



This week at St Mary's Sunday 16 December 2018

GOD'S TRUST IN A TEENAGER

We're in the Carol Services season. The University were here last week, filling the church. It was a great occasion, with music provided by Viva Voce chamber choir (which included some of our choral scholars) and Gospel singers.

The Civic Service was on Tuesday, organised in conjunction with the Lord Mayor. He and the Sheriff of Nottingham were there in their finery. The serious build up began when the Boys and Girls Brigades brass band arrived outside the west door. I was in the Vestry but I couldn't just remain there. It was impressive to see a good number of them braving the cold to make a fine festive sound.

Choirs were provided by two Schools, Heathfield (Basford) and Mellers (Radford.) As can happen at these occasions, there was some initial hesitation by some of the children when and where they was supposed to go up on stage to sing. The teachers did their usual great job to encourage smiling, wide open mouths, etc. The joint choirs sang O Little Town, and later Mellers gave us a rendering of Away in a Manger. It was then Heathfield's turn to sing It Was On a Starry Night, all followed by enthusiastic applause. Adriana a pupil from Mellers did the Shepherds reading exceptionally well.

Mark Gilmore, the Lord Mayor's Chaplain gave a fresh and well-judged short address. When God came to Earth, he worked through ordinary people in the course of their everyday lives. *Mary* was a teenager and God entrusted to her the great responsibility of carrying Jesus in her womb. What trust God has in teenagers! *Joseph* a slightly older father who had a vivid dream and was willing to say yes, doing what he had been told. *The innkeeper* (although he might have been a capitalist opportunist who made money from renting out the stable) Mark thought was a benevolent owner, making available space he had. *The wise men*, immigrants with a different skin colour, came and gave what they had. God's way – ordinary people in the course of their everyday lives, giving themselves to God.

Tom Gilman

NEW YEAR PRAYER GATHERING Thursday 3rd January 7.00pm for 7.30 at St Mary's. We are hosting this special New Year occasion, organised by City Prayer Network and all are most welcome. Bishop Paul will be with us. The City Prayer Network includes churches across Nottingham, and meets monthly on the second Thursday, at 7.00am. We will need some help with serving teas and coffees – offers to Di, please.

Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy *INSIGHT* Meeting Wed 23 January 2019, 12-1.30pm – taking place in BioCity on Pennyfoot Street NG1 1GF **SAVING LIVES AND SPEEDING RECOVERY'**. Dr David Boocock, Group Leader of the Clinical Proteomics Group, will be giving us an **INSIGHT** into the work of the dedicated and world class scientists at the John van Geest Cancer Research Centre, a purpose-built facility on NTU's Clifton campus. The Centre incorporates state-of-the-art technologies for discovering the genetic basis of the disease and developing new methods of diagnosis and treatment. As a buffet lunch is provided please email: **lensimmonds@aol.com** to confirm your attendance.

RAISING MONEY FOR EMMANUEL HOUSE. The target of raising £5,000 in the run up to Christmas has been exceeded – over £5,500 plus some gift aid. However, do continue to make donations (**envelopes are on the Donations chest** by the south entrance) to this local charity for the excellent work they do with homeless and others whose circumstances are hard.

- **CHRISTMAS CARDS**, designed and produced at St Mary's are still available (100% of the £1 price goes to Emmanuel House)
- **DONATIONS RE THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** can be made either using the special box or through the parish office.
- **MISC SOCKS** at £5 per pair available in the Church on request - £3 to Emmanuel House
- **ALL SOX SPECIAL OFFER** 10% discount and 10% to Emmanuel House when you buy £25 worth of socks. All Sox Limited of Belper in Derbyshire, a family run business (Nick Turner worships at St Mary's) uses the finest natural fibres blended with just enough technical yarns for luxurious quality, hidden durability and supreme comfort. Their award-winning designer has produced a stunning range which balances a contemporary look with traditional styles. The directors have generously agreed that on sock orders (min order £25) made through <http://turnerandsons.co.uk> 10% will be donated to Emmanuel House with a 10% discount on your order also. Include coupon reference **EmHse18**. Pass it on to your friends and colleagues so that they may also support the Emmanuel House Appeal. Offer lasts till 31/3/19.

Please note that the coupon cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The current discount value to purchasers is 10% but the Directors may vary or withdraw the offer immediately, without notice, if this is deemed necessary. Donation to charity is net of VAT and carriage costs.

Praying for £47,000 The gap is narrowing, and with just two weeks left of 2018, now is the time for anyone else planning to make a donation, please to do so. We are praying that we will more than bridge the gap of the 2018 projected deficit (see TWASM 30/9/18). Either make a one-off donation, or by set up or increase a Standing Order to St Mary's. **Complete one of the One Off Donations or Standing Order Forms** (on the display board behind the Donations Chest given by the Friends) to participate, and put it in one of the envelopes marked for the Treasurer.

HELPING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. We need to increase the number of people who help by preparing the Altar Table on a Sunday morning. It would involve arriving at about 10.00 and getting everything out and arranged. Simple training. Please could you contact Di if you'd like to consider it.

AGE UK SPONSOR A BAUBLE – buy a bauble (£2), write something on it, and put it on the big Christmas Tree. All money so raised to Age UK Notts.

SILVER SMARTIE APPEAL Tubes of Smarties are available for members of the congregation to collect 20p pieces in aid of the Overseas Committee support of Five Talents, CARF, and our CMS partners.

Advent & Christmas Services

Friday 21 Dec 1pm Lace Market Carol Service

Monday 24 Dec 7pm Christmas Eve Nine Lessons & Carols

Monday 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Tuesday 25 Dec 10.45am Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

Also

Wednesday 19 December 7.30pm Nottingham High School Carol Service

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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 Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 8.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion



admin@stmarynotts.org

www.stmarysnottingham.org

Mon-Fri 10-2pm ☎ 0115 958 2105

Rev'd Tom Gillum ☎ 07825 041 432