

# *This Week at St Mary's*

24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020

## SINGING FROM THE CHURCH TOWER

I'd never, before coming to Nottingham, experienced a service on a church tower. My first year, 2018, Health and Safety didn't allow it as there was work going on to repair a broken wall in the bell chamber. But we were there on Ascension Day 2019. Quite an early start, some would say very early, for a good number of us, including choir, to sing of the Ascended Christ.

This year there is singing from the tower - but it's young kestrels who are providing the music. Eggs were laid in a nest cosily tucked among the louvred windows. Duncan thinks the mother has decided it's now time for them to 'flee the nest'. Whatever the reason, loud chicks' voices are to be heard.

Our early morning singing is yet another casualty of the current restrictions. It would have been perfect conditions. Like many of you, I feel deeply deprived of yet another highlight of the year. Ascension Day has been almost entirely forgotten by most people, so an imaginative 'tower service' helps a little restore it to its rightful position of prominence.

The young kestrels are saying something more to me. Praise and worship of God from a church building certainly continues. It's an act of the whole of creation, in which humans (as a concession, given our track record) are urged to participate. Encouraging his monks to be up at dawn to worship, Bernard of Clairvaux comments that if the birds can do so with gusto, so can we. So we can, even if we still have to wait to be back in the church, let alone up on the tower roof.



## THY KINGDOM COME - ON NOW TILL 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 with prayer for Nottingham done via SKYPE (audio only) Today, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, and Pentecost 31<sup>st</sup>.

## A SHROPSHIRE LAD by Michael Clark

Although I was born in Bristol and lived there throughout all the war years with my mother and three siblings, at the age of eleven I was parcelled off to boarding school in Ludlow. So it was that this rather scruffy town sparrow went to live in what most adults would have regarded as a rather idyllic market town and as I spent nearly all my teenage years there I qualified by reason of residency to be regarded as a Shropshire lad.

When called to leave by National Service my leaving was very final as I had no base there, no 'home' to go back to. When I eventually paid a visit to Ludlow many years later and my heart was firmly fixed elsewhere I went to the churchyard of St Lawrence's and going to the north wall perimeter looked up the wonderful vista of the Corve valley as far as the Long Mynd with Housman's words very much in my mind -

*Into my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows:  
What are those blue remembered hills  
What spires, what farms are those?*

*That is the land of lost content  
I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And may not come again.*

It's sombre Housman, make of it what you will.

**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, for someone you don't know. Let Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com know when you've got a few to collect. **Particularly needed now: SUGAR (small packets,) COFFEE, CEREAL, TINS OF SPAGHETTI, MACARONI CHEESE, POTATOES, TOOTHBRUSHES, WASHING UP LIQUID.**

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** - *Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.* Please support [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week) (no Smartie Appeal, with the usual coffee & cakes, this year.)

## **NO PROPER GRADUATION - Zoe Nendick**

I've been back home with my family during the lockdown. It has been almost non-stop work for me - at first I had some difficulty adjusting to life without my partner and friends and was unable to work properly for a bit. I have adjusted now and have been working very hard to finish my undergraduate dissertation. Also, instead of singing in the Djanogly Recital Hall, I have to submit a video for my final recital which will be strange. I am finding working in lockdown exhausting sometimes, but the weather is helping a lot.

We are keeping our spirits high by doing lots of baking and playing table tennis. My brother is working the night shift at Tesco so he is keeping very busy as a key worker. My youngest brother is being home-schooled, which I think he finds quite enjoyable, and is spending most of his time playing either his clarinet or Minecraft! My Mum is used to working at home, and so we are all quite happy together.

Being in my final year, I am finding it upsetting and disappointing to be missing out on my final term, which should be filled with concerts and enjoying the lovely weather with my friends (and the occasional exam!). I was so looking forward to celebrating my hard work with my friends and family at my graduation. I think it is perhaps particularly sad for final year students to not have a proper end to our degrees.

I miss St Mary's and my other choirs and have been contributing to all of the weekly recordings. I have recently received an offer from the University of Nottingham to stay for another year to do a Masters course in musicology, so you haven't seen the last of me yet!

## **VIRTUAL COFFEE AND CAKE/PRE-LUNCH DRINK 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Charles Price has offered to co-ordinate this, a chance for fellowship after the service, after the 1100 broadcast, via a video calling software. Bishop Paul will be speaking that day and will be joining us. Please let Di know [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org) if you'd like to join in.

**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.*

*The garden is open weekdays 10.00-3.00*

**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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