HAPPY CHRISTMAS and best wishes for the new year to all

SAINTS alive



Martin's message

Those who have known me for a long time will know that I don't particularly like making quick decisions. I am someone who likes to take their time, to think things over and to make sure that the decision is the right one. Others, who are not like me, can find this a bit infuriating!



The various people involved in the events of that first Christmas had some quick decisions to make. Mary, when told by the angel that she was to become the mother of Jesus, declared 'let it be with me according to your word.' (Luke 1 v 38). The shepherds, having heard the announcement of the angels that the Saviour, Christ the Lord, had been born, unanimously decided to go to Bethlehem to see for themselves what they had been told. (Luke 2 v 15). I am perhaps more like Joseph, who 'ummed and ahed' for a while before being persuaded, by an angel in a dream, to marry Mary and become the adoptive father of Jesus. (Matthew 1 v 24).

Each of them, in their own way, made their decision to be a part of the great unfolding story of God's salvation. And that is a decision that all of us in our own way are invited to make. It might, like Mary, be a simple and humble 'yes' to God. Like the shepherds you might want to see for yourself and find out more. You may be a 'Joseph' who likes to think things through or perhaps you have had some dramatic encounter with something you sense is 'divine' – even an angel - and your life can never be the same again.

If you have a desire to find out more, why not join us at our services over Christmas to 'see' and discover the Saviour of the world – you will be very welcome.

And who knows, you might add your 'yes' to that of Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds.

May the Lord grant you a peaceful Christmas and strength for the year ahead.

God bless. Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

Christingle Services

As in other years, St Simon and St Jude's, Earl Shilton, and St Mary's, Elmesthorpe, will be celebrating Christingle at the all-age worship services on Sunday 13th December. At the services, Christingles will be made by those attending. The orange represents the world. The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ. The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations. The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world. During the service, each person takes their Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm glow. This symbolises the light of Christ bringing hope to people living in darkness. It's a really special moment and is usually one of the highlights of the celebration.



There is information at the churches, including candle-shaped collection boxes, which you can take home and use to collect your donation, and bring to the service itself or whenever you prefer. The funds raised will be donated to the work of The Children's Society. Alternatively you can give directly at https://donate.childrenssociety.org.uk/page/148834/donate/1.

Newsletter of St Simon and St Jude Earl Shilton and St Mary's Elmesthorpe

DECEMBER /JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 6th December
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 13th December
9.15am – All Age Worship Christingle Service at St Mary's
10.45am – All Age Worship Christingle Service at SS&SJ followed by a short service of Holy Communion at noon.
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 20th December
10.00am – Joint Holy Communion at St Mary's
3.00pm – Carol Service at St Mary's
6.00pm – Carol Service at SS&SJ

Christmas Eve - 24th December
3.00pm – The Crib Service at SS&SJ
11.15pm – Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's
11.15pm – Midnight Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Christmas Day – 25th December
9.15am – All Age Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.45am – All Age Christmas Morning Worship at SS&SJ

Sunday 27th December
10.00am – Joint Holy Communion at SS&SJ

Sunday 3rd January - Epiphany
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 10th January
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 17th January
10.30am – United Service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity at Barwell Methodist Church

DECEMBER /JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 24th January
9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
10.00am – Sunday Club in SS&SJ Parish Hall
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

Sunday 31st January - Candlemas
9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's
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

St. Mary's Subscription Club

LUCKY NUMBERS

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies drawn at the October event:
1st **24**(£40), 2nd **93**(£25), 3rd **144**(£15),
4th **181**(£10) & 5th **70**(£10)

Next Draw: Saturday 28th November 2026

Elmesthorpe Village Hall EFFFI Coffee Morning
10.00 – 11.30am
Saturday 28th November 2026
The 'theme' will be 'Punch and Munch'

Saturday 19th December
Christmas party
'Sparkle and shine!'

Saturday 30th January
'Return to the 1970's! Dress in theme!'
Music Quiz.

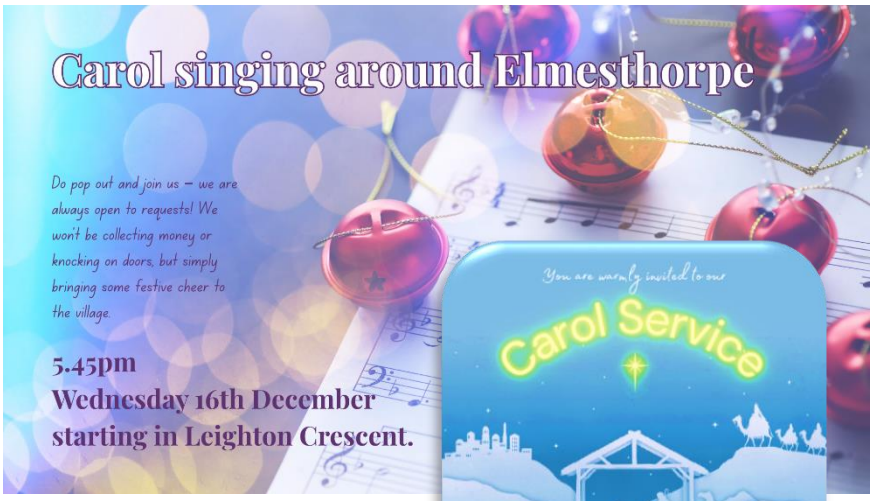
Happy Christmas to all



ST.MARY'S DATES FOR YOUR DIARY













'CARDI' POEM

If you have been busy making a gift for someone this Christmas here is a cautionary tale from Mary Felce's poetry collection.

"Don't knit me another cardigan – please
The last one didn't fit
I took it to Ilfracombe and wished
I'd never set eyes on it.
So I gave it it's first and last airing
(Though I've never liked brown flecked with lime)
I'd said a few prayers but they didn't do much good
'Cos you still got it finished in time.
Hadn't gone many yards down a jitty before
I needed summat to pin it
It bunched on me stomach, my arms disappeared
And it seemed to stretch more every minute.
It's not that I'm ungrateful – the thought
Of that cardigan makes me wince
Well it wore me out trudging up Hillsborough
In fact I'm sure I've not felt the same since,
How I envied the chaps all relaxing in shorts
Enjoying the view from the rock.
Me? I felt like a poor clapped out yokel
Standing there in me long woollen smock.
If you love me, don't knit me another!
(I wouldn't mind a new pair of Pirellis)
If you must start clicking your needles again

Make some warmers for inside me wellies!"

Copies of Mary's book, "Memories and Reflections" are available from St Simon & St Jude.

SS&SJ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY















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
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