

This Week at St Mary's

10 MAY 2020

REALLY MEANING NEW CREATION

The heavy, dark grey atmosphere caused by the virus that has been with us these past 6 or 7 weeks is beginning to lift. We know the 'new normality' will take a while to emerge.

Easter Day is the great sign of **New Creation**. After the dark events of Christ's betrayal, arrest, trial and death (2020 has given us ample opportunity to enter something of this) nothing could be more welcome than 'New Creation'. But let's be honest, in most years our hopes for a better world quickly get subsumed within our materialist, 'this world' view. At best, God renewing his world might seem a nice idea, a distant dream.

This year it looks different, doesn't it? The world really will emerge different. Things needed to change, we knew, but now we can see they will. This is the time for Christians to pray that a vision of GOD'S NEW CREATION shapes the new - and for us to do all we can to work with God. 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer could not be coming at a better time.

Although not specifically Christian, I like the way this anonymous piece puts it.

We fell asleep in one world, and woke up in another. Suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris is no longer romantic, New York doesn't stand up anymore, the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and Mecca is empty. Hugs & kisses suddenly become weapons, and not visiting parents & friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realise that power, beauty & money are worthless, and can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for. The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think it's sending us a message: "You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember that you are my guests. Not my masters."

Tom Gillman

BURNT NORTON by T S Eliot - Kevin Hancox

*Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future
And time future contained in time past.
If all time is eternally present
All time is unredeemable.*

...and with these words, my introduction to The Quartets began. I can remember thinking that this was like no poetry I had ever read before. It was a deep and learned response to a puzzle I had only just had an inkling of. This poetry had a personal voice, intense, exacting, believable and honest, a powerful creative force that captured my own thoughts, and showed me a way to think of such a question. And the question? How do you describe the ineffable; how to contemplate on the eternal presence?

T S Eliot managed (for me) to affirm those brief moments of eternity, to suggest that the search is essential, affirming that there is a communion, an end to which we strive - to be completely attuned to the sacred. It is a finding of the ground on which all faith begins.

VIRTUAL COFFEE AND CAKE/PRE-LUNCH DRINK 17 May

Charles Price has offered to co-ordinate this, a chance for fellowship after the service, after the 1100 broadcast, via a video calling software. Please let Di know admin@stmarynotts.org if you'd like to join in.

THY KINGDOM COME 21 - 31 May

Archbishop's initiative which has led to a global, inter church prayer movement. We will be posting on the website details of the range of opportunities, with a focus for St Mary's being early evening (6.00pm) prayer on Ascension Day (21), Sunday 24, Tuesday 26, Thursday 28, and Pentecost 31.

GIVING MONEY

Best done online but cheque also welcome. Preferable from the church's viewpoint is a **Standing Order** (NatWest 560061 00834602) For **One-off donations**, use either the **QR code** on the back page or **Donate button** on the website. *Having to close the church has affected our rental income as well as donations: so the need now is, if you can, please to increase your financial commitment to St Mary's.*

JULIE HILTON REPORTS

Since taking up post on 6 January, I have had plenty to learn whilst settling into my new role of Operations Director. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know staff, volunteers, members of the congregation and external partners, as well as familiarizing myself with St Mary's policies and procedures.

A large part of my time has been spent talking to key individuals about the Strategic Development Priorities and planning how best to take this work forward. I am pleased to say that initial plans are now in place and I am excited about starting to further develop and implement them, I hope with your support. One of the first things I am looking forward to sharing with you very soon, is a set of promotional materials that help capture and communicate our strategic development priorities for members of the congregation and visitors to St Mary's.

Some of my time has been spent updating existing policies, for example, the Health and Safety policy (thank you very much to Dave Richardson for his assistance with this) and I have also started initial work on support for St Mary's volunteers. If you are one of our volunteers, please do let me know if you have any thoughts as to what may be helpful, I would love to hear from you.

Sadly, the current situation has impacted on me being able to get to know and work with more people, however work is continuing behind the scenes and I am looking forward so much to being back in church with you all.

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK

Thanks again to those who have already responded. Self-giving love (at the heart of Christianity) is of course extremely practical. To buy even one extra non-perishable item a week can become a rich moment to express this love, a gift to someone you don't and, almost certainly, never will know. Put this item in a safe place and let Beth know when you've got a few to collect. Particularly needed this week.

JAM - SQUASH/CARTONS OF JUICE - SHAMPOO FOR BOTH WOMEN & MEN - SHOWER GEL FOR MEN - DEODORANT FOR WOMEN & MEN.

Contact Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736
tony.m1941@icloud.com to take further.

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.

11.00am SUNDAY SERVICE - livestreamed
(See our website and follow the link, including for Order of Service)

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Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks  
John Bowers  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer  
Mike Ridley

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