



This week at St Mary's Sunday 11 November 2018

DYING ON A CHURCH OUTING

At least seven people have been killed in Egypt by gunmen who opened fire on a bus carrying a group of Coptic Christians heading towards a local monastery. A number of people were also injured in the attack in the Minya region, south of Cairo. The Islamic State group says it carried out the attack.

This comes straight from a news report last week, and I expect many of you read it. We may think that this will never happen in the UK, a church outing to a monastery deliberately targeted by gun carrying extremists. Let's hope and pray it doesn't – and more immediately, that the Egyptian Copts are spared further such terrible atrocities.

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5 1-11) were part of our Service last Sunday. I encouraged learning them off by heart – some may already know them. They are eight 'lenses' given by Jesus through which we most clearly see what it is to be a Christian, to enter the life God has made possible for us. To be persecuted is the final ('ultimate') one.

In the UK, many of us have to look to people like the Egyptian Copts to begin to engage with what it is to be persecuted for being a Christian. When faced with dying because you go on a church outing, I imagine some might well say 'that's too high a price'. Others might feel, as they reflect, 'I don't think I believe any of it anyway'. But for some, they will say, 'count me in'. That's what we say when we pray in the Lord's Prayer, lead us not into temptation; 'give me the courage and conviction to say, count me in'.

That's a process which may well involve starting with Jesus Christ, a historical figure who claimed to be 'the Christ' and who said the time will come when He will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. If true, and the future lies with Him, Christianity is on the biggest possible canvas. The grace of God embraces EACH of us, saying we all have a part to play, to give ourselves freely, and to receive everything God would give us, at the heart of which is a richness of His presence with us during times of persecution. Let's pray that the Copts know this in full measure, and that we also know this reality.

Tom Gillman

Confirmation Service 18 November 6pm

Bishop Paul will be confirming over 40 candidates, including 3 from here, at this Deanery Service. Do come and support this event.

Visiting Preacher David Cole – 25th November 10.45 am

David is coming to speak on behalf of Five Talents <https://fivetalents.org> This is an Anglican Church inspired charity which speaks of a 'different' way of being a missionary. The charity, through local partners, makes available small loans to allow people to start new small businesses. It's mainly operational in Sub Saharan Africa. David lives locally and there will be an opportunity to meet him after for a Q and A over a cup of tea or coffee, so do stay for that.

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.

There is now a display board (behind the money chest given by the Friends) with forms for **One Off Donations, Gift Aid and Standing Orders**. Please complete, as appropriate and place in an envelope to the Treasurer to participate in responding to Prayers for £47,000.

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 8 December – Friday 21 December

This year we are again holding a Christmas tree Festival, with all profits being donated to Emmanuel House. Please spread the word to friends and family to visit our beautiful church during this period.

Donations can be made either during the festival (there will be a special box) or through the parish office.

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.**

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 in the church!

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.

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

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**This Week's Services**

**Sunday 10.45am Remembrance Service**

**Sunday 6.30pm Solemn Eucharist**

**Wednesday 8.30am Holy Communion**

**Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong**

**Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion**

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