



This week at St Mary's

26 May 2019

DIPLOMACY WITH A DIFFERENCE

I've made several short visits to the South of Sudan (RSS), although not since 2012. I've kept in touch with the Bishop Bismark of Mundri (not too far from Juba). His accounts of what has been going on these past years do not make easy reading. Many of his people have experienced extreme suffering.

Just before Easter the Archbishop of Canterbury organised a retreat at the Vatican for the political leaders of the RSS. His aim was to see if this context could strengthen the fragile peace, so help end the terrible conflict which has been tearing apart that nation for much of its short life. It was a miracle that these men, who've found it impossible to work together, made it to Rome at all.

On the last day of the retreat, the Pope joined them. To everyone's surprise, when he had finished his speech, he got up and went over to each of the leaders, kneeling down and then kissed each of their feet. Getting up, he looked straight into their eyes pleading with them to make the peace work.

Time will tell whether the RSS now begins to function and prosper as it could. It goes without saying that I really hope it does. The Pope's actions were deeply moving and from the video, it looked as though they had affected the political leaders. Immediately after, they were photographed shaking hands.

For the Pope to act in this spontaneous and heartfelt way reminded me of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume. Far from it being dismissed as an emotional and wasteful act, this act has become a powerful picture of the lengths to which God is prepared to go, to put us right with him. Jesus did whatever it took, giving his own life, so that we can experience lasting peace.

Tom Gillman

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

ASCENSION DAY SERVICES THURSDAY 30 MAY 7.30 AM AND 7.30 PM

Weather permitting, the morning service will be held on the tower and spaces will have to be limited to 15 so it would be useful if you could let the office know if you would like to attend. Please bear in mind the ascent is quite a challenge!

Join us for Communion in the evening.

THY KINGDOM COME (www.thykingdomcome.global)

Archbishop Justin's initiative for a global prayer movement to take place between Ascension Day (30 May) and Pentecost continues this year. It is traditionally a time for the church to pray together - there will be a special emphasis on prayer during all the usual services at St Mary's. Here is the St Mary's evening prayer programme to be held at 7pm in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, and culminating with an evening at Trent Vineyard. Specially produced prayer guides are available at the South Porch entrance.

Fri 31 May Hospitality
Sun 2 June City of Nottingham
Mon 3 Social Justice
Tues 4 Growing Disciples
Wed 5 Creativity
Thurs 6 Wellbeing

Fri 7 7.30 Thy Kingdom Come night at Trent Vineyard
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thy-kingdom-come-nottingham-2019-tickets-60465283290>

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*).

INSIGHT MEETING WED 19 JUNE 12-1.30PM

'EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR' - Workplace Chaplaincy INSIGHT Meeting at the Park Plaza Hotel on Maid Marion Way to gain an INSIGHT into the work of the NSPCC, some of their campaigns, and how they give a voice to children when no one is listening. A buffet lunch is provided so to help with the catering arrangements please email lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S ANNUAL LECTURE AND OUTING 2019

Tuesday 18 June 6.30pm at Saint Mary's - Lecture by Ellis Morgan - a local historian

Featuring the history and architecture of the Priory of Saint Peter at Thurgaton - the home of the famous fifteenth century mystic Walter Hilton, author of *The Ladder of Perfection*. Light refreshments will be served from 6pm - £1

Saturday 13 July 11am at Thurgaton Church - A Guided Tour of the Church and Priory remains led by Ellis Morgan. Coffee and tea will be available

We offer a warm invitation to attend either or both these events, free of charge (donation welcome in either Church). For further details or queries please contact Hilary Tinley on 0115 9814682 or hilary.tinley@ntlworld.com

ST MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Harry is now posting on a regular basis - please note this has now been added in the details below - please do take a look and 'like' if you are active on social media.

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

Debbie Butler

Harry Palmer

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This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 6.15pm Evensong

Thursday 7.30am Ascension Day on the Tower

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion



admin@stmarynotts.org

stmarysnottingham.org

Facebook St Mary's Church Nottingham

Mon-Fri 10-2pm ☎ 0115 958 2105

Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432