



This week at St Mary's Sunday 28 October 2018

ACHIEVING A GOOD WORK, LIFE AND GOD BALANCE

When we talk about improving our work/life balance, for many of us, the emphasis is really about the time off. We work to make money to enjoy our weekends and holidays. There's also the angle that the employer hopes that a worker, if happy, will be more productive. But what's God got to do with a work life balance, many might say? You may happen to choose to go to church on Sunday, fine, but for the rest of us there's not a 'spiritual' dimension. So, we have edited God out (in the span of time, a recent development.)

For the Jews, God, work and rest are closely linked. Christians agree that work is not something we 'do' just because we have to earn money. Much more, we are joining in with an activity, ie work, very close to God, which he initiated and continues. Sabbath literally means 'stop', 'take a break', spend some time reflecting on what you are doing. Life is all too brief, so prioritise to avoid missing what it's really about and how we are doing.

The story of the healing of a man a withered hand (Matthew 12.9) is instructive on this whole subject. Here is a man who has a useless hand, from which we can assume he can't work. Easy for an injury to lead to that in a world before x-rays and physio. Maybe he was a sheep farmer – try controlling a sheep with only one hand! By Jesus' power, he gets healed, so he can work again. And it all happens in a synagogue (a place of teaching) on a Sabbath. Work, rest and God all linked, intentionally.

Reading deeper into the story, there's more going on. Typical resurrection language is used by Jesus in the example He gives. Sheep (you or me) can't get out of a pit, but a strong hand (of God) reaches down, and then lifts them up (saves them from death, for a new life.) Add to that the man when healed, lifting his hand, stretching it out – living this new way.

Our work/life/God balance needs to be seen against the backcloth of resurrection, a New Creation. That is the repeating message of the Gospels, something has started and by God's grace YOU can be part of it. Why would you not be? This leads to a liberating way of seeing our lives with no compartmentalisation – all merge into one. So, let's stop to reflect together on stories from the workplace giving us a glimpse of the New Creation. Let's spend quality time with our fellow humans. Let's feed our souls with a vision of what we are waiting for.

Tom Gillman

Remembrance Sunday Services 11 November

Please note the Remembrance Service will start at **10.45** (not 10.55)

6.30pm - Communion Service with opportunity to remember loved ones who have recently (or not so recently) died. Do get the word out to people you know might appreciate this opportunity

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

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 **Wed 21 November 12-1.30** Footballer **Jermaine Jenas** is a partner with Aquinas Education which is based right here in Nottingham. He grew up in Nottingham and realises the importance of education through his own experiences and beliefs. Managing Director, **Craig Anderson** will also 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 event and bring some ID 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 need 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 at www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/volunteer-at-the-winter-shelter or 0115 950 7140 ...and please see our new Sock Box!

**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.

~~~

*Please enjoy the beautiful flower arrangement near the Guild Altar, in memory of the late Dr Geoffrey Walker on the first anniversary of his death. These have been donated by Bidy. As much-loved members of this congregation for many years, you might like to remember him and pray for Bidy and the family in church this week.*

~~~

Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

~~~~~

## 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**

~ ~ ~



[admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org)

[www.stmarysnottingham.org](http://www.stmarysnottingham.org)

 Mon-Fri 10-2pm 0115 958 2105

Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432