



## ***This week at St Mary's 10 November 2019***

### **WHEN THE SUNS BREAKS THROUGH**

One feature of church buildings which amazes me is when sunlight dramatically breaks through the windows. Each season brings new revelations, the falling leaves now opening up paths for the sun coming into St Mary's.

Different from one day to the next, bright light picked out the detail of the large cross above the rood screen. I noticed magnificently shining at the end of each point of the cross the traditional symbols associated with each of the four Gospel writers. Ornate and gilded with gold are a human face, a lion, an ox and an eagle.

They come from a vision recorded of one of the Jewish prophets, Ezekiel. In the early days of the church, they were interpreted so that Matthew, beginning as he does with Jesus' family tree, was the human face. The majestic, kingly lion combined ideally with the force John brings of the divinity of Jesus. As Luke gives early emphasis to Jewish ritual, the symbol of a sacrificial ox makes that memorable. The eagle, a symbol of prophetic inspiration, coincides with Mark drawing the reader's attention to Jesus fulfilling familiar words of the Jewish prophet Isaiah.

Artists and craftsmen and women have interpreted these symbols in fresh ways. I intend to let these four symbols on the Cross inspire me to see the Gospels afresh and I hope you will do the same. For me, they help me see Jesus as a real person, every bit a man. And that He was more than that, indeed the majestic King of the universe in human form. I imagine His eyes of love looking on you and me, as He soars in the winds of the Holy Spirit, and like the ox, He selflessly gave Himself so that I too might be part of His present and future.

*Tom Gillman*

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

## LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S...

On Saturday we hosted Nottingham's first **Whisky Festival**. People had come from across the country and some may have found themselves feeling less downcast about our rugby fortunes earlier in the day, as they sampled the many whiskies.

It was a pleasure to have **Alan Hargrave** with us at the morning service, speaking movingly about how he struggled to keep going in the aftermath of his 21 year old son Tom's death from cancer.

Current and former members of the choir performed **Richafort's requiem** by candlelight in the choir, with All Souls themed readings and meditations. 'Beautiful music performed in a sensitive way giving apt opportunity for meditation and reflection.'

We interviewed on Wednesday for the **Operations Director** post - please pray with us for wisdom and guidance to ensure we make a good appointment - a vital role at this time at St Mary's.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS.** Building on the success of last year (which raised about £700 for Emmanuel House) we have designed cards using pictures from St Mary's 'animal safari' range, **the Dove** and **the Donkey**. Suggested price - £1 a card (as last year.) The more printed, the cheaper they become to produce. Please indicate how many you would like to buy.

## **NOW AND COMING UP SOON...**

**SUNDAY 1 DEC (Advent) THE GREAT NOTTS CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL!** St Mary's is delighted to support this initiative. Please bring toys/games/toiletries during either service which will then be distributed to local children in need. Details are on the poster by the South Porch or see [christmastoy.homesteadcloud.com](http://christmastoy.homesteadcloud.com) for details/volunteering.

**SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 7.30PM** at St James Church, Marshall Hill Drive, Mapperley NG3 6FY. Autumn Harmony with HARLEQUIN (choral music to suit all tastes). All proceeds to Nottm & Notts Refugee Forum. £10 to include wine and canapés from St James on 07940 548 832, or [fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk) or on the door.

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER OPEN MEETING** immediately following 10.45 Service, to discuss ways we might best welcome, support and help one another.

**WED 20 NOVEMBER INSIGHT MEETING 12-1.30PM** 'Interesting to Know...Live'. Len Simmonds, the compiler of Interesting to Know, will be looking at trends that are transforming our lives, reshaping businesses and influencing behaviours. At YMCA within the NCVS building on Mansfield Rd opp House of Fraser. A buffet is provided so please email: [lensimmonds@aol.com](mailto:lensimmonds@aol.com) to confirm

**SAT 23 NOV 7.30PM** Nottingham Bach Choir perform Mozart's 'Great' Mass in C Minor & Symphony No 41 in C 'Jupiter'. See poster for tickets (£15) or [nottinghambachchoir.org.uk](http://nottinghambachchoir.org.uk)

**1 DEC - Advent Sunday 6.30** Procession service. This will mark the opening and dedication of the artwork on the columns depicting the Christmas story which 10 community and other groups are currently working hard on.

**FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER** - Emmanuel House Christmas concert at St Mary's with **Hope Community Gospel Choir** (who sang at the legal service at St Mary's in March.) Promises to be a great evening: '*..absolutely blown away.. excellent harmony which only got better!*' [hopegospelchoir.com](http://hopegospelchoir.com) £5 on the door. Let's raise lots of money for Emmanuel House. Bring family & friends! [emmanuelhouse.org.uk](http://emmanuelhouse.org.uk)

## This Week's Services

**Sunday 10.45am Remembrance Service**

**Sunday 6.30pm Solemn Eucharist**

**Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong**

**Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion**

**St Mary's is open between 10am and 3pm Mon-Sat**

**Please see poster or website for Christmas at St Mary's**

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

Harry Palmer

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