

# ***This Week at St Mary's***

15 December 2019

## **“HER JESUS WITH SKIN ON”**

We can be in no doubt that Isaiah and John the Baptist, agents of God who spanned hundreds of years, were of the view that God is not neutral on the theme of justice. The God John preached about, and for whom we are waiting, does not offer a non-consequential free love. God is not neutral when it comes to injustice.

At the time of John, the economic gap between the upper class population and the agrarian population was getting wider and it was the religious leaders who exploited the poor. His challenge to them was to take action first and attend to spiritual change later. God is not passively benevolent but is active in the world challenging injustice wherever it is located.

When I worked for this diocese, one woman, the victim of sexual abuse told of a friend listening to her tell of long experience. She described her friend as ‘her Jesus with skin on’. This is what Christians are called to be, it’s how Jesus conducted his ministry. A small conversation, a small act will make a change and lead to other things.

The God who decides with equity for the meek of the earth calls us with confidence to live out what it is to be meek - an active and deliberate acceptance of undesirable circumstances that are seen as only part of a larger picture, a vision that goes far beyond the immediate.

Through your support of Emmanuel House, you are part of the active solution to homelessness in the city. Through your support, 19 of the 23 (mainly female) most entrenched rough sleepers with high level needs were supported into accommodation. Thank you.

Our God is a God of Justice. We are called to be his hands and feet in whatever context we find ourselves. We have a vision of greater things to come.

DENIS TULLY

# 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...

**Nottingham Hospice** Light Up a Life Service took place on Saturday. What a well-conceived opportunity to allow the recently bereaved to be together at Christmas. Lawrence Henry, winner of Masterchef 2018, did the honours turning on their Christmas Tree lights.

**Denis Tully** from Emmanuel House preached in the morning and says:

*The God for whom we are waiting, as we see described the scriptures, occupies a perspective. It is a description of a God that is not passively benevolent but is active in the world challenging injustice wherever it is located. In short, God is not neutral when it comes to injustice.*

...and from Tom in respect of his Sermon at Evensong

*We all easily overlook how damaging often are power structures. The Bible is clear of this serious issue and that it is in relationship with Jesus Christ, vulnerable and honest with ourselves and making humility in our relationships our priorities, there is an alternative way.*

**The Civic Carol Service** was on Tuesday – well attended and with lots of children. The introduction of the Music Hub jazz band gave the carols a real lift. Over tea and coffee the uniformed brigades' brass band 'serenaded' the assembled company

**BBC Carols** on Thursday - with the technicians keeping close tabs, neither the weather, transport problems nor the Election dented the richness of this service. The Police Band, our choir and Accord choir, soloist Michelle Todd, Freddie Kofi, not forgetting Mellers School choir, made the occasion wonderfully memorable. Readers included Chris from the Dementia choir.

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

**WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2020 12-1.30pm INSIGHT MEETING (WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY). All welcome!**

Nigel Wheatley, Centre Director of intu Victoria Centre and intu Broadmarsh, will give us an *INSIGHT* into the world of shopping and leisure destinations. Our host is **ACAS East Midlands** at their offices in Apex Court, City Link, BBC Island, London Rd, NG2 4LAA. As a buffet lunch is provided please email: [lensimmonds@aol.com](mailto:lensimmonds@aol.com) to confirm your attendance.

**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.

### **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**

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

Mike Ridley

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Email [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org)

Website [stmarysnottingham.org](http://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