

This Week at St Mary's

5 April 2020

ENTERING HOLY WEEK

From Palm Sunday, the build up to Good Friday and Easter gathers. From Maundy Thursday to Easter Day the absence of a Blessing in any service is intended to (and does) create a continuum. At home this year, one as no other, by joining in with what we will be offering (not to mention the many other things available) this is a good opportunity to enter into this mystery, albeit in a new way.

We had hoped that we could have included in the 'Tridium' (Thurs, Fri, Sat) a suitable piece of music for Holy Saturday, the day the world was without God. Nothing was in the archives, and impossible to create anything, but you might like to listen online to something like James Macmillan's 7 last words. The 2006 film Children of Men with Michael Caine, captures well the mood.

We're now approaching 2 weeks into the lockdown and are being prepared for an extension(s). Many of us now know people who have/ had the virus, some who are now grieving. God entering into our suffering word, living with us in what we experience and then bursting from the tomb into glorious new life, having done whatever it took to put things right, could hardly be more topical. The Christian Gospel really does speak into the reality of our world as it actually is, however much we have tried to redraw its landscape.

Tom Gillman

GIVING MONEY

With no collections, regular giving can be done **online or by cheque**. Preferable from the church's viewpoint is a **Standing Order** (NatWest 560061 00834602) but we would be most grateful for a **one off payment**. You can also use the QR code here on the last page (hover over it with your mobile), and we aim to have the **Donate facility** on the website operational soon.

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you, especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's
We regret that in the current public health context, St Mary's has to remain closed

A POEM WHICH HAS PARTICULAR MEANING FOR ME

Margaret Wiedemann: In and out of time with T S Eliot

*For most of us, there is only the unattended
Moment, the moment in and out of time,
The distraction fit, lost in a shaft of sunlight,
The wild thyme unseen, or the winter lightning,
Or the waterfall, or music heard so deeply
That it is not heard at all, but you are the music
While the music lasts. These are only hints and guesses,
Hints followed by guesses; and the rest
Is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action.
The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is Incarnation.*

(From The Dry Salvages (1941) by T S Eliot)

Eliot sees World War II as a time of purgation which has the potential to reawaken spiritual awareness, both in the nation and in the individual. People meet God at the "intersection of the timeless with time", in moments when time seems to stand still. These moments can be experienced as existential terror, when life itself is threatened, or in a sudden glimpse of unexpected beauty, as those of us who are currently taking a daily hike on the canal towpath can testify.

For people at St Mary's, Eliot's description of intense absorption in music has a particular resonance. The listener whose identity is lost in the music is experiencing a union of flesh and spirit which points to the Incarnation. Beyond this, we need "prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action": a programme for our own fragmented and frightening times.

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Gregory's funeral took place on Monday at Wilford Hill Crematorium. Jean Lamb officiated with 2 mourners present, David his nephew on behalf of the Jackson family and Tom for the church family.

Brought up within a close knit, extended Nottingham family (living in W Bridgford above their fishmonger business on Melton Road) the young Greg was often the life and soul of the party, funny and fun to be with. He played the bassoon and accordion and was the proud owner of a very cool mobile turntable. Later in life he sang, notably in the Bach choir. He would entertain his nephews making play libraries with imaginative titles on the shelves. He was well read and a linguist - telephoning his nephew John in Paris (often late at night) announcing in near perfect French "C'est Oncle Grégoire". He worked as a librarian and then as an admin clerk at County Hall. In 1991, he married Sandra who died in 2016.

Supported by his parents particularly, he struggled for many years with serious mental illness. Life was often very hard for him. Glimpses of the 'true' Gregory would emerge at times of prayer. It is hoped later in the year to do a service for him along the lines we had hoped.

MEADOWS FOODBANK

Following the Archbishops' challenge to active expressions of Christian love during the current crisis, we are re-engaging in **supporting a local food bank** based at Bridgeway Hall in The Meadows.

Beth Mitchell who is our link has their **bank details** - so if a donation would be easier, please get in touch with her at tony.m1941@icloud.com 07775707855 or 0115 9476736. She can **collect donations** from you or receive donations at her home. They would like: *UHT milk, tinned potatoes, mashed potatoes, tinned pears, tinned carrots, tinned fruit, toothpaste, shower gel, washing up liquid, deodorant*. We will look at arrangements to set up **other collection points** whilst the church remains closed.

In a week where a million people have applied for Universal Credit, please support this initiative in whatever way you can.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

(See our website and follow the link, including for Orders for each Service)

Palm Sunday

11am Service for Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

7pm Service with chorales from JS Bach's St John Passion

Good Friday

12pm **Three hours at the Cross (Pt 1)**, to include Allegri's Misere, dramatized reading of Passion story (John), and chorales from JS Bach's St John Passion

2.30pm **Three Hours at the Cross (Pt 2)** concluding with Finzi's Lo, the full, final sacrifice

7pm Via Crucis by Franz Liszt, by the Nottingham Baroque Soloists, with readings.

Easter Day

11am Easter Day Morning Service

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**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks  
John Bowers  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer  
Mike Ridley

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