

This Week at St Mary's

1 December 2019

...OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

I expect you have noticed how the words “of biblical proportions” have become a popular way to describe something exceptional, especially in a bad or unpleasant way. During the recent floods, headline writers used it - *torrential rain of "biblical proportions" has caused serious flooding across parts of the Midlands and Yorkshire.*

It's not limited to rain. A long lasting drought, a mass movement of displaced people, and an epidemic ravaging a region are examples of other ghastly things now described as being of ‘Biblical proportions’.

I'm uneasy about this. Sure, extreme events are recorded in the Bible. The most obvious is the ancient story of the Flood, when after 40 days and 40 nights the whole earth was covered with water. Also, extreme language is used to describe the plagues which God brought upon Egypt, the country where the Jews were in slavery, before they were miraculously liberated. And there are other examples.

I suspect when we hear the words ‘of biblical proportions’, it evokes fear? ‘Your house may soon be under a metre of water’; ‘you may die from an out of control epidemic’; or ‘you may soon be affected by a mass movement of people’ are rather scary statements.

My reading of the Bible, however, is that whilst it connects us with the world as it actually is - much as we may wish it were different - it is supremely a hope-filled book. This is because God, personally, has acted at the very point the world most needed it. As a result, we can all know we are known and loved by Him, just as we are, meaning that even in the darkest night, there are rays of light because God is one who makes all things new.

Now, to describe His grace as being of ‘Biblical proportions’ - that would be spot on.

Tom Gillman

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

We are usually open between 10am and 3pm Mon-Sat and during services on Sunday

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S...

Bach Choir concert on Saturday, the first at St Mary's under Peter Siepmann's direction. Yin reports, "It was a lovely concert, beautiful setting and a wonderful performance from the choir and orchestra and the soloists of Mozart's magnificent works. It was worth coming out on a rainy evening!"

Sunday's theme was **Christ the King**. Tom comments, Like many good Robin Hood people, I don't find always it easy to relate to Christ as King but found very helpful Luke's handling of it at end of ch 23 esp in Joseph of Arimathea, a ruler who instead of writing off the idea, is entrusted with Jesus' Body. Beautiful image.

Lighting the columns - on Monday, learning as they went, Duncan, Grant and Tom managed to get all 10 in place. Wonderful artwork began to arrive.

Funeral of June Keeling on Tuesday. Family and friends gathered at St Mary's, where June had as a child come to Sunday School. One of the family's last memories of her was her repeatedly praying the Lord's Prayer.

Flooded ground delayed **arrival of Christmas Trees** on Thursday for the festival. But by 2.30pm all had been safely delivered. On Friday the church was a hive of activity as the trees were decorated and more artwork arrived. Gary Pitt, videographer captured the scene - to be used in Bishop Paul's Christmas message.

CHRISTMAS CARDS. The Dove and the Donkey cards have been well received. These are from the St Mary's 'animal safari' range and all proceeds will be donated to Emmanuel House. £1 a card (as last year) and do buy lots!

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

GIVING BY PHONE - Jean, our extremely hard-working Treasurer has set up a facility to make it easy, in our increasingly cashless society, to give money to the church. Operative from next week, using your smart phone camera, hover over the 'code' (will be on the back page of future publications), open the app and follow the simple instructions.

ST MARY'S PROJECTED 2019 DEFICIT - Jean's best guestimate is that we are looking at **£20,000**. If you have been meaning to, or you now think you'd like to give some money to St Mary's, now would be a good moment to translate intention into action.

FRIDAY 13 DEC 7pm - Hope Community Gospel Choir Christmas concert for Emmanuel House at St Mary's. £5 entry. Promises to be a great evening '*...absolutely blown away...excellent harmony which only got better!*' hopegospelchoir.com emmanuelhouse.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS needed, both to make cakes and other finger food, which will be sold on the night to raise more funds, and ALSO help on the night, generally to host and to serve. Please let Lorna Richardson know how you can help lorna.richardson@live.co.uk

Christmas Services

Friday 20 Dec 1pm Lace Market Carol Service
Tuesday 24 Dec 7pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Tuesday 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Wednesday 25 Dec 10.45 Christmas Day Communion Service

Community Christmas Services at St Mary's

Thursday 5 Dec 7.30pm Nottingham University Carol Service
Saturday 7 Dec 4pm Nottinghamshire Hospice Service
Tuesday 10 Dec 6.30pm Civic Carol Service
Thursday 12 Dec 7pm BBC Carols
Friday 13 Dec 7pm Emmanuel House with Hope Gospel Choir
Wednesday 18 Dec 7.30pm Nottm High School Nine Lessons & Carols
Thursday 19 Dec 10am Nottm Girls High School Carol Service

This Week's Service

Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm Advent Procession

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday (in Vestry) 5.30-6pm

Praying for St Mary's & Nottingham

~~~

Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks

John Bowers

John Conway

Harry Palmer

~~~~~

Email admin@stmarynotts.org

Website stmarysnottingham.org

Facebook [@stmarysnotts](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysnotts)

Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://twitter.com/stmarysnotts)

Instagram [@stmarysnotts](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)

Mon-Fri 10-3pm ☎ 0115 958 2105

Rev'd Tom Gillum ☎ 07825 041 432