



This week at St Mary's

8 September 2019

BEING HELD THROUGH THE STORM

George Matheson (born 1842) is best remembered for the hymn he wrote, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go". I have always found the story of how he came to write it profoundly moving.

As a young man, while a student, he was engaged to be married. He then discovered he was going blind. When he told his fiancée there was nothing the doctors could do, she said she couldn't go through life with a blind man. The engagement ended and from then on his sister cared for him.

Some 20 years later, his sister got engaged. This inevitably brought a fresh reminder of his own heartbreak. It was on the evening of her wedding, in the midst of this intense sadness, that the words of the hymn came to Matheson. He commented,

"I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high."

Bishop Tony most movingly quoted from the hymn at the service held here this week following John Bentham's death. John had suffered from severe anxiety and depression especially in the final months of his all too short life (he was 60.) How, Bishop Tony asked, did John, a man of prayer (he was a priest) continue to pray when life was so intensely black? He answered his question with reference to the Matheson hymn - it was not so much how John held on, but rather that God held onto John. His arms held him to the end, just as they do with each of us.

Tom Gillman

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

In Recent Weeks AT ST MARY'S...

WEDDINGS - Congratulations to the following

- Briony and Gary Vincent
- Jane and Ross Hatfield
- Susan and James Turley
- Sarah and Benjamin Cooper

REV'D CANON JOHN BENTHAM - a service following his cremation was held on 4 September. He'd been Vicar of St Saviour's in the Meadows and then University Chaplain for 20 years. Our heartfelt condolences to Marianne, Alice, Henry, James and Rosie.

ETHAN ALEXANDER BETTS - Welcome to the world! Born on 2 Sept to Ally and Ben. Ally promises to bring him to St Mary's soon.

NEW CLEANERS - Radiant Cleaners have started and St Mary's is gradually looking spick-and-span

THANKS FROM OVERSEAS COMMITTEE - £178.46 from the Smartie Appeal given to CARF UK and CMS, £95.27 to Christian Aid for the Sierra Leone crisis, £285 for Mercy Ships from the Easter Breakfast raised. The Committee also mark essays for the Soul of Africa Leadership Campaign to raise prospective university students' English language.

AND COMING UP SOON...

13 -22 SEPTEMBER - Alex Kingswell Exhibition, *Let the Light Shine* - textile art, every day when the church is open. This promises to be inspirational. Volunteer stewards needed - please let Di know.

13 SEPTEMBER - large scale model (1:100) of St Mary's & the immediate vicinity to be exhibited at St Mary's. Stunning! By NTU Masters students.

14 SEPTEMBER - oneLIFE MISSION/HERITAGE OPEN DAY. Bishop Pete will be joining us at some point. Thanks so much for offers of help. More help needed everywhere, please, and especially people to coordinate refreshments (making cakes etc, serving) and Teddy Bear Abseil. Help needed too on Tower tours, with exhibition and brass rubbing. Please let Di know how you can help - WE WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL FOR OFFERS TO BAKE CAKES AND SERVE REFRESHMENTS BY SIGNING THE SHEET NEAR THE SOUTH PORCH.

14 SEPTEMBER - oneLIFE Mission at ST NIC'S.
Art Exhibition 4-8.30pm and Acoustic Café 6.30-8.30pm.

15 SEPTEMBER - BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE 10.45

18 SEPTEMBER INSIGHT MEETING 12-1.30pm - Salvation Army Halls, King Edward St, NG1 1EU. Learn about Radiant Cleaners (as above) and the instrumental role it plays in changing lives through employment here in Nottingham. MD Matt Parfitt will also explain how Grace Enterprises intends to grow a network of sustainable, commercially competitive and socially responsible businesses that help reduce long-term unemployment and poverty. A buffet lunch is provided. Please email: lensimmonds@aol.com to book

4 OCTOBER 7.30PM CARLTON MALE VOICE CHOIR
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Concert

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY EVENSONG 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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