



This week at St Mary's

5 May 2019

THE DAWNING NEW CREATION

I thought I heard something - I definitely did, yes, it was my alarm. I was suddenly wide awake, 4.15 on Easter morning. As I pedalled up Fletcher Gate, I passed some clubbers heading home - a rather different take on Easter, perhaps.

My heart rose as each person arrived to join in the Easter Vigil. 5 of us gathered by the West Door, coffee cups in hand. We read some of the great stories building up to 'On the first day of the week...' combined with Psalms and silent prayer. 3 pigeons came close, creation's other representatives there to praise God. At 6.00, we processed with the Easter Candle into the darkened church, then turning on lights and making a great rendering of Thine Be the Glory, before celebrating communion. Over pastries and more coffee, we witnessed the drama at the east end of the rising sun breaking in.

For those of us at Daniel's funeral service, it marked also a poignant beginning of the final stages of Holy Week. Others came to the Maundy Thursday evening service, the Last Supper. Then to Good Friday and from 12-3, we read St John's account of the Passion, we sang the Good Friday hymns, we used the Stations of the Cross to reflect and in other ways entered a little more the mystery of the Cross. In the evening, James Macmillan's 7 Last Words was a powerful, indeed disturbing musical focus for this, just right for the day - and into which I gave short reflections.

Holy Saturday (not Easter Saturday - that's a week later) is a day on which I never quite know what to do. But that's the point of it! A day like no other, when we had killed God the Son - a more crass thing to do it's hard to imagine. Over 40 were confirmed in the evening at St Mary's, filled with wonderful flowers. A careful blend of celebration, while retaining anticipation.

And so to Easter morning, which if we can't celebrate then when can we? We may feel, as many do, with Stephen Hawkins, that the likelihood of God is remote, but the resurrection of Jesus changes all that. Even 2,000 years on, it's so hard to explain away, an event like no other, the dawning New Creation breaking in. Christ is risen indeed Halleluiah.

Tom Gillman

ARCHDEACON OF NOTTINGHAM

Bishop Paul announced this week that Canon Phil Williams has been appointed the next Archdeacon of Nottingham. Phil is already well-known to many in the diocese, he was for fifteen years Vicar of St James, Porchester and Area Dean of Gedling. He is first and foremost a person of deep faith in the Lord with a prayerful heart for the mission of the whole Church. He will bring many gifts to this new role. His 'installation' as Archdeacon will be in Southwell Minster in mid-July. Please do pray for him as he prepares for this new calling, as well as for his wife Jane and their family.

ST MARY'S CHOIR ON TOUR...

The choir are on tour in Germany this weekend and will be singing Hochgottesdienst for the morning service at Peterskirche in Heidelberg and giving a concert at Stiftskirche Neustadt and der Weinstraße in the evening.

PAULINE MILLER

The Funeral Service is at St Mary's on Thursday 9 May at 2.15pm followed by Cremation at Gedling Crematorium (family and close friends).

OPEN MEETING - SUNDAY 12 MAY 12.20pm

All are invited to take part in discussing the draft **Development Priorities for St Mary's** - in giving comments, asking questions, etc. A paper setting out the priorities is now on the table at the back. The meeting will follow on after the 10.45 Service and will aim to be over by 1.15.

MASSED CHOIRS PERFORM MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH SATURDAY 18 MAY 7PM

St Mary's plays host to The Ruddington and District Choral Society, Burton Joyce Choral Society, Nottingham Hospitals Choir, Djanogly Community Orchestra and invited soloists as they perform Mendelssohn's 'Elijah'.

THE CHURCH AND REFUGEES - TUESDAY 21 MAY 7.30pm ST NICS Transforming Notts Together are partnering with Welcome Churches to explore **how refugees and asylum seekers can best be welcomed into a church community**. The meeting will hear from churches already supporting refugees and asylum seekers and explore what **steps we can take, tools we can use etc.**

Sign up at <https://every-refugee-nottingham.eventbrite.co.uk> or contact hannah.buck@transformingnottstogether.org.uk

NOTTM WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY INSIGHT MEETING WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 12-1.30PM

Please join us at the next *INSIGHT* Meeting when we will be hearing of the work Nottinghamshire YMCA does in developing skills, friendships and confidence in young people. We will learn about **Camp Williams**, where 4 -15 year olds take part in activities that promote positive, experience-led development for young people. We will be meeting at **Capital One on Station Street (NG2 3HX)**. As a buffet lunch is provided please email lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance. *Because of security arrangements at Capital One you will need to bring with you some form of identification.*

NEWS FROM THE OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

The Easter Monday Breakfast raised £233 for the charity Mercy Ships.
Christian Aid Week is 11-19 May. Collecting tins will be in church each Sunday 12 and 19 May for the services.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DANIEL HANSON

FRIDAY 24 May 2pm

There will be a Memorial Service at St Mary's to celebrate Daniel's life on 24 May at 2pm.

ORCHESTRA OF THE RESTORATION ST MARY'S SATURDAY 8 JUNE 7.30PM

Eagerly anticipated, this concert directed by St Mary's Musical Director John Keys features Oliver Latham - Stanley Trumpet Tune; Matthew Shipway and Jeff Snowden - Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 1; Aminata Kanneh-Mason - Mozart Violin Concerto in G; and Jeneba Kanneh-Mason - Ravel Piano Concerto.

Tickets £15 (£13 concessions, £5 under 23s) from www.trybooking.co.uk/JWE, Nottingham Tourism Centre 08444 77 56 78, Windblowers 0115 941 0543, on the door (*If available*).

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

Debbie Butler

Harry Palmer

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**A very warm welcome to all
especially anyone new to St Mary's this week**

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 6.15pm NO SERVICE

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion



**admin@stmarynotts.org
www.stmarysnottingham.org
Mon-Fri 10-2pm ☎ 0115 958 2105
Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432**