

This Week at St Mary's

9 February 2020

Hearing church bells, we are reminded that 'worship is beginning' inside, hearing a choir singing is one better; and perhaps further anticipation still came on Sunday with a run through of our dramatic reading.

This was our first 'All Family Service'. One of St Mary's development priorities is to explore new ways of worship, and we have used the words 'family friendly' to help us see what we might mean. With our wonderful pre-school contingent, limited concentration spans, a desire to participate and ever discovering new things need to be remembered.

Well known and lively hymns, Psalm 24 sung to a great and familiar tune and three pieces by the choir, including a familiar setting of the Nunc Dimittis. They all worked really well. The participants (thanks Jacob for stepping in as a late replacement) in the dramatic reading gave a freshness the story of Jesus' presentation in the Temple.

As we prayed the confession, the children covered candles with a bit of dark cloth. As the absolution was said, it was removed. Paper candles were made and decorated and holding them, the children then led the Candlemas procession to end the service at the font. Many find the combination of the responses and the (intentionally) abrupt end, vividly acts a 'hinge' between Christmas and Lent.

Part of Presentation story leads us to how we can help our children grow as Christians. Ed Mills (aided by his son George) spoke of what they are doing at home and sang us the grace they use at mealtimes. Michael Clarke, with his many years at St Mary's, encouraged us all to see that, Sunday by Sunday what lies at the heart or what we do, is to talk together with God - to pray.

Lots of positives. I am very excited about where this road we have embarked on may lead.

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 - the All Family Service, see previous page

At the Evening Eucharist - to the wonderful setting of Kodaly's Missa Brevis and beginning with a Candlemas Procession, Tom then reflected on the moving account Luke gives of Christ's Presentation in the Temple. This 'dares' us believe that it was God Himself coming to His Temple. Worship and adoration and also an expectation that God will use all Christians to speak His words (as He did through Simeon and Anna.)

Monday - a visitor from Rome on a business trip wrote..

Hi Tom, I must thank you again for showing me around the richness of St Mary The Virgin Church. If it wasn't for you, I would have missed most of the history of the church. I was astonished about its beauty and history. I continued to walk throughout the city and discovered that there are valuable and interesting things around such as the Robin Hood statue and its related path. I was surprised to see how few people are getting the advantage of seeing the colourful windows of St Mary's (I was not able to count how many there are. And for each one there is story behind it). I was even more surprised to see even how few people are enjoying and visiting the city. And that is pity for everyone. Hope things will improve with the time coming. With regards Paolo

Tuesday - Meeting with new website creators sort out 'teething' problems. Their work has improved navigating around the site.

Wednesday – 1st of the **Wellbeing in the Workplace Workshops**. Impressive turnout considering the 7.15 start! Explored together 'An Urgency for Wellbeing' in our consumerist society.

...and two members of the **Romanian Ice Hockey National team** visited St Mary's, ahead of their game against England on Thursday. England won 3-2.

Thursday – lots of activity inside and outside as **Light Night installation** being set up

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

WELLBEING AT WORK COURSE Week 2 on 12 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.

Sunday 16 Feb 10.45 Service with 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) and on the role of Nottingham's faith community in helping the city become carbon neutral by 2028.

Shrove Tuesday 25 February 630pm Pancake party in St Peter's Coffee Room. Organised by Overseas Committee and donations to CARF CA CMS 5 Talents and the disasters' contingent fund.

Ash Wednesday 26 Feb - 7.30pm Service of Ashing and Communion to mark the beginning of Lent

Prayer Meeting

Every 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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