



This week at St Mary's Sunday 21 October 2018

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REFUGEE FORUM

The reception room is full every day. Children laugh and play; parents sit patiently, some at ease, others clearly tired and concerned. Young men congregate outside and exchange pleasantries in a variety of languages. There's donated food, tea and coffee on hand. There'll be lunch - perhaps the only meal of the day for many.

This is the reception area at the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum, a place of help, hope and comfort for asylum seekers and refugees - the clients who've come to Nottingham - in the language of the Home Office, 'dispersed' here.

As volunteers we are there to support them, and their needs are many. For us, some of their concerns many seem mundane, but for them, often with little or no English and grappling with an alien culture, they are not. So, from help with paying bills, getting a GP, registering a birth, sourcing essential household items or helping them grapple with the complex bureaucracy involved in making a claim to remain here, we do what we can to support them. We support also an extraordinary team of staff who every day through their knowledge and kindness, provide an essential service.

Sometimes we get a glimpse into their pasts, though it's not appropriate to pry; our role is to help. But I often wonder what horrors they left behind; what dangers led them to take such risks to get here. There is much talk about immigration these days; how many should come, what skills they should bring, their impact on the economy and services, and should some be able to 'buy' their way in with few questions asked?

This debate reminds me of Luke 11. 5-8: *'Which of you, if you go to a friend at midnight and tell him, friend, lend me three loaves of bread for a friend of mine has come from a long journey and I have nothing to set before him and he from within will answer and say don't bother me. The door is now shut and my children are in bed with me and I cannot get up and give it to you'*

Let us keep a door open; the needs of the asylum seeker and the refugee are simple - to be safe and to be free.

CHRIS NEEP

Praying for £47,000 Please join with us in praying that we will more than bridge the gap of the 2018 projected deficit (see TWASM 30/9/18). If you feel you would like to be part of the answer to these prayers by either making a one-off donation, or by setting up or increasing a Standing Order to St Mary's, this would be very much appreciated. Forms including a Gift Aid facility are now available.

Verdi: REQUIEM Saturday 10 November 7.30pm here at St Mary's

This promises to be a stunning performance by The Choir of St Mary's and Orchestra of the Restoration, directed by John Keys. Please see the posters. Tickets £15 (£13 con) Unreserved from Nottingham Tourism Centre 08444 775 678 or Windblowers 0115 941 0543

Nottingham Peacebuilders FANFARE FOR HOPE 27 Oct 7.30 St Mary's

Powerful images set to glorious music play on the stones around you. Stories in poetry, memory and song. A vision of war and a dream of peace. Tickets Evenbright.co.uk, Nottingham Tourism Centre, Maggies Nottingham. £10 full, £7 under 16s

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!

Raising Aspiration in Schools Today is the topic for the next Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy *INSIGHT* Meeting on **Wednesday 21 November 12-1.30pm**.

Footballer **Jermaine Jenas** is a partner with **Aquinas Education** which is based right here in Nottingham. Jermaine grew up in Nottingham and realises the importance of education through his own experiences and beliefs.

Managing Director, **Craig Anderson** will give an *INSIGHT* into **Aquinas Education** - a unique education recruitment agency and will explain how they promote the positive meaning of the phrase *'to be ambitious'*. Our host is **Capital One** on Station Street NG2 3HX. You need to book a place for this meeting and bring some ID with you to show at the security desk. **Please email: lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance.**

An Evening of Music (popular songs from opera and music from around the world)
3 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.

Winter Shelter

Emmanuel House Manager, Viv Dickinson, reports that the Winter Shelter is now open and they are in need of volunteers to help 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 their website at

www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/volunteer-at-the-winter-shelter or 0115 950 7140

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.

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 8.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

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