

This Week at St Mary's

7th JUNE 2020

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

On a cold January morning at a metro station in Washington DC, a man started to play the violin. It was the rush hour and thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. The violinist played 6 Bach pieces, over about 45 minutes.

Only 6 people stopped and stayed a while. The one who paid most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tried to hurry him along, but he kept looking at the violinist. Finally, the mother pushed him hard, but as the child walked, he kept turning his head back. This action was repeated by several other children, but all their parents, without exception, made them move on. The violinist collected \$32.

When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it, no one applauded. The violinist was in fact Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played some of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5m. Two days before, he played to a packed audience in Boston, the seats averaging \$100.

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

You may also have seen the short video about this, if not I'll send it to you. Not a big jump to see ourselves often missing out when God reveals Himself to us. The issue is that WE need to shift our ground. Jesus compares those who don't to pigs who carry on eating, while a pearl is under their eyes. No better place to start than at the edges of our world, seeing things through the eyes of the homeless, refugees and the victims of slavery, etc.



VIRTUAL COFFEE AND CAKE/PRE-LUNCH DRINK Today

If you have not already let Di know you'd like to join in, please do so soonest. Bishop Paul will be joining us. admin@stmarynotts.org

HUGHLEY STEEPLE By A E HOUSMAN - Jean Hammonds

Having been a frequent visitor to Shropshire for many years, the recent Housman contributions fondly remind me of days prior to lockdown of being able to walk the rolling hills and visit the picturesque market towns of the county. I stay in the pretty village of Hughley which is situated 5 miles south-west of Much Wenlock, nestling at the foot of Wenlock Edge. It is of the church in Hughley that Housman wrote the poem 'Hughley Steeple' as part of *A Shropshire Lad*. As with other Housman poems it possesses a somewhat dark nature as he contemplates the occupants of the churchyard.

One anomaly of this poem relates to the steeple of the beautiful 13th-century church of St John the Baptist in Hughley. Rather than the tall structure that might be expected from the title of the poem, the church actually possesses a very short brick and timber bell tower. In a letter to his brother in 1896, Housman described looking down on the village whilst walking along Wenlock Edge and observing that the church did not appear to have much of a steeple. Having already composed the poem, he considered changing the title "but could not invent another name that sounded so nice".

*The vane on Hughley steeple
Veers bright, a far-known sign,
And there lie Hughley people,
And there lie friends of mine.
Tall in their midst the tower
Divides the shade and sun,
And the clock strikes the hour
And tells the time to none.*

*To south the headstones cluster,
The sunny mounds lie thick;
The dead are more in muster
At Hughley than the quick.
North, for a soon-told number,
Chill graves the sexton delves,
And steeple-shadowed slumber
The slayers of themselves.*

*To north, to south, lie parted,
With Hughley tower above,
The kind, the single-hearted,
The lads I used to love.
And, south or north, 'tis only
A choice of friends one knows,
And I shall ne'er be lonely
Asleep with these or those.*

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK - Thanks again for all donated. 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: **BISCUITS, TINNED MEAT, TINNED FISH, TINNED KIDNEY BEANS, SHAMPOO (WOMEN'S)**

READY TO RE-OPEN

Being positive, it can't be long before some **public access to St Mary's** is permitted. Work has been going on this week to repair the paving slabs in the aisles. Duncan has been doing more maintenance jobs.

The government working group is yet to announce for what and when re-opening will be allowed. We are **preparing to welcome** all entering for solace and prayer, after this (very) long time of closure. We want to help people see how we think God has been and is with us at this time. We'd like to help hear what it is He might say to a person entering St Mary's who is grateful or relieved, or confused, hurting or fearful. We will resume worship in the church as soon as we are allowed to.

Julie is working on steps needed to ensure the **safe re-opening** of the church. She says that *'we have undertaken a risk assessment and put measures in place to meet the requirements to date for social distancing, hygiene and track and trace.'*

ROSEMARY CLARK is in QMC for some in-patient treatment for a long standing problem. She hopes to be home by the weekend.

CHARLES PRICE had an emergency appendix operation on Wednesday 27th - recovering well.

LECTIO 365 PRAYER APP daily devotional resource that helps deeper engagement with scripture and inspires prayer put together by Pete Greig founder of 24-7 international, interdenominational movement of prayer. It's free. Several of us are finding it inspirational..

ST MARY'S - NOTTINGHAMSHIRELIVE - feature article by Rachel Gorman, one of the 16 places in Nottinghamshire you haven't visited but really should. Great to have been included, very frustrating the building is still closed (although others featured in same boat.)

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. *Please continue (better still, increase) your financial support of St Mary's in this difficult economic climate.*

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)

Please continue to pray for

Estelle Barks
John Bowers
Rosemary Clark
John Conway
Harry Palmer
Mike Ridley

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