



***This week at St Mary's      Sunday 23 December 2018***

## **OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS**

This is an ideal opportunity to thank all our volunteers who contribute so much at St Mary's. I am humbled when I come in during the week to see, for example, chairs or other bits of furniture being moved, floors swept and washed, flowers arranged and refreshed, candles changed and filled. People just 'quietly getting on with it'.

Our volunteers allow us to keep the church open each day of the week. To have someone around is good not just for security, but more so, some human contact can make the difference to a person's experience of visiting St Mary's. Some groups ask for a guide – so we turn to a volunteer.

When it comes to Sunday, we rely so much on our volunteers. St Paul longs for the church to be formed into 'the Body of Christ' and we are on holy ground. Many give in various ways – preparing the church for worship, welcoming people, singing, helping in various ways in the liturgy, reading, leading prayers, and then providing refreshments after.

Lots more, of course, goes on behind the scenes. The money collected needs counting and banking. The books need keeping, as well as 101 other financial jobs. There is the PCC and all the vital work it does, to co-ordinate (and do) everything to make sure things happen as planned, to discern how we might develop and to ensure that we are legally compliant.

Very many people give exceptionally generously of their time, their love and effort. There will be things I'm bound to have left out. But let me take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to everyone - you are most certainly not taken for granted.

*Tom Gillman*

## Christmas Services

**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**

*(with seasonal refreshments afterwards)*

### **SERVICES, OPENING OF CHURCH AND OFFICE RE-OPENING**

- **No Services on Boxing Day** nor on **Thursday 27 December**
- 10.45 Parish Eucharist on **30 December** but **NO EVENING SERVICE**
- **No Services on Wednesday 2 January**
- **Opening St Mary's** during the day will resume on Wednesday 2 January  
*(Paul Sibly has kindly offered to co-ordinate any requests for special access to the church - 0788 565 3360)*
- The **Church Office** will re-open on Wednesday 2 January
- **Thursday 1.15 Communion** as normal on 3 January.

**WEDNESDAY 8.30am COMMUNION.** This is to be **suspended** pending Tom's hip operation, ie no early service now until further notice.

**NEW YEAR PRAYER GATHERING Thursday 3 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.

**BISHOP PAUL** will be preaching and presiding at St Mary's on **13 January at 10.45.**

**EPIPHANY PROCESSION – Sunday 13 January 6.30pm.** The service will bring together the three great Epiphany stories – the Coming of the Magi, the Wedding at Cana and the Baptism of Christ at the Jordan, of course all within the context of wonderful music. There will be opportunity to renew Baptismal Vows.

**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.

**ARCHDEACON SARAH CLARK** – Downing Street announced she is to become the next Bishop of Jarrow. She will be consecrated a Bishop at York Minster on 27 February and there will be a farewell service for her in Southwell Minster on 14 Feb at 7.30pm. The Bishop writes that she *'has been an inspirational colleague and friend to many across the diocese, serving with energy, spiritual vision, deep compassion for people, and above all such an evident love for Jesus. We will be very sad to say farewell to Sarah but know she will be a tremendous blessing to the Diocese of Durham, bringing immense experience and insight from her years of mission in different parts of our diocese.'*

**VESTRY REDECORATION.** Thanks to a generous legacy, the decorators (Doug and Phil Beckwith) will be coming early in the New Year. Minor repairs were recently completed to the roof and masonry. We look forward to this very beautiful room having a new lease of life, and intend to use it for a young children's group on Sunday mornings, as well as for other meetings.

**CHANCEL CARPET.** Thanks to another generous gift we will be replacing the Sanctuary carpet early in 2019. Having taken a few soundings a like-for-like colour and style is proposed. Comments welcome (to Paul Sibly.)

**RAISING MONEY FOR EMMANUEL HOUSE.** Our target 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.

- **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. 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 deficit has narrowed to £25,000 approx. Many thanks to all who have contributed. With just a week left of 2018, now is the time for anyone else planning to make a donation, please to do so.

**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.

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

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