



This week at St Mary's Sunday 7 October 2018

SPIRITUAL PARALYSIS

I have been very moved by the interview (BBC website) given by the German superstar track cyclist, Kristina Vogel. On 26th June, during a routine training session she collided with another cyclist and broke her spinal cord – with catastrophic consequences. “It is bad”, she says, “I can’t walk anymore”.

Reading the account of the healing of a paralysed man (Matthew 9.1-8) immediately made me think of her. He may also have had a terrible accident. Kristina helps me see how it might have felt for him. To be paralysed is to be unable, despite every effort made, to do what you want or need to do – and you expected you could do. If we stop to think, there are all sorts of paralyses – trauma leads to emotional paralysis, a variety of things lead to mental paralysis, and isn’t spiritual paralysis something we all know? We think we can function as God wants us to, obey His teaching (even just to understand it) – but when we try to do it, we don’t seem to be able to.

The story makes clear that his healing goes way further than the repair of a thoracic vertebrae – or whatever was needed. He is told his ‘sins are forgiven’, and although there are different explanations of the connection with his paralysis, as sin includes whatever prevents us functioning as God intended, it’s easy to see the vivid picture physical paralysis brings. Also, when Jesus addresses the man, ‘my son’, St Matthew intends to offer anyone bold to call God ‘Father’ a simple, easily accessible and of course brilliant way of healing of our spiritual paralysis.

He gives us a threefold movement. The paralysed man is told to **ARISE**. This is resurrection language: you too can now come alive in a new way, all because of what Jesus has done for you and because of who he is, carrying the full authority of God. So believe it and get up! He is then told to **TAKE UP HIS BED**. This symbol of his suffering will be a reminder that ‘we are bodies of broken bones’ and also echoes ‘taking up our cross daily’, the heart of which is to live a life of self sacrificial love. Finally he is to **GO HOME**, to be a living testimony of the gracious saving action of God, in the very ordinary everyday things to be a beacon of hope of where the world will end.

Tom Gillman

10:45 Harvest Sung Eucharist
7 October 2018 Trinity 19

Celebrant: Rev Tom Gillum

Darke in F

The Lord hath been mindful of us

S S Wesley

Hymns: 288, 179, 290, 457

Readings: Joel 2.21-27

Matthew 6. 25-33

6:30pm Choral Evensong 7 October

Officiant: Rev Tom Gillum

Responses Shephard Psalm 126

Parry in D

Blest pair of Sirens Parry

Hymns: 115, 211(i), 203

Readings: Joshua 3.7-end

Matthew 10.1-15

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Harvest Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 8.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

Lighting up St Mary's during Baby Loss Awareness Week 2018

A number of landmark buildings throughout Nottingham will be lit 'Pink & Blue' on 15 October and we are delighted that St Mary's is to be one of these. BLAW2018 is an initiative of Forever Stars www.foreverstars.org during 9–15 October to make the conversation about baby loss easier for people. Throughout the week there will be a number of fundraising and awareness raising activities as part of their #TalkAboutThem campaign.

Threads Through Revelation has been touring cathedrals during the last three and a half years and its final destination is Southwell! This amazing 14 panel exhibition by Jaqui Parkinson is probably the largest work of textile art by a single artist in the world. An estimated 700,000 people have been to view it, provoking discussion and interest in the most challenging book of the New Testament. It will be in the Quire of the Minster from 16 October to 30 November. Please tell your friends and come see!

Winter Shelter

Emmanuel House Manager, Viv Dickinson, reports ...'The Winter Shelter **opens on 8 October** and we are in need of volunteers to help us run a safe and smooth experience for each and every individual who requires shelter this winter. There are different types of volunteer roles (preparing simple meals, checking-in guests, help set-up/take-down) which can be found on our website at www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/volunteer-at-the-winter-shelter or call 0115 950 7140.'

NOTTINGHAM WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY INSIGHT MEETING

Wed 17 October

What Triggers Homelessness

The Friary's chief executive, Sam Crawford, will give us an **INSIGHT** into 'Why are the homeless homeless?', 'Who are they?' and 'Why people sleeping on the streets?'. We will also hear what is being done. Our host is ACAS East Midlands in the Dean Room at Apex Court, City Link NG2 4LA. **12.30pm – 2.00pm** - Buffet lunch is provided, please email: lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance.

AN EVENING of MUSIC (popular songs from opera and music from around the world) 3rd November 5pm All Saints Church Nottingham NG7 4DP

Fundraising concert for Women of Faith Nottingham (people seeking sanctuary from persecution). Featuring Il Canto - Martin Vindelís (Tenor) and Cathryn Vindelís (Messo Soprano) with the Women of Faith Nottingham. Admission and refreshments free. More details: Courtney Smith 07530 194394; Salani Mutseyami 07448 730581; Dianne Skerritt 07889 782640.

SETTING GOD'S PEOPLE FREE for MONDAY TO SATURDAY – Sat 17 November

A conference for the laity at The Minster School, Southwell 9.30am-4pm. Key note speaker: **Alison Coulter** - Winchester Diocese Chair of Laity, General Synod Member and Co-author of the report, Setting God's People Free.

CONFIRMATION

Please discuss with Tom if you think this might be the right time for you - Deanery Confirmation service is 6pm on Sunday 18 November, here at St Mary's.

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

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