

This Week at St Mary's

2 February 2020

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT - 27 JANUARY

Edited version of speech given by Jonathan Shaw, Nottingham City Homes

Recent surveys show an alarming percentage of millennials who know very little of the Holocaust. In Austria, 42% believe that 2m or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust. In France, 25% had never heard of the Holocaust. Even in the UK, 1 in 20 people do not believe that the Holocaust happened.

75 years ago today, Russian forces liberated Auschwitz. They found more than 7,000 prisoners still there. They were too late to save the 56,000 prisoners who had been forced to march out of Auschwitz by the SS the week before the liberation. It is estimated a quarter of them died on this death march. The liberation by the Russians though was far, far too late for the 1.1 million men, women and children (more than in any other concentration camp) who were gassed, starved, worked or tortured to death at Auschwitz by the Nazis.

At its destructive maximum, Auschwitz was more than 40 square kilometres in size - the whole City of Nottingham is 75 square kilometres. On Holocaust Memorial Day it is our duty to stand together and remember the 6m Jews killed by the appalling actions of the Nazis during WW2 and remember the 6m other people killed for being different to what Hitler wanted in his world - homosexuals, Roma and Sinti, the physically disabled, people with learning difficulties, political prisoners, dissidents and Russian prisoners of war.

Last week, a colleague of mine told me that his daughter was currently learning about WW2 and that he had discussed the prevalence of the swastika as a sign of the Nazi doctrine and antisemitism. He described quite vividly the shock on the young girl's face when he showed her on the internet, photos taken only last month, of swastikas freshly daubed on Jewish cemeteries in Europe. She asked "Why would people do that?"

Standing together is to recognise and accept that everyone is different. It is to look at what we have in common rather than that which differentiates us, to challenge xenophobia and those that spout hatred and division, and to offer assistance to those that need it as individuals and as a community.

If we don't remember these horrific events and these millions of lives lost on Holocaust Memorial Day who will, and when?

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**

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S...

Sunday at the Parish Eucharist, Tom remembered his time spent in 1976 at St John's Darlinghurst, Sydney, to draw out how Jesus walks today along roads we know, his eyes of love on each of us, calling us to decide to join a community of those who are following him, as companions and learners - to decide now to do so.

At Evensong, Tom celebrated Jesus' reading from Isaiah and his preaching at the synagogue in Nazareth as one of the greatest speeches ever. Seldom easy in a home setting, with brilliant oratory he left the listeners in no doubt they needed to decide whether something of crucial importance was going on and whether Jesus was the key player.

Monday - News broke that the **Hungry Pumpkin café** (on High Pavement) has been sold. Rocco and Michelle have decided to move to Spain and the new owner will take over in March.

Also we had a trial for a 10m trapeze set up in the Nave by people from Circus Hub Notts, ready for the spectacular Fashanne Exhibition and Awards event in April.

Tuesday - IDT who look after our office computers reconfigured emails - if one you sent bounced back, that is the likely reason.

Wednesday - completion of fixing **wheels on 6 old altar rails** meaning that now easily movable, they can have a range of uses.

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

WELLBEING AT WORK COURSE starts 5 February (7.15 - 8.30 am.) A new initiative 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.

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. Team needed 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)

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.

SUNDAY 16 Feb 10.45 Service to include James Mills' christening. Holly and Ed would also love everyone to join them for a glass of fizz, and cake, after the service.

SUNDAY 23 Feb 10.45 Richard Bull, Deputy Dean of the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment at NTU and a Professor of Energy and Behaviour Change, is our preacher, opening up one of our world's most urgent issues today, the environmental crisis. He will speak on Nottingham's recent Climate Emergency declaration and then facilitate a discussion afterwards (over lunch - please let Di know if you can come and/or help - sign-up sheet by the door) and on the role of Nottingham's faith community in helping the city become carbon neutral by 2028.

TUESDAY 25 February 6.30pm The Overseas Pancake Party in the St Peter's Church Coffee Room. No charge, but donations to support the charities CARF, 5 Talents, CMS, Christian Aid and the Contingency Fund for Disasters. Signing up on the sheet on the front desk would help with the catering, but plenty of pancakes so please just turn up on the night.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday (Vestry) 5.30-6pm
Praying for St Mary's & Nottingham

Upcoming Services

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks
John Bowers
John Conway
Harry Palmer
Mike Ridley

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