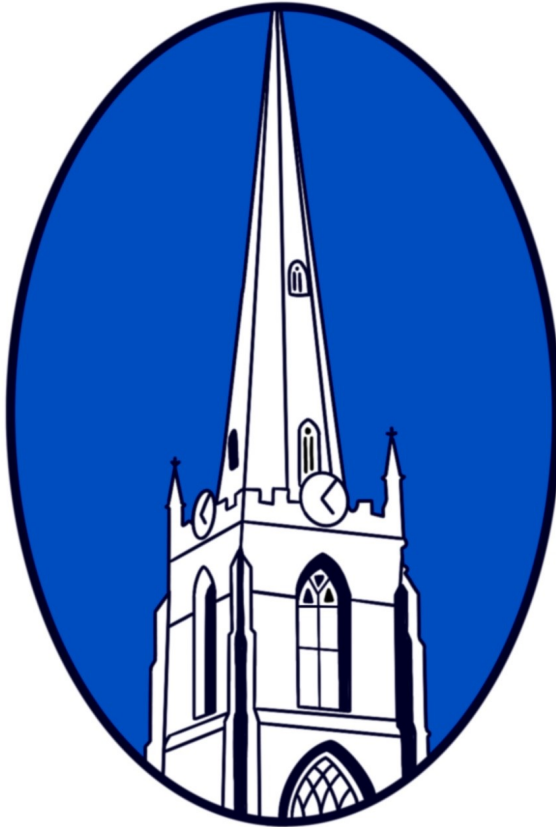


# Spotlight

St. Mary's with St. Francis



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Our Family Caring For Your Family

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## Hello!

Welcome to the fifth edition of Spotlight, the quarterly magazine from St Mary's Church.

We hope you enjoy the variety of regular and one-off features, news, activities and information we've put together for you. For this summer edition, we have a craft and puzzle pull-out section in the centre pages.

If you would like to get in touch our email address is [spotlightstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:spotlightstmarys@gmail.com)

Happy reading!  
Sarah Hill & Elisabeth Emmett-Pace.

## Contacts ...

- Church Website:** [www.stmaryshinckley.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshinckley.co.uk)
- Church Facebook:** St Mary's with St Francis, Hinckley
- Church Office:** 01455 234241  
[office@stmaryshinckley.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryshinckley.co.uk)
- Vicar:** Ian Hill 01455 617447  
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- Churchwardens:**
- Liz Seal 07824 714125  
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- Peter Harris 07792 863668  
(And organist) [peter@stmaryshinckley.co.uk](mailto:peter@stmaryshinckley.co.uk)
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- Spotlight Magazine:** [spotlightstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:spotlightstmarys@gmail.com)

### Sunday Services:

- 8am** BCP Communion
- 10.15am** All Age Service with Sunday School  
(2nd & 4th with communion, 1st, 3rd & 5th without)
- 6pm** Evening Service  
(1st and 3rd with communion, 2nd, 4th & 5th without)

### Tuesday Communion 10.30am:

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel in church

### Tuesday Prayer Meeting 10.30am:

1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel in church

### Wednesday 1.30-2.45pm - Allsorts Baby & Toddler Group :

In the church hall, term time only, £1 Donation - contact Bev Frettsome

## Dates For Your Diary ...

**St Mary's Sunday School - During 10.15am Sunday Service:**  
(Not 1st Sunday as all age service with uniformed groups).

**St Mary's Choir Practice - Fridays 7.30-8.30pm:**  
In church, new members always welcome - contact Peter Harris

**Lego Swap & HDPP Photo Scanning - 3rd Sat Monthly 10-12pm:**  
In church - See newsletter for more details

**Crafty & Chat - Thursdays 10.30am-12pm:**  
In church coffee bar - see newsletter for more details

**Roots Christian Basics Course - Wednesdays 6.45pm in June:**  
See page 22 for more details

**Social Strolls - 22nd June 1.30pm & 29th July 7pm**  
See page 17 for more details

**HDPP Old School Hymns Service - Sunday 16th June 3pm:**  
In church - followed by refreshments - all welcome

**Sung BCP Evensong - Sunday 7th July & 1st September 6pm**  
See page 21 for more details

**Patronal Festival Service - Thursday 15th August 7pm:**  
Special communion service in church - all welcome. Please see page 17 for more details.

**Hinckley Pride - Saturday 24th August:**  
See page 18 for more details of how to join with us

**Jersey Boys Tribute Night -  
Saturday 29th June 8.15pm (doors open 7pm):**  
Tickets available from church coffee bar or online - see church website

**Coffee Bar Volunteers always needed -  
Please speak to Kerrie in the church office if this is an  
opportunity you would like to get involved in.**

**See weekly church newsletter, church website and  
church Facebook page for more information on  
'What's Going on'!**

# Getting To Know You: Barbara Hoyte ... Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

## **Who are you and where are you from?**

I'm Barbara. I was born in Coalville a few months before the start of World War 2. Then, every night was spent in an Anderson Shelter built in our garden. I was in a gas proof "cradle". There were lots of food and clothes shortages due to rationing. I moved to Burbage when I was 4 years old. I was about 8 when bananas and oranges *occasionally* became available. These fruits (often shared!) were the highlight of the month.



## **What did you do before you became a teacher?**

I went to Burbage Infants School when I was 4 years old. By the time I was 5 I knew the *only* thing I wanted to do was teach and I never changed my mind. I went to Burbage Junior School and then Hinckley Grammar School. After that I went to Avery Hill Teacher Training College in London.

I began teaching at Albert Road School (later called Holliers Walk). I was so happy and loved teaching, so stayed there for the rest of my working life. I worked full time for 36 years, followed by a few years supply teaching and finally as a volunteer helping children with reading. I ended my association with the school after about 50 years. It is lovely to meet and talk to ex-pupils many with their own children and grandchildren.

## **What makes you 'you'?**

My very happy childhood and the people I have since met who inspired me and deepened my faith.

## **What are the most interesting places you've travelled to?**

I have travelled to many countries in the world and had exciting (and scary!) experiences. India, Nepal and Costa Rica were the most interesting but my heart is in Tanzania.

## **How did you become involved with churches in Tanzania?**

In 1999 I had the opportunity to visit the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro with a church group from Bury St Edmunds. On my first visit I set up a link for St Mary's with St Elizabeth's Church a few miles from Arusha.

The church was just being built, but had services each week with the congregation sitting on planks of wood balanced on piles of bricks. Contact can be difficult but they now have a Pastor who speaks English and has access to email. I have visited several times. There is a shield in St Mary's made by a member of their congregation. The wooden candlesticks used each Sunday were a gift from them. The Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro was split into two with the new Diocese of Kiteto in the Masai Steppe. I have made several visits (6 to 8 weeks) to Kibaya where I taught at Kiteto Christian College built by the church. Equipment is very basic. The people I met had so little but always want to share food with me - a humbling experience.

**What are your connections with local churches?**

I went to St Catherine's Church in Burbage where I went to Sunday School and eventually became a Sunday School teacher. I was a member, and later a leader, of the GFS (Girls Friendly Society), a church-based group. I started worshipping at St Mary's in 1994.

**What are your hopes for St Mary's?**

To be caring and welcoming to everyone.

**What makes you happy?**

Spending time with my friends and going to church, especially when the choir is singing.

**What makes you angry?**

Cruelty to and abuse of children. The waste of food and water.

**What pieces of music and books would you take to a desert island?**

My Bible as I still have a lot not yet read! Mill On The Floss by George Eliot. My CD of St Mary's Choir and The Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).

**Who would you like to be locked in a church with?**

Sir David Attenborough.

**Do you support any charities?**

I was on the committee of the Hinckley branch of Save The Children. I was invited to meet Princess Anne in recognition of 15 years service. I have also helped at Monday Club at Hinckley Mencap. I enjoyed interacting with members who had a variety of difficulties.

**Who do you think we should interview next?**

Liz Seal.

## Musical Choices ... Jenni Harris

The choir sing a variety of music from old to modern, in Latin and in English and in many different styles. But what do they enjoy singing most?

There are many pieces of music that divide the choir and are like Marmite, for example - some love singing in Latin, others want to understand the words and therefore don't enjoy singing in Latin. There are some hymns and songs that we all love, but don't necessarily love everything that particular composer has written.

There is one composer however that unites the choir in its desire to sing his compositions, and that is John Rutter.

John Rutter is an English composer still living and composing to this day. He started having his compositions published when he was at Cambridge university and now, approaching 80, is still actively composing and is conductor of the Cambridge Singers. He is most well known for his compositions for Christmas and if the choir have their say, there will not be a Christmas at St Mary's without a Rutter carol included.

He has also written arrangements of well-known hymns and this is where I first became aware of him. His arrangement of All things Bright and Beautiful had my attention from the first time I heard it on Classic FM and started my love affair with his music. The choir at mine and Peter's wedding sang this piece during the signing of the register. St Marys choir have sung it in the past and my current mission (set by some of the choir) is to persuade Peter to have the choir sing this at choral evensong in September. So those of you not familiar with Rutter; I challenge you to come along to that service and start your appreciation of him.



**John Rutter**

I think Rutter's music appeals to all of the choir as it challenges us, all parts have to work hard to produce the wonderful harmonies. The way his music flows and the emphasis and expression it is possible to put in as you sing are wonderful. Maybe his music is most popular with the choir however, as it always unites us in excitement of learning it. While we are a close knit bunch (who always happily welcome new members to our group) no other composer seems to be able to do this time and time again.

## St Mary's Peregrines ... Steve Townson

Our Peregrine pair have moved back into the scrape. 29<sup>th</sup> March we caught a glimpse of the first egg, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April a second egg, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> April the forth egg, number three arrived sometime between!

The eggs were then incubated by both birds with the female, the hawk, doing the majority of the work. Being the considerably smaller bird, it was amusing to see our male, known as the Tercel, trying to tuck all four eggs underneath him. So we then had the nail biting wait of 33 to 35 days for our first hatching. During the week beginning 13th of May we had a hat trick of three chicks arrive!

There has been a great deal of interest again this year and many, many questions are being asked, some of these we can field but more expert knowledge is often required. So, on May the 11<sup>th</sup> Becky from *Hawkwise* joined us in church, bringing along her owls to allow folks to see them up close.

It has been observed that urban peregrines have been changing their tactics in recent years and hunting more at night using the urban lights to help illumine from below rather than the sun from above as is more usual for them. This has had an effect of them catching more unusual birds that migrate at night. Our pair have caught woodcocks on occasions, which is evidence that they too are expanding their repertoire of hunting skills - they don't seem to be bothered by the ravens in the churchyard!





### Nothing about us without us.

Being gay, queer, LGBT+ in the Church of England often feels like a never-ending marathon.

The occasional rare step forward followed, almost inevitably, by several steps back.

Hope that diversity, equality, and inclusion will win the day, only to be reminded of the reality that conservative/traditional/evangelical voices appear to be heard more than are liberals by decision makers.

I had, for example, hoped that the Board making decisions on the next steps of Living in Love and Faith (LLF) (the church's teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage) might have at least one queer person among its number.

But, alas, no. It is even more of a shame given Martyn Snow, the Bishop of Leicester, is the person leading for the Church on LLF.

As a member of the LGBT+ community, we have a phrase that we often use in regards to government but which is just as apposite for the Church. *No decisions about us without us.*

LGBT+ voices must, at every level, be heard as part of any decision-making process in the Church in regards to LLF.

We're not here to be done to but, rather, to be partners in progress.

So, what now?

The Inclusive Church Network, of which we at St Mary's are a part, says on its website:

*'We will continue to challenge the Church where it discriminates against people on the grounds of disability, economic (inequality), ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.'*

So, we re-group. We organise. We campaign. We raise our voices.

And, of course, we pray.

We pray to a God by whom and in whom we were all fearfully and wonderfully made.

We keep running the race.

Editors note: Rev Martyn Snow continues to be lead bishop for the LLF process. He has a wider Programme Board working with him, chaired by Archbishop Stephen Cottrel and with Rev Sam Corley, Rev Ruth Worsley and Rev Martin Seeley (all of whom are inclusive in their theology but not themselves LGBT+) and ex officio members Jamie Harrison, Alison Coulter, Luke Miller and Rev Kate Wharton (who are all more conservative in their theology). The members of the three working parties looking at Pastoral Guidance, Pastoral Provision and the Prayers of Love and Faith have recently started meeting.

## St Mary's Church History ... Ian Hill

Imagine Hinckley 300 years ago, what did they spend taxpayers money on back then?

St Mary's Church was responsible for the civic life of the town as well as the spiritual. The churchwardens with the parish council were the local government of the day doing what our council does now: Organising events, repairing roads, burying the dead etc.

Imagine how interesting the records of their spending would be, but, sadly, many of these records have become lost over the centuries, including some of ours.

Recently the ledger for Hinckley Parish starting in 1702 came up for sale. We moved quickly and with a generous grant from HDPP, St Mary's Church was able to reacquire this valuable historical record. The condition is very poor, so with another grant from HDPP and other donations it has been sent for conservation and rebinding. When it returns, we will scan the contents and transcribe them before ensuring that it will be kept safe for future generations.

Local tradespeople are mentioned, as are local poor. If you are descended from Thomas Morris, Oliver Thornton, Thomas Brown or Mr

Shenton (amongst many others), then your ancestor is mentioned. This ledger is a valuable resource for Hinckley family historians.

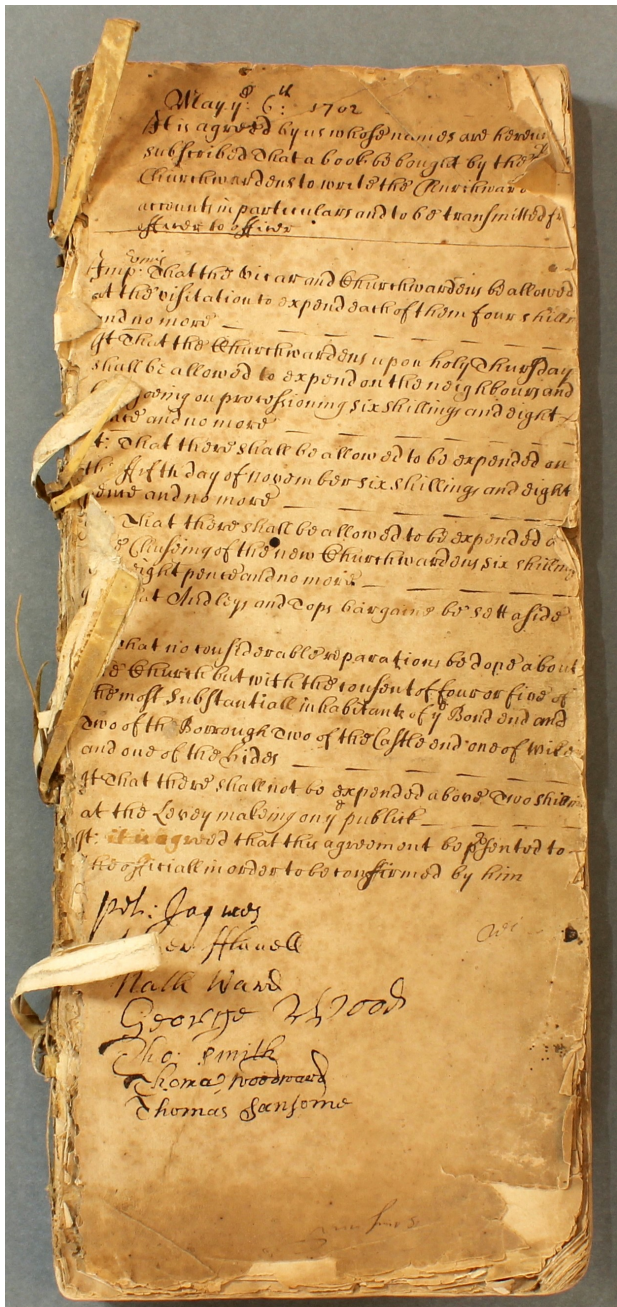
We know they repaired the church doorway; they also regularly spent money on what appears to be “Dogs of Sparrow Road”, does anyone know what that could be? Money was also spent gathering ‘outown loavys’, the ‘town loavys’ and the ‘Quaker loavys’, but what are loavys?

They celebrated Guy Fawkes day, alms were given to neighbours and boys on Maundy Thursday and they paid for bell ringing for Queen Anne’s birthday and later for the coronation of King George I. They repaired the roads, bought lime and paid the Town Cryer.

There is a wealth of fascinating information waiting to be gleaned once the ledger has been conserved so we don’t damage it any more. We will ensure, alongside HDPP, that it is shared more widely.

As progress is made we will keep you updated in future articles!

## Churchwarden’s Ledger before restoration



## Charity Focus - Compassion ... Liz Seal

Founded in 1952, Compassion is an international children's charity. They work in 29 countries partnering with 8,600 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Their goal is to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future.

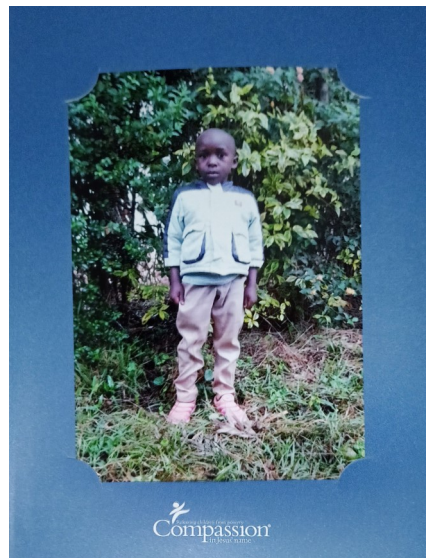
Compassion's child development programmes are holistic, and as they work in partnership with local churches who know their communities inside out, they're tailored to a child or young person's individual situation. Independent research shows they are highly effective, and now more than 2.3 million children globally are being released from poverty.

I had been thinking about child sponsorship for a while, and found out about this charity through a Christian acquaintance, late last year. I have since started sponsoring a little boy called Jaques, in Rwanda. He is 6 years old, and lives with his Mum and Dad and 13 siblings! I can send letters, and gifts, a couple of times a year, and receive letters back from Jaques that his family or the supporters at his local church help with. I also have a picture of him in our kitchen, and pray for him daily.

The issues of child poverty are just too huge to contemplate, but by helping one child, you could be making an enormous difference to, not only that child, but also the family and community.

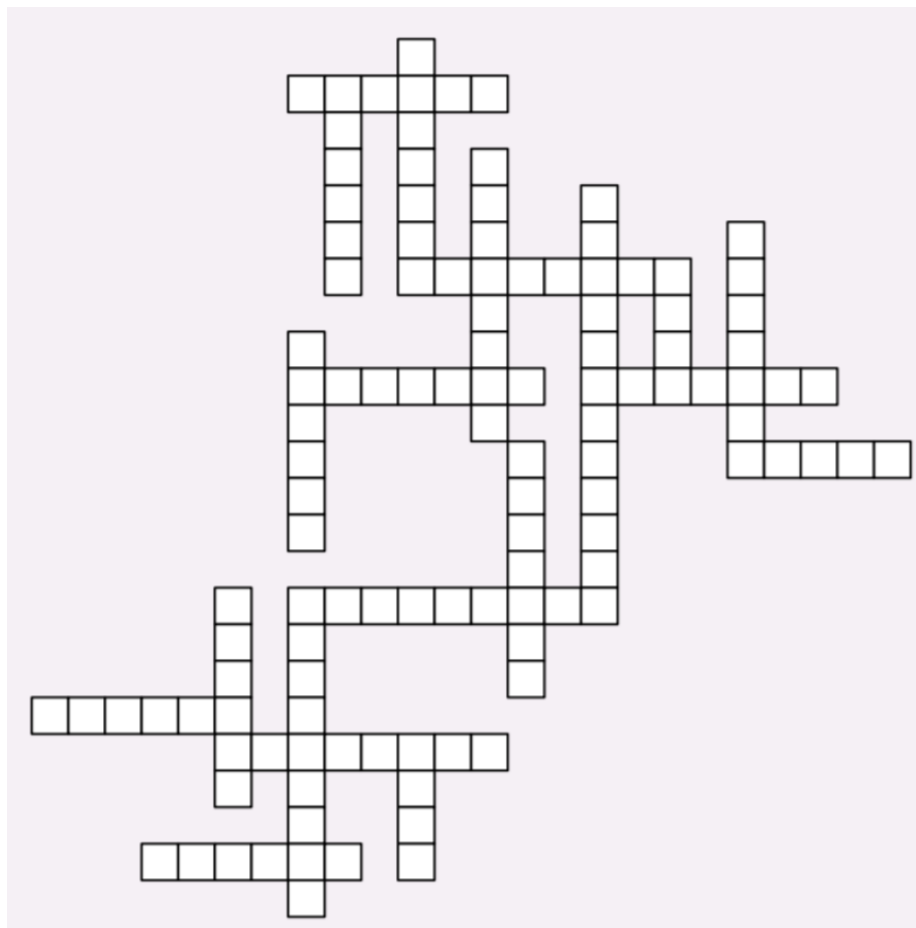
Because Compassion work with partner churches, I am reassured that any support I can give will be felt where it is needed. Maybe you could reach out and make a difference?

<https://www.compassionuk.org/sponsorship/>



**Jaques**

# St Mary's Criss Cross ... Elisabeth Emmett-Pace



## 4 Letters

love  
open

## 5 Letters

music

## 6 Letters

church

family

prayer

school

stmary

sunday

## 7 Letters

baptism

evening

morning

tuesday

worship

## 8 Letters

evensong

festival

patronal

## 9 Letters

coffeebar

communion

## 12 Letters

congregation



## Make A CD Suncatcher ...

Malise Hill, Sarah Hill & Elisabeth Emmett-Pace

This is an excellent time of year to 'repurpose' those old CDs that have been sat collecting dust at the back of the cupboard for years! Your old music can become your new decoration to enjoy in your garden.

This craft idea is suitable for all ages and abilities, from tots to 'not so tots'. It can also be used with people with difficulties such as dementia because it can be as simple or complicated as you want to make it. The photos show what is possible to create and they're quick and easy to do, so you don't need a massive attention span either.

Because the CDs reflect the sun, they look beautiful in the light, but they are also useful. If you hang them above your veg patch, they will help to deter the birds from eating your home grown treasures.

So, here's what you will need:

CDs (dodgy music acceptable)

PVA Glue

Stickers & Sticky Gems

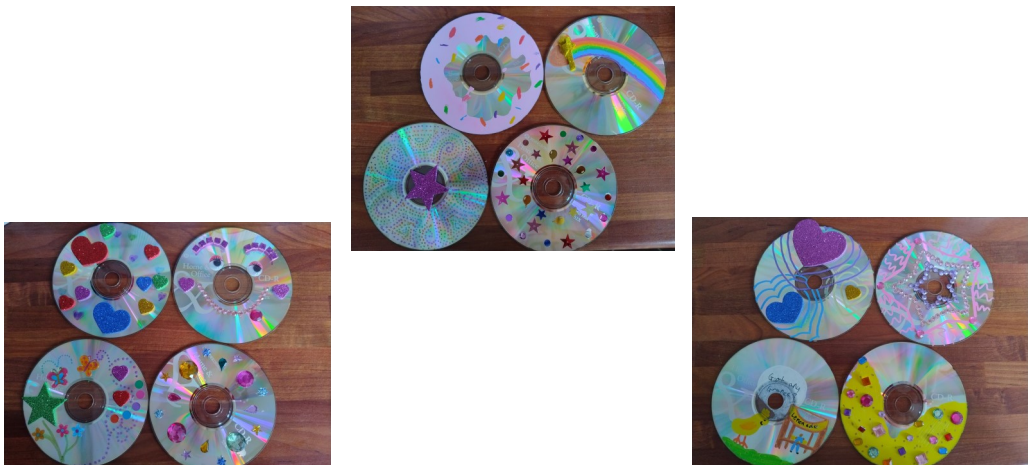
Paint

Marker Pens

Glitter Glue

Anything your imagination thinks will work!

Thread to hang them up with (glittery works well)





**Or just use  
them to  
decorate!**

It works well to leave the 'delicate' side of the CD plain to reflect the sun most and decorate the other side.



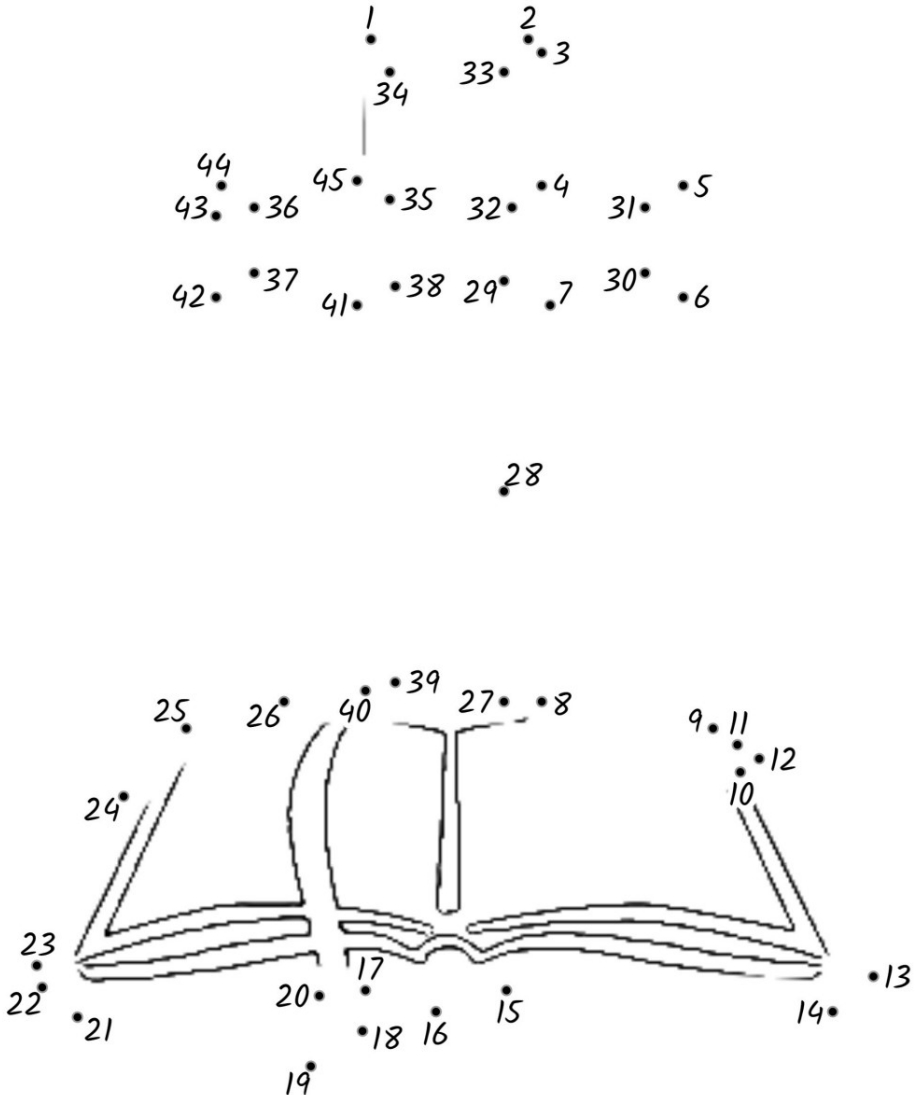
There are so many different possibilities - just go with your imagination and see where it takes you! A mandala pattern, a glittery pattern, a picture, stickers or sticky gems, you could even go further than us and add ribbon. Basically, anything that catches the light is perfect!

Once they are finished and dry, put your thread through the middle and adjust it to the length suitable for where you want to hang it and tie it. Put a knot in the other end to hang it. Put it on display and enjoy it!

Whether you're two years old and want to make one for over your sandpit. Or you're an art student and want to make 30 and put them together in a cascade, tied onto driftwood and then hang them from a weeping willow - go for it, be creative, enjoy!

## Our Faith Is Important ...

Join the dots and find out what can help us!





## Social News ... Liz Seal

After a very busy springtime, the summer months are a little quieter on a social planning front!

We will continue our **Social Strolls** - on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** at Thornton Reservoir, meeting at the car park there at 1.30pm (or St Mary's at 1pm for those who need a lift), and on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July**, at 7pm, route to be decided, but it will be local, so hopefully we won't need cars.

On **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**, after a café style church at 10.15am, we're hoping to drag out the BBQ and have a **Family 'Bring & Share' Lunch**. You are welcome to bring your own bangers and burgers to cook on the BBQ.

During the **Snapdragon Festival** in town (**August 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**) we are looking forward to engaging with the families who visit the town centre with more fun activities. Watch this space!

On **15<sup>th</sup> August**, building on the success of last year, we are again holding our **Patronal Festival** at 7pm, to which all are welcome. There will be a communion service led by the Archdeacon of Loughborough, Claire Wood. We will also be joined by some Leicestershire dignitaries like last year. Please do join us for a lovely celebration of our church's birthday.

We are pleased to be represented at **Hinckley Pride** on **August 24<sup>th</sup>**, and welcome all who would like to come and support this outreach - it's also a great social event with plenty of fun, laughter, glitter and glamour!

Looking forward to September, after the 10.15am service on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September** we are holding a **Craft Afternoon**. We are looking for Autumn and Harvest crafts - any suggestions would be welcome.

Social planning and delivering ways to connect and make those bonds which hold us together in good and bad times is not easy, any and all support we get is really appreciated.



**Hinckley Pride is in its second year.**

**After a great start in 2023, we are delighted to Be able to represent our open and inclusive church of St Mary's during both the march and the gathering in Hollycroft park again in 2024.**

**The event is to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August.**

**We look forward to welcoming any of our church family to be present during the afternoon to help 'man' the stall, chatting with people and engaging with everyone.**

**If you would like to take part in the Pride March through town, we do have to advise the committee of numbers, so please email Liz ([liz@stmaryshinckley.co.uk](mailto:liz@stmaryshinckley.co.uk)) if you'd like to join us.**

**We look forward to celebrating with you!**





LEICESTER  
ANGLICAN  
CURSILLO



### **Curious about Cursillo?**

What it is, and what it offers?

Well, this is your opportunity to find out.

Our next weekend will be held from:-

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August at Launde Abbey**

Cursillo is an internationally acclaimed course designed to help Christians work towards a deeper, more effective spiritual life in the community of the Church, it is not a retreat.

The weekend includes a daily Eucharist, meditations and a series of talks and discussions about the fundamentals of Christian Life, focussing on prayer, study and action.

If you are in a position to be able to contribute to the weekend then we ask if you could contribute £100 to cover full board and your two-night stay in wonderful surroundings in your own room.

These weekends are open to all who are over 18 and take regular communion.

To find out more speak to Joy Allman in church or at our Group Reunions held on the fourth Saturday of every month in the Lady Chapel at 10.15am, or chat with one of the many Cursillistas (someone who has been on a weekend) in our church family.

Booking forms are available on the website

<https://leicestercursillo.org/>

## Spotlight On Health - 'NHS 111' ... Miriam Cattell

NHS 111 is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week assessment service, which you can ring for free from a landline or mobile phone. By calling 111 first, patients can potentially avoid waiting unnecessarily at A&E and find the service that is right for their needs. 111 helps to reduce pressure on parts of the health service that are overstretched by redirecting patients to other services that are available for them.



When you call 111, you will be asked a lot of questions that rule out life threatening symptoms and then the Call Handler can focus on the reason for your call. It helps us if you prioritise the main reason for your call if you can. At the end of the assessment, the Call Handler or Clinician will advise on the best outcome, eg you might be asked to wait for a callback; if you're with someone who can take you, they might suggest you go to an Urgent Care Centre, Pharmacy or A&E; if it is an emergency, an ambulance will be arranged.

A Clinical Advisor follows up calls on patients who, due to the complexity of their symptoms, medical condition or social situation need further skilful probing to reach a safe outcome. Some callers may have refused the service offered in the initial assessment by the health advisor and therefore the Clinical Advisor calls back to discuss other appropriate options.

There is no typical day at NHS 111 although the calls sometimes reflect a snapshot of community health or concerns at the time; such as during Covid, Measles or Scarlett Fever outbreaks. Many calls are multifaceted with complex medical or social concerns covering all age ranges and specialities.

A call may be from a distressed new mother with no support network, whose baby is unwell, a spouse who is struggling and can no longer cope with caring for their loved one, someone with dental pain, a patient who suspects they are having their 3<sup>rd</sup> miscarriage or a patient experiencing a Mental Health Crisis standing by a bridge, saying they are so fed up with life that they feel like jumping. These are just a few of the many distressing calls we get which all require empathetic and advanced communication skills to reach a safe outcome. Handling such a wide range of calls and the challenges they present is not easy and requires an amount of resilience and emotional strength, but I find it immensely rewarding.

Remember, please do call 999 if it is a life-threatening emergency such as choking, severe breathlessness, severe burns, chest pain, signs of stroke, heavy bleeding, severe injury, or a floppy baby, to name a few.

## St Mary's BCP Evensong Services

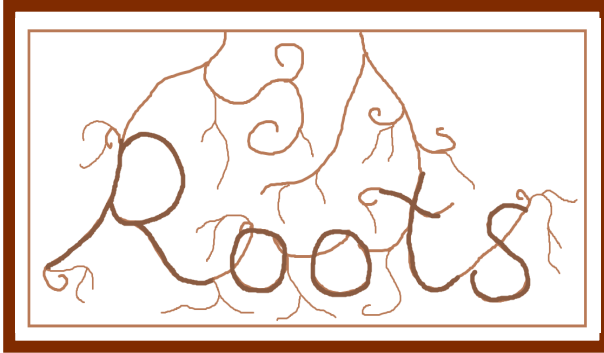


## BCP CHORAL EVENSONG

A traditional BCP Choral Evensong with music led by our organist and choir. This poignant service intersperses beautiful music with traditional spoken word. Please do join us for this uplifting service in traditional language.

**7TH JULY 2024 AT 6PM**  
**1ST SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6PM**  
**3RD NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6PM**

## St Mary's Christian Roots Course ... Sarah Hill



Our new Roots Course into the basics of the Christian faith started on 1<sup>st</sup> May and has been really well received.

Rev'd Ian started us off with a look at God the Father, the Creator, the Almighty and our Sovereign. Great discussions were had over tea and biscuits in small groups and there was plenty of time to look at things in more detail.

The details of each week are available in the leaflets in church. Each session stands alone but builds on what we have learnt in previous weeks.

It's not too late to join us for a session but we are also recording the sessions and can make the presentation and discussion questions available if you want to catch up. I'm sure we'll be running the Roots Course again!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Leader</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> May	God the Father's Sovereignty	<i>Ian</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> May	The Humanity and Divinity of Christ	<i>Bob</i>
15 <sup>th</sup> May	The Incarnation	<i>Sarah</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	The Crucifixion, Atonement & Repentance	<i>Penny</i>
5 <sup>th</sup> June	The Resurrection	<i>Ian</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Final Judgement	<i>Penny</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> June	The Holy Spirit and The Trinity	<i>Sarah</i>
26 <sup>th</sup> June	The Catholic and Apostolic Church	<i>Bob</i>



### Miracles - what are they and why does Jesus use them?

There are no miracles talked about in the Gospel of John - in this Gospel, Jesus does *signs* in order to prove that he is the Son of God so that people would come to believe in him, in the Synoptics Jesus refuses to do signs in order to prove his divine identity, but he does perform miracles. Just in case you aren't aware, the Synoptics are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and so called because they are all presenting or taking the same or similar view.

So, signs in John, and miracles in the Synoptics, but why then does he do miracles at all? I suppose the common answer is probably right: he does miracles out of compassion for those who are suffering. But surely there is more to it than that? The miracles in the Synoptics demonstrate what Jesus says in the Gospel of John. Jesus says that he is "the bread of life," that is, the one who can provide what is needed for eternal life; he proves it by multiplying the loaves for the multitudes (John 6). He says that he is the "light of the world" (John 8); he proves it by healing a man born blind (John 9). He says that he is "the resurrection and the life"; he proves it by raising a man from the dead (John 11). Jesus' words and deeds interconnect and entwine with one another in all the Gospel accounts. John took accounts of Jesus' words and of his deeds and made them merge into a seamless whole.

But in these Gospels what Jesus talks about is not His own divinity. What he talks about is the coming kingdom of God. And the miracles show that it is almost here - or as in Luke, that it has already started to manifest itself.

Not only does Jesus become increasingly miraculous with the



passing of time, his miracles are all told in order to make a point. The stories about Jesus as the miraculous Son of God, reveal that he really *is* the Son of God endowed with the Holy Spirit (supernatural power). He is the Lord of life and death; as the resurrected saviour he shows a heart of mercy, grace and love that gives us all a place by his side in heaven. The miracles are “signs” of Jesus’ identity, and without such signs, would we believe?

In our lives, do we believe in miracles? Do we believe that the extraordinary can come from the ordinary? I believe as Christians we should be on the lookout for miracles - they still do happen, even today!

## St Mary’s School

At St Mary’s school we are frequently complimented on the manners and kindness of our children. This academic year we have become a ‘Kindness Matters School’.

What does this mean? We have been involved in lots of Kindness Challenges. It’s so simple but we found that if we are kind, kindness comes back to us. We want to share our kindness with you. These simple things will really help.

**Smile and Greet:** Start your day with a smile and greet people you encounter, whether it's your neighbour, a friend or another pupil. A simple "Good morning" or "Hello" can brighten someone's day.

**Compliment Someone:** Give a sincere compliment to someone. It could be about their appearance, their work, or something you appreciate about them. Compliments can boost self-esteem and spread positivity.

**Hold the Door:** If you see someone approaching a door behind you, hold it open for them. This small gesture of courtesy can make someone's day a little easier.

**Why not try it and see for yourself?**

We have also kindly helped our local community with Harvest donations, given clothes for our local charity shop and have made bird seed bags for the whole school to feed the birds.

As Jesus said, ‘Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God forgave you’.



### Good Friday and Easter Children's Activities with Bev

We had a large group of children, parents and grandparents attend our activity session on Good Friday. Thirty-eight of us explored Holy Week using craft activities.

We filled small bags with lavender and rosemary, remembering Mary using perfume on Jesus. For Palm Sunday we made a small wreath with green plant leaves. Pictures of bread were stuck on a bread basket to think about the Last Supper. We used finger painting to decorate our crosses. We then all made an Easter Garden with a tomb, stones, small plants and seeds. The children took them home to care for them. We had lots of story sheets, colouring sheets and wordsearches to help us learn what happened to Jesus.

We created a prayer tree from branches from the churchyard and everyone wrote on a paper egg and hung their prayers or thoughts on the tree. We enjoyed lots of hot cross buns and biscuits and at the end we all sat together to eat our picnic lunches.

On Easter Sunday we made Easter crowns and enjoyed our annual egg hunt.

Over the summer there will be plenty more happening, so keep an eye on the church noticeboard or St Mary's website and Facebook page for details of special events.

Tuesday's 11am until 1pm on 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August for craft, messy play, toys and drinks & biscuits. Children & Adults £1 each, booking essential via email [bevrettsome@hotmail.com](mailto:bevrettsome@hotmail.com)

All are welcome to our regular activity events:  
*After School Club* and *Baking Club* are monthly, *Sunday School* and *Allsorts Parents and Tots* group are weekly.  
See newsletter, website, Facebook, look in church or contact Bev for more details.

**WE  
NEED  
YOU**

## Your centre needs you!

We are in need of more volunteers for our regular morning and lunch events. If you could spare a few hours weekly or fortnightly please let Lisa know.



The Centre's annual meeting took place in March and was a chance to share the successes and news happening with our users and volunteers.

The Centre has a fully functioning kitchen and a beautiful large hall that has been recently refurbished. Dates and spaces are available for one off or regular groups at competitive prices.



**Friendship Café** a coffee and lively chat. We provide cake, crumpets, toast and drinks for a small charge with a variety of activities taking place. Pin Pals social also meet to learn or work on a hobby/project with like-minded crafters.



Hinckley Past & Present donated £250 to the centre for new user friendly tables. Paul Proctor and Amanda Jane (Lunch club cook) both volunteers at the Centre went to an event to receive the cheque.

The winter months were a prime opportunity to close the centre for a few weeks whilst the large hall floor was upgraded. We have also had a shed erected in the garden for additional storage.



We had a really good turnout for our **Easter Cream Tea and Bingo** and raised just over £400! Lunch club were treated to an Illusionist performance in April.



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*Let your roots grow down deeply in Him,  
and let Him build you up on a firm foundation.  
Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught,  
and always spill over with thankfulness.  
Colossians 2: 7*

**Thank you for reading this edition!  
We hope you've enjoyed it.**