



***This week at St Mary's***

***Sunday 17 March 2019***

## **JUDGES A-CLAPPING, EARTHQUAKES, THE OLD AND THE NEW**

It is not often a High Sheriff mounts the steps to our pulpit taking care not to trip over his sword. But Nick Ebbs, chartered surveyor, eco-developer and High Sheriff put himself centre stage at last Sunday's annual legal service. Nick, who is nearing the end of his year, inserted a line in the Order of Service reserved for himself essentially "Reflections from the Pulpit". Few will know that he read theology at university and, on the right day, could well have taken a different career path.

"When I started my year" he reflected, "I focused strongly on social justice. With slight tongue in cheek, but also serious intent I was quite keen to turn the tables on that popular legend of the unjust Sheriff and the virtuous Robin Hood. In order to do this, I have dedicated a significant part of my year to giving profile to charities and especially to the homelessness charity Framework. As my year evolved, I have found it easier to reconcile the notion of justice with that of forgiveness." He added he had seen a high quality judiciary in action where truth, fairness and integrity were paramount. Did the judges beneath their full bottom wigs nod?

Hope Gospel Choir saw Red and Purple judges clapping their hands discreetly if not quite swinging their hips. Their company included High Court judge Sir Robert Hildyard and his brother-in-law, the former Lord Chancellor Lord (Charlie) Falconer whose wife, a crown court judge, was also in attendance.

In an unusual move, Mr Ebbs appointed two chaplains, Canon Eddie Neale, a former vicar of St Mary's and the Rev. Mark Rodel, vicar of Lady Bay who preached on the theme of the Return of the Prodigal Son and Forgiveness. What guidance could be drawn from the parable as Shamima Begum, the 19 year old Isis bride from Bethnal Green, who had made "devastatingly bad choices," sought to return from Syria after losing her three babies?

At an earlier legal service on 17 March 1816, an earthquake struck Nottingham. Sutton's Datebook records that although the tower "visibly shook" the congregation and judges were so absorbed by the quality of the Sheriff's chaplain's preaching, "the alarm was but slight or the rush and loss of life might have been great". Perhaps the tower of St Mary's should have shaken again in approval of Vicar Rodel's words.

In another break with tradition, the High Sheriff gave a simple lunch in the church to the entire congregation of more than 200. Three hours earlier, Nick was there with family and friends setting up the tables. Could this become another St Mary's tradition?

**RICHARD TRESSIDER**

## **Reminder - New Electoral Roll- closing date is TODAY**

Please note that the closing date for applications to the new Electoral Roll is today, Sunday 17 March. As it's a NEW Roll everyone must re-apply. This is also an opportunity for new worshippers to be included. Application forms on the table by the south porch and there is a box in which to place your application. The new Roll goes up next Sunday for any corrections but no names can be added or deleted.

## **One Life Encounter Tuesday 19 March 7.30 St Peter and St Paul Hucknall**

Worship evening to celebrate the gift of life in all its fulness, led by Archdeacon David - theme With Humble and Contrite Hearts. Combining the best of liturgy and informality, the focus will be on both proclamation of the word and celebration of the sacraments in a creative way. Come and join in this evening of refreshment and bring friends you think would be interested.

## **Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy INSIGHT Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 12-1.30pm**

**THE BUSINESS OF THEATRE** is the topic and it will take place at **The Royal Concert Hall** – Level 4 foyer. Your chance to have **INSIGHT** into the business side of the Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall complex and hear how these fabulous assets of our city have been maximised. You will also be able to see, firsthand, the changes made as a result of **The Royal Transformation Project** - all for the benefit of both theatre/concert goers and businesses community alike. Buffet lunch provided, email [lensimmonds@aol.com](mailto:lensimmonds@aol.com) to confirm your attendance.

## **24 March 10.45**

Adrian Chatfield will be preaching at 10.45 on 24 March and also will lead a short 'workshop' on an aspect of prayer. Adrian was on the staff at St John's, Nottingham for many years, and then went on to Ridley College, Cambridge. He is now retired and lives near Ilkeston. He is very experienced at leading quiet days, retreats and the like. Light lunch following the service, then workshop to finish by 3.00pm. **Let Tom or Di know please if you can stay for lunch and the workshop.**

## **REDECORATED VESTRY – FURNITURE NEEDED**

Apart from minor finishing details, re-decorating the Vestry is now finished. If you have not had a chance to look at this wonderful and indeed historic room with its fine carved ceiling reliefs, please do so. The room's use will be for small less formal meetings as well as for prayer, and for preparation before a service. Do you have a 3 seater sofa and 3 small comfortable chairs which would 'go' in the room which you might consider donating? Also, a set of 4 (or 6) matching upright chairs?

## **ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday 7th April at 12.30pm in church.**

The Annual **Vestry** Meeting for the election of churchwardens and the Annual **Parochial Church Council** Meeting to receive a report of the activities of the parish together with the Accounts and to elect PCC Members. Nomination Forms for both Wardens and PCC Members at back of church by South Porch Door. Only those on the Electoral Roll can stand for election.

This year's lunchtime Lent talks at **St Peter's Church** will focus on the relationship between prayer and various areas of life more generally. They will take place over five Thursdays, with light refreshments available from 12.30 and the talks beginning at 1.00 pm, followed by discussion and ending by 2.00 pm. The first talk took place on 14 March, and was given by Reverend Dr Richard Davey, on the theme 'Prayer and Art'. All are welcome to attend further talks. Entrance is free, donations for refreshments would be welcome.

**MUTHURAJ SWAMY's *Reconciliation* is the Archbishop of Canterbury's** Lent Book this year. A Bible study for each day of Lent, in which Swamy draws out from a wide range of passages lessons about reconciliation — its foundation, its impediments, its risks, and its heart as represented in the recurring phrase "radical openness to others", which, the author holds, summarises "the whole essence of Christianity".

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### **Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

Debbie Butler

Daniel Hanson

Pauline Miller

Harry Palmer

Rick Savage

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**A very warm welcome to all our regular worshippers  
and those visiting St Mary's this week**

**This Week's Services**

**Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist**

**Sunday 6.30pm Evensong**

**Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong**

**Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion**



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