

# *This Week at St Mary's*

21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2020

## LANDFILL HARMONIC ORCHESTRA

You may well already have come across the film made about the Landfill Harmonic. Set in Cateura, Paraguay, a slum built on a landfill, families living there recycle other people's rubbish which they then sell. A man explains how it was when someone found a violin's shell in a pile of rubbish that they started making recycled musical instruments.

"I feel very happy when I see a kid playing a recycled violin", says a man who also comments he never imagined himself building an instrument. Juan (Bebe) is 19 and plays a cello made from an oil can and discarded wood. Its pegs are made from old tool to tenderize beef. A bit of a gnocchi maker is used for another part.

"Cateura is not a place to have a violin. In fact, a violin is worth more than a house." A young girl feels her "life would be meaningless without music". A man describes the effect of hearing a violin being played, "I feel butterflies in my stomach. It's a feeling that I don't know how to explain."

This film of people transforming trash into music demonstrates love, courage and creativity. "People realise that we should not throw away trash carelessly. Well we shouldn't throw away people either". Christianity is built on the 2 great columns of creation and redemption. It's through the creative arts that often we best see the beauty of all human life, indeed of all life, and every bit as movingly, if not more so, the amazing transforming power of new life in the raw and least expected places.

For the trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg>



**PRAYING TOGETHER** 6.30pm every Thursday join via skype for Evening Prayer. Contact Tom to be included on group list (it's fine to join in when you can.)

## FROM 'WE ARE TRANSMITTERS' D. H. Lawrence

Selected by Di Illsley

Indeed a title for our times, with sentiments no less apt today than in 1929 when it was published, sentiments I engaged with over 10 years ago when researching the source of the creative mind for my Fine Art studies at Nottingham University.

There are many uplifting conversations amongst people relishing the newly enforced simplicity in their lives and appreciation for the more simple, everyday things. But how are we transmitting to our hopeless and despairing neighbours?

In John 4 Jesus transmits love and hope to the Samaritan woman at the well '...whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

In our new-found simplicity do we transmit life, do we transmit hope? Even if it only begins in the whiteness of a washed purificator...

*As we live, we are transmitters of life.  
And when we fail to transmit life, life fails to flow through us.  
...if, as we work, we can transmit life into our work,  
life, still more life, rushes into us to compensate, to be ready  
and we ripple with life through the days.  
Even if it is a woman making an apple dumpling, or a man a stool,  
if life goes into the pudding, good is the pudding  
good is the stool,  
content is the woman, with fresh life rippling in her,  
content is the man.  
Give, and it shall be given unto you is still the truth about life.  
But giving life is not so easy.  
It doesn't mean handing it out to some mean fool, or letting the living dead  
eat you up.  
It means kindling the life-quality where it was not,  
even if it's only in the whiteness of a washed pocket handkerchief.*

**THE MEADOWS FOODBANK** - Buy each week an extra (non perishable) item as an act of self giving love, for someone you don't know. Particularly needed now: **SUGAR - SURFACE CLEANER - SHAMPOO men and women - DEODORANT men** Let Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com know when you've got a few to collect.

## Denis Tully, Emmanuel House CEO: HOMELESSNESS

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Government told Local Authorities that they had to bring in those on the streets to protect their health ('Everybody In'.) Emmanuel House transferred shelter guests to a hotel and we have been supporting 40 people in that facility for the duration of the lockdown. The project has been a phenomenal success both nationally and locally. 3 years progress has been made in 2 months. For many in the hotels their health, both physical and mental has improved. Some have reduced their drinking. All have accessed medical services and are registered with a GP. Some people who have refused services for years and now engaging in services and have moved on to accommodation.

The hotel accommodation is being wound down. The funding was due to run out on 18<sup>th</sup> June, resulting in many people having to go on the street. Voluntary agencies and the City Council working together acquired additional funding to extend the accommodation so that solutions could be found for those remaining. Presently there are now around 20 people in hotels. There are a few people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) (Benefits) and additionally some who do not have the right to work who are facing difficult prospects.

The promotion of such a policy that constructs destitution into the life of a person takes the Christian into a murky area. Practically, someone receives better care if they commit a crime than if a victim of geographical and economic circumstances. NRPF is to treat someone as less than human. As people of faith we have to speak out and say this is unacceptable. Support for a homeless person has to have within it the possibility of transition and momentum. In other words, hope. NRPF is not a solution. We need a solution.

**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..

**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

*St Mary's open for private prayer and reflection*

*11.00-3.00 each weekday*

**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  
Rosemary Clark  
John Conway  
Harry Palmer  
Mike Ridley

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