of PCCs, a last memory of summer was a cartoon in "Church Times" of a father and child on a beach. The sand playing child says: "Now I'm going to build a hall" and the dad replies: "OK but first you'll need a faculty and bats licence". Obviously a man with first hand experience of a PCC!

Toy Appeal Service – Sunday 22nd November, 10.45 at SS&SJ.

If you are able, please bring donations of **new** (not pre-loved) toys, gifts and books for ages 0-16 years for the *Hinckley and Bosworth Christmas Toy Appeal* on this date when Lynne Sharpe will be with us to talk about the appeal. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you are able to donate or not. There will also be a collection bin in church.

Thank you.

**HINCKLEY CHORAL
AND EARL SHILTON
HANDBELL RINGERS**

**SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
3PM**

**at St Simon & St Jude's
Parish Church, Earl
Shilton**

A PROGRAMME OF POPULAR MUSIC
FEATURING MEDLEYS FROM
GLENN MILLER
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
THE SOUND OF MUSIC.....AND MORE



Tickets £7
includes tea and cake,
from Barbara Bowley,
Chris Sturgess (01455
848194) or on the door

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn 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. 10.15am – Remembrance Service in Earl Shilton Methodist Church Hall. 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.**

Listening to a worship song CD, writes Mitch Irving, one of the tracks "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory" took me back nearly six decades.

Always a Leicester City fan, the Kop end at then Filbert Street on the cusp of the 1970s rang to the same hymn tune but with different words: "Mine eyes have seen the glory that is white and royal blue, mine eyes have seen the glory that is why I sing to you, mine eyes have seen the winning of the league division two and the blues go marching on!"

After a season long battle against relegation in 1968-69, the Filberts ("a hard nut to crack" as they were known then) reached the FA Cup final that year only to come up against the old nemesis Manchester City, lose to Neil Young's lone goal and then finally go down to a last day defeat by the other Mancunian side United. However, in the roller coaster history so familiar to Leicester supporters they were crowned second division champions the following campaign.

I was not a churchgoer back then and now they are in a new low for the club, League One but the third tier! One thing remains the same though, whether it is my football club or my God the motto is **"Keep the faith"**.