

# *This Week at St Mary's*

17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020

## A VERY POIGNANT RESONANCE

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Katherine Mary Monica wife of William Lechmere Wade-Dalton, baptised in this Church 10th May 1899, married 23rd October 1918, died 30th October 1918*

These words are on a stained glass window in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at St Mary's, sitting underneath a beautiful bride in her Nottingham Lace wedding dress. She was a victim of the Spanish Flu epidemic, dying just a week after her wedding.

A 1979 letter from The Flower Shop, Bridlesmith Gate mentions Miss Grace White, now 'a great age' who went to the wedding and also to the tragic funeral. It says that Katherine and William 'met on the hunting field. He must have been a good 10 years older and was a great landowner, in Yorkshire.' The letter also comments on how 'the shock of her death killed her father, he never got over it.'

Many people have said how very moving they find this tragic story. It seems to draw us into prayer, as we see saints Monica and Catherine accompanying Katherine who is kneeling before Mary, herself holding the young Jesus. This all happened just over 100 years ago, but....

A photo of the window is in the visit/explore section of our website. For me it speaks of the compassion of God, right there with us in all we go through, meeting us as a fellow sufferer. It assures that however isolated we may feel, we are never alone. And it depicts the 'far greater reality' of all that has been opened wide for us to enter, starting right now, in which nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

*Tom Gillman*

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** - and with apologies this was omitted last week. *Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.* Please support <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

## ON WENLOCK EDGE by A E Housman - John Keys

Some are introduced to poetry in the environment of the classroom, others through settings to music or, of course, both. Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* was an early introduction to the poetry of George Herbert - *The Call* has especial meaning. The Prologue to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* always brings a smile.

Nonetheless, two settings of selections from A E Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* have particular resonance with me; George Butterworth's cycle starts with *Loveliest of trees* and moves to the dark and moving *Is my team ploughing?* - Vaughan Williams's selection is no less dark at times. *On Wenlock Edge* brings back memories of trips with friends from Chester to recite Housman's poetry in the locations cited. This poem vividly describes the view to the Wrekin, from Uriconium (now known as Wroxeter) and the wind-swept Wenlock Edge. The relationship between the poet and the Roman soldier who would have lived two thousand years before relates the present to the past. To stop and take in the view at Major's Leap makes the imagery more vivid.

*On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;  
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;  
The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.*

*Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman  
At yonder heaving hill would stare:  
The blood that warms an English yeoman,  
The thoughts that hurt him, they were  
there.*

*'Twould blow like this through holt and  
hanger  
When Uricon the city stood:  
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,  
But then it threshed another wood.*

*There, like the wind through woods in riot,  
Through him the gale of life blew high;  
The tree of man was never quiet:  
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.*

*The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:  
To-day the Roman and his trouble  
Are ashes under Uricon.*

## VIRTUAL COFFEE AND CAKE/PRE-LUNCH DRINK 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org) if you'd like to join in.

## THY KINGDOM COME 21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May

Archbishop's initiative which has led to a global, inter church prayer movement. See website for details of the range of opportunities, including 6.00pm Compline (20 mins) with prayer for Nottingham done via SKYPE (audio only) on Ascension Day 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, and Pentecost 31<sup>st</sup>.

## REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINE - Dr James Persico

As with many other final-year students who graduated early to help in the wards during the pandemic, I did not know quite what to expect when I stepped back in hospital. Since our exams and (since-mothballed) apprenticeship period, the world greeting us has changed.

Perhaps the strangest alteration is the much-vaunted PPE that I and my new colleagues don. Smothered under visors, respirators and goggles, while consciously maintaining our distance, the ability to communicate is frequently tested. This transpires not only verbally, but also in the silent subtle expressions of sympathy, concern or sorrow whose visibility we had once taken for granted. We take care, therefore, to ensure distancing does not beget isolation, and to keep an eye on each other as much as our patients.

We are thankful that our ward's patients are, for the most part, successfully being kept free of the virus, and those not so fortunate are doing better than those on more intensive treatment in the ICU. Patients' stoicism and good humour buoy the mood, with one memorably singing his way through a rather uncomfortable biopsy. The buzz of the wards contrasts with the conspicuously muted corridors, devoid of their usual flutter of outpatients and visitors.

I am reminded that plagues are a familiar experience for the Church, from the plague of Cyprian to the Black Death, through to the present. For all our monitoring, testing and medications, we once again find ourselves confronted with a malady whose nature we do not fully understand, against which we have no definitive remedy, and to which we are ourselves vulnerable. And yet we share also, even in a secularised health system, that once-novel ardent regard and care for every human life and its dignity, for which the earliest Christian physicians, nurses and carers were distinguished from their contemporaries.

### **THE MEADOWS FOODBANK**

Thanks again to those who have already responded. Buy each week an extra (non perishable) item as an act of self giving love, to someone you don't know. Put this item in a safe place and let Beth know when you've got a few to collect. **Particularly needed now: SUGAR, JAM, SQUASH, TINNED SPAGHETTI, TINNED FRUIT, DEODORANT.** Contact Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com

## 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 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.*

**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)*

~~~

**Please continue to pray for**

Estelle Barks  
John Bowers  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer  
Mike Ridley

~~~~~



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

Web [stmarysnotts.org](http://stmarysnotts.org)

Facebook Instagram Twitter @stmarysnotts

Office Mon-Fri 10-3pm 0115 958 2105 (infrequently being checked)

Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432

[tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org](mailto:tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org)