



This week at St Mary's

21 July 2019

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR IMMERSIVE PRODUCTION

St Mary's was transformed into an interactive theatre for an immersive experience of the 1970 Rice Lloyd Webber classic rock musical, Jesus Christ Superstar. Tables and chairs decked with wine and fresh fruit welcomed the audience, anticipating a show with a difference, which it proved to be.

Portraying the week before Christ's crucifixion we were connected with the human side of a story with which we are so familiar we often miss this. Jesus is fully human as well as fully God. "He's a man, just a man" sings Mary in her struggle to love this man differently from every other man in her life, acknowledging "I've been changed, yes really changed". From Jesus' lips come, "I have changed, I'm not as sure as when we started, Then I was inspired, Now I'm sad and tired" - interpreted with resignation and passive acceptance.

Judas shows the emotions of a man frustrated when things were not working out as expected. Why did Jesus "let things get so out of hand" and not listen to sound advice and live? The other disciples too wished, "could we start again please?"

Caiaphas and the priests were suitably pompous and condescending, their tall hats threatening to topple over at any moment! An outlandishly camp Herod spoke for those who thought they exercised power over the "King of the Jews". The lighting effects brought out the features of the church to full effect.

Some Christians have found unsatisfactory that the production ends without a hint of the resurrection. That said, it achieves its goal. What was it like to watch him suffer and die, apparently needlessly? Did he bring it upon himself? Is Jesus just a man? What now that he is gone? Most of all, how can we truly love Him once we begin to understand what it was really all about?

GRANT WALTON

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

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S...

SUNDAY - BISHOP TONY

It was a great pleasure to have Bishop Tony with us last Sunday, speaking on the Good Samaritan. On Tuesday it was announced he will be retiring on 22 March 2020, after 42 years of service.

Evangelism has been central to his ministry and together with his wife Lucille, he has led 39 'Seed Scattering' outreach weekends across the diocese and he will be overseeing the oneLIFE Mission in September. While serving in Manchester, he was chaplain to Manchester City Football Club and the Greater Manchester Police. In 2015 he was commissioned as the Archbishops' Sport Ambassador, working to strengthen links between the Church and sport.

Working with the poor and the marginalised has also shaped Bishop Tony's ordained ministry; he is a long-time friend and supporter of Christians Against Poverty, as well as working tirelessly to help raise the profile of various groups and charities across the diocese - with the 'CEO Sleepout' becoming a regular feature in his diary, as well as countless visits to prisons and Betel UK in support of those seeking a new start in life. He himself is equally at home supporting leaders in sport, business and civic life."

MONDAY

There was a large congregation for the funeral of Brian Whitt, founder of Top Knot Hairdressing.

AND COMING UP SOON...

14 AUGUST WEDNESDAY 12-1.30PM INSIGHT

WANT TO FIND OUT EXACTLY HOW A HOTEL WORKS?

Then come along to the next Workplace Chaplaincy INSIGHT meeting. Julie Oliver, Crowne Plaza's HR and Enterprise Manager, will give an INSIGHT into working in an industry that is constantly changing and how she ensures the right people are in the right place at the right time. Join us at CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL ON WOLLATON STREET. A buffet lunch is provided. To help with the catering arrangements please email: lensimmonds@aol.com to confirm your attendance.

14 SEPTEMBER oneLIFE MISSION/HERITAGE OPEN DAY

15 SEPTEMBER - Battle of Britain Sunday

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED FOR oneLIFE TEAM

Please let Di know if you might be able to help with this

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY EVENSONG. Please note that over the Summer there will be no Wednesday Evensong. It will resume on 18 September

A Prayer for oneLIFE

We pray for the oneLIFE Mission with the Archbishop of York and all the Northern Bishops. Father God, help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all. By your Spirit help us grow in unity, grow as followers of Jesus Christ, and grow your Kingdom in Southwell and Nottingham.

Amen

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

Debbie Butler

Harry Palmer

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