

This Week at St Mary's

8 December 2019

COME, LORD JESUS

The community art project has way exceeded my expectations. At the Advent Procession we saw the columns gleaming, and how strong a feature the art adds at the base of each – full of energy. We are really grateful to all those who have participated.

When we had dedicated the artwork at our morning service, I am so glad that the five representatives present of the groups who had created the artwork led the prayers. For some of them, this was a 'first' for praying out loud in a public service (even attending one.)

I was struck forcibly by these prayers. From across Nottingham, artwork telling the Christmas story had been created over many weeks. It was all now in one place, in the civic church. Using prayers prepared by me, it completed everything we had been working on together that it was representatives of the groups who were the ones to articulate them. In so doing, and as we all responded, Come Lord Jesus, we were placing Him and our hope in Him at the heart of the whole project.

Wasn't it fitting that, in our uncertain and often harsh world, it was young people asking God to give us His hope that even in the darkest night, He will make all things new? And from Emmanuel House, that the God who makes a home with all of us, give us grace to welcome into our lives those in our city we choose not to see and we easily forget? And perhaps especially so for Rachel, a member of the L'Arche Community, to ask that God, in His wisdom, lead us to the place of humility, where His Son is to be found?

For me, an exceptionally rich meeting with God in St Mary's of Nottingham.

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...

'Worth the Weight' held another clothes sale on **Saturday** - well supported.

Dedication of Column Artwork at the 10.45 Service - see main article. Magical start to Advent, we hope making it easier to hear the call to us all to 'wake up'. 10 columns gleaming, community artwork on each, full of energy, telling anew the Christmas story. Christmas Tree Festival thanks to many local businesses and charities.

Advent Procession - One person emailed to say *'Thank you for a wonderful service. I have found myself pondering "wishing" versus "hoping" since hearing the Henri Nouwen reading. It hasn't left me, and my reflections are all helpful and positive. The Rowan Williams poem has been a favourite of mine for years - since hearing it one Advent in Cambridge.'*

Gary's video has been included in Bishop Paul's Christmas message, encouraging Christians to connect with and distribute God's power, hope and light of Christmas, and as our nation votes for a new government https://youtu.be/mY2JLoKr_DE

St Mary's Charity Trustees met on Tuesday and heard how a grant made last year to Sarah Bard allowed her to buy a specialist wheelchair and that she is now ranked 17 in British women's wheelchair tennis rankings, 208 in the world rankings. Go Sarah!

Toys donated for the Great Notts Toy Appeal were dropped off in Bilborough - to a church hall full of toys!

University Carol Service on Thursday - a very uplifting occasion with a range of musical and choral pieces - Viva Voce chamber choir included a number from our choir. Paulina spoke movingly about hope in suffering. Festive atmosphere over refreshments.

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

GIVING BY PHONE - The facility which Jean has set up a to make it easy, in our increasingly cashless society, to give money to the church is now fully up and running. Using your smart phone camera, hover over the 'code' (on the back page), open the app and follow the simple instructions.

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

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 Evensong

Wednesday 6.15pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday (in Vestry) 5.30-6pm

Praying for St Mary's & Nottingham

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks  
John Bowers  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer

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