

This Week at St Mary's

1 March 2020

From Prof Dr Richard Bull's sermon 'Transfiguration and the Climate Emergency'

The opening 3 words of Matthew's account of Jesus' transfiguration, after 6 days, echo the rhythm and pattern of Genesis 1. On the 7th day God had finished his work - biblically 7 is the perfect number. Wholeness, completion and restoration.

The transfiguration anticipates what God did for Jesus at Easter (a re-embodiment, a vibrant life that does not decay or corrupt.) He will do the same not just for human beings, but He will renew this Earth that we have now - the one that currently we are not doing a very good job of caring for. We might call it the crucified earth.

Crucifixion, the cruellest of deaths is a fair description of what is happening to our planet. The earth, a gift to us for us to tend and care for, instead we have plundered it. A sad irony that Christians have assumed we can use it as we like, believing that God will simply take us all away to Heaven when we're done. No.

Three ways we are crucifying the earth. **Climate Change & Global Warming.** We are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice. There is a very high probability that more than half of modern warming is due to humans. It also looks as though things are happening quicker than expected. **Deforestation,** and the associated species extinction - according to the WWF we're losing the equivalent to 27 soccer fields every minute. Extinction is a loss of our knowledge of God - we're erasing his fingerprints. **Plundering of resources** from our consumerist lifestyles, currently based on a take-make-waste linear model of production.

A quick 3 point response. We must ask for **forgiveness.** We have failed to cherish God's beautiful earth. **LiveLent:** simple behaviours that will make a difference - living lightly and caring for God's creation. **Collectively** - reflecting on how we can make an impact and influence others, doing the A Rocha Eco Church review.

We must be people of hope - God has promised he will renew the heavens and earth but we are called to be partners in this recreation.

**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...

At Evensong, Grant Walton reflected how from the mountaintop of an encounter with the glory of Jesus, to the mud and mire of human experience, persevering faith in the incarnate Christ is the mark of a disciple. Such faith sees mountains moved and devilish works undone as the new creation takes hold in our world.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday - students from NTU again did exams in the church.

Wednesday - 4th of the **Wellbeing in the Workplace Workshops**. Jo Tatum led the time on 'contemplation, nurturing our hearts.' Proving very stimulating and we believe it will help lead to an improvement in wellbeing.

Notts TV came and interviewed Tom for a piece on Ash Wednesday on their 5.30pm show.

Ashing and Holy Communion Service, set to Langlais *Messe solennelle*, Tom reflected that Lent is a time to allow our hearts to be touched through what we give up or take up, not just leaving us to feel better about ourselves or stroking our egos.

CORONAVIRUS Most people already, when they think they might have an infection, avoid receiving wine at communion, but in the context of the current coronavirus epidemic, please be particularly sensitive to this.

NOW AND COMING UP SOON...

REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL now due. Anyone not on it (Roll on board in South Porch) please fill in form on table by South Porch and put in box provided. Any questions to lorna.richardson@live.co.uk
Closing date for new applications and/or amendments is **5 April**.

PCC SECRETARY - we will need a new one after April, to work closely with Julie. Attend PCC meetings, take minutes, point of contact, etc. Discuss further with Tom, if interested.

TONIGHT 8pm in the church **ALLEGRI'S MISERERE & Bach's ACTUS TRAGICUS** performed by our Choir & Restoration Baroque.

MARCH 5 St Peter's 1pm (refreshments 12.30pm) **MY WORK MY FAITH - DAVID BAGUELEY**. 1st of 4 lunchtime talks for Lent as local people discuss the relationship between their Christian faith and work. David is Professor of Hearing Services, Nott'm University.

MARCH 7 St Peter's 11am **NOTTINGHAM BAROQUE SOLOISTS** perform Liszt's *Via Crucis* a musical meditation on the Stations of the Cross. See Will Burn for details or william.m.burn@gmail.com

MARCH 16 7.00pm CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE COMMONWEALTH at Nottingham Playhouse. A spectacular night of dance and music by some of the greatest performers from Nottingham/shire. Featuring Kanneh-Masons, Freddie Kofi & Bridge Community Gospel Choir, Xzibit, CRS Omari & Nat, Jinda Biant, RavelleSadé Fairman, Manushi, Jerub, and others. Tickets: £5 www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or 0115 9419419

MARCH 18 7.30-9.30pm Church in Action //Celebration & Prayer at Trent Vineyard NG7 2PX. Organised by Nott'm City Prayer and Faith Action Nott'm an evening of information, celebration and prayer for the work our churches are doing to bless the city through social action. Free ticket at churchinaction2020.eventbrite.co.uk

MARCH 25 7.30pm our Choir with the English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble perform glorious Renaissance Marian music, splendours from Venice. Tickets £15, £10 (conc) at trybooking.co.uk/PHS, Nottm Tourism Centre 08444 77 56 78, Windblowers 0115 941 0543.

Prayer Meeting

Every Wednesday (Vestry) 5.30-6pm
Praying for St Mary's & Nottingham

Upcoming Services

Wednesday Evensong 6.15pm
Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion
Sunday 10.45am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong

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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
Web stmarysnottingham.org
Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)
Office Mon-Fri 10-3pm 0115 958 2105
Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432
tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org