

This Week at St Mary's

12 January 2020

CROWNS FOR CHILDREN

It's been wonderful over the past couple of years to see the number of young children in our Sunday Eucharist steadily growing, many belonging to choir families. My heart rises when I see them gathering in the area in the middle of the nave. The parents/carers do an amazing job keeping everything calm - having said that, I know I am not alone in saying I welcome hearing the odd 'noises off' from the back, as it's good to be reminded, regularly, of this vital part of the church family.

To say that the presence of children enriches our worship is certainly true, but understates the reality. Children are not just the future of the church, they are an integral part of the church today. It's like at family gatherings when the eighty year olds are in the same room as their great grandchildren, there is something extremely rich in the occasion, with everyone benefitting.

Along with that, there can be (obvious) advantages when we worship for different, age specific activities. This last Sunday morning, there was a group organised for our young children. They went out to the Vestry where they heard read (as those in the church also did) the story the Wise Men/Kings coming to Bethlehem to worship the young Jesus. Then, as all will have seen when the children returned for communion, they were wearing amazing crowns which they had made. With hindsight, I wish we had made (much) more of their return.

The plan is to have a regular such group and we will see how things develop. We are also exploring (2 Feb) what a distinct St Mary's 'All Family' service would look like, ie one which engages and inspires young (as well as older people) in the worship of Jesus Christ.

Tom Gillman

**A very warm welcome,
especially to anyone new or visiting St Mary's**

**We are usually open between 10am and 3pm Mon-Sat
and during services on Sunday**

Over the past 3 weeks...

CHRISTMAS. As usual, a well attended **Carol Service** on Christmas Eve, stunning music and Bishop Paul again with us. The **Midnight Communion Service**, seeing in Christmas Day, was predominantly supported by younger people, many of whom were from a non UK background. Then to **Christmas morning**, this year within a contemporary setting, particularly uplifting and inspiring music. Thanks all round to many who contributed so much.

It's with a heavy heart to report the deaths of two longstanding members of St Mary's.

Gregory Jackson, a familiar figure in the Lace Market, and who had suffered for many years from serious mental illness died unexpectedly on Christmas Day. Funeral date to be confirmed.

Brenda Palmer was admitted to hospital before Christmas for ongoing treatment for long term thoracic issues, but took a serious turn and died on Boxing Day. Funeral service on 20 January 10.30am followed by burial at Redhill. Many will be mourning for both, and we will be especially holding Brenda's husband Harry in our prayers.

Julie Hilton, our new Operations Director started on 6 January. She is based in the Chapter House, working full time, and do come in to meet her.

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2020 12-1.30pm INSIGHT MEETING (WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY). All welcome! Nigel Wheatley, Centre Director of intu Victoria Centre and intu Broadmarsh, will give us an *INSIGHT* into the world of shopping and leisure destinations. Our host is **ACAS East Midlands** at their offices in Apex Court, City Link, BBC Island, London Rd, NG2 4LAA. As a buffet lunch is provided please email: lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance.

2 FEBRUARY - The 10.45 Service will not be a Eucharist (that will be at 6.30pm). We shall be having a Candlemas procession at both services, in the morning very much to include children.

WELLBEING AT WORK COURSE STARTS 5 FEBRUARY (7.15 - 8.30 am.) This is a new initiative, to be led by Tom, and Jo Tatum - Workplace Chaplain. As a Church we want to be part of the realities people at work face each day, so that we can discuss key topics for flourishing and well-being. If you can be part of the small team to assist in the practicalities of running these workshops running over 8 weeks, please let Di know.

FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY LIGHT NIGHT AT ST MARY'S 6-9pm

Enjoy the ancient beauty of St Mary's church by candlelight, view some spectacular light sculptures and projection art and hear the mesmerising sounds of the choir of St Mary's with short performances throughout the evening.. As ever, we need a good team of people to welcome visitors and help the event run smoothly. If you are willing to help, either all evening or just for an hour or two, please let Ed Mills know (edwardmills1@hotmail.com) so he can add you to the rota.

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 7.30-9.30pm Music by Puccini, Vasks and Fauré at St Mary's performed by Ewart Hodge (viola), the Choir of St Mary's and the Orchestra of the Restoration directed by John Keys. Tickets (unreserved) £15, £10 concessions, £5 student standby, details on website and posters.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday (in Vestry) 5.30-6pm

Praying for St Mary's & Nottingham

Upcoming Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

John Conway

Harry Palmer

Mike Ridley

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