



This week at St Mary's

15 September 2019

The moment I realised I was a Christian came at the end of my first term at university. I came along to the carol service at my chapel and found myself rather enthusiastically belting out O Come All Ye Faithful. I was looking at the cross above the choir and for one, pure moment I felt at peace.

I did not know at that moment that that feeling was God. Growing up in a secular household, one tends to just dismiss the idea. But the more I thought about it, the more I couldn't help but realise there was no other explanation. In that moment, and in countless others since, God had been with me.

It wasn't until I came to Nottingham and to St Mary's that I had the chance to fully explore what it meant to be a Christian and what it meant to be part of God's people. In St Mary's, I found a community that could help me along the path to knowing God and to serving him better.

Being a Christian is not about being perfect. We are flawed and God sees us for what we are. What St Mary's taught me was that being a Christian was about bringing the Kingdom of God a little closer to our world, through prayer and through helping others, through community and through faith.

The Lord's Prayer includes 'Thy Kingdom Come', and I look forward to drawing that Kingdom closer into my life. It was so good to join the wonderful community of St Mary's again for my baptism.

Ali White

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

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S...

Carlos and Natalie Gomes were married on Saturday, and had their reception in the church too. Many congratulations.

Ali White was baptised as part of the 1045 Service on Sunday, along with **Elliot**, son of Jamie and Julia Glancy. Wonderful church occasion.

The Big House Expo on Tuesday was an amazing event. What a buzz the church had with many local businesses present and opportunities galore. In the evening, there were presentations from 5 new businesses spawned from the Big House - really inspiring. Tammy from the Creative Quarter says 'it was a truly unbelievable event to run, felt so full of love and support'. www.facebook.com/thebighouse7

Alex Kingswell arrived as the Big House team were finishing their clearing up, to start setting up *Let the Light Shine*. This textile exhibition continues till **22 September**, each day open 10-3.00, around service times on Sunday. Come and visit, and bring friends.

The model of St Mary's and the immediate vicinity created by NTU Architecture Masters students arrived on Friday. Will be exhibited until at least 2 October. This large scale model (1:100) allows you to see St Mary's and the Lace Market in a wonderfully fresh and inspiring way.

AND COMING UP SOON...

CHORAL EVENSONG on Wednesdays 6.15 resumes this week. In the beauty of St Mary's this ancient service has particular resonance in our busy and often noisy world. 35 mins approx.

INSIGHT MEETING 18 September 12-1.30pm - Salvation Army Halls, King Edward St, NG1 1EU. Learn about Radiant Cleaners 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

FRIENDSHIP CONCERT 4 October 7.00pm at ST MARY'S

Celebrating 50 years of Friendship between Karlsruhe and Nottingham with guests from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, and the Carlton Male Voice Choir.

Tickets £10 ☎ 01158440158 or email ticket.enquiries@carltonmvc.org and see www.carltonmvc.org

WELCOME RECEPTION TO OUR CHORAL SCHOLARS - Sunday 6 October, after Evensong.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS AT ST MARY'S - OPEN MEETING 13 October following 10.45 Service

Trending: The great topics of our times. 24 October At St Peter's, 6-9PM. A new series put on by Rothera Sharp and St Peters. This is the first, entitled "All You Need Is Love? Dispelling Myths about Love and Romance in Popular Culture". A fun engaging talk introducing cutting edge academic research as well as insights into the different routes that love can now take. [eventbrite:tinyurl.com/trendinglove](https://eventbrite.tinyurl.com/trendinglove) or email marketing@rotherasharp.co.uk

This Week's Services

Sunday 10.45am Battle of Britain Service

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 6.15pm Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks
John Bowers
Debbie Butler
Harry Palmer

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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