

This Week at St Mary's

20th SEPTEMBER 2020

BEING SHAPED BY SOMETHING THAT IS INVISIBLE

I was struck this week by a comment made by Steve Silvester, the Vicar of St Nics, that for the past 6 months our lives have been shaped by something which we can't 'see'. It's happened rather dramatically and quickly.

I know it's not as simple as saying that this is a brand new development. Many of us would agree the way we have been used to living has primarily been as a result of the people and things we can see and touch, ie our friends and families, homes and gardens, food and drink, holidays, hobbies and leisure activities. At the same time, many have perhaps bought in too uncritically to the 'secular materialist' assumptions all around us. There has largely been a popular marginalisation of the possibility that 'unseen things' not only have been present but are in fact the keys influences.

It's commented that the things we decide are important are first shaped by what comes from the philosopher's study. We may assume it's the marketing departments or (social) media which do this, but from the 'ivory towers' first come the articulation of the foundations which then are used as the basis for marketing campaigns etc.

Steve suggested that there may now be an opportunity for Christians in this Covid climate to articulate afresh the Gospel (we do speak of things which are unseen.) It's not perhaps the step it was 6 months ago for people to accept at least as a possibility that the work of grace is real, even though its origins seem invisible. There is a difference, in that Covid's influence is driven by fear and survival whereas the Gospel of Jesus is transformation by someone we can't see but whose love the Holy Spirit makes extremely real.

Tom Gillman

RESILIENCE IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

As part of the work we are doing on Wellbeing, Dr Debbie Hawker is leading a 'Taster Session' for a course, Resilience in a World of Change. It's at St Mary's on Wednesday 14th October 12.30-2.30pm. It is being livestreamed as well. Please get the word around.

How can we remain resilient in a world of lockdown and social distancing, cancelled plans and uncertainty? How can we help others to stay resilient despite disappointments and isolation? In this session we will consider physical, emotional, creative, spiritual and social aspects of resilience, with practical tips about steps we can take day by day to build resilience - even during a pandemic.

Debbie is a clinical psychologist. She and her husband support cross-cultural workers around the world. Debbie has served in over 30 countries, including several war zones. She has learned about resilience through observing how people thrive in difficult environments, as well as through research, and by being a parent! Debbie is author of eight books, including "Resilience in life and faith" (BRF, 2019, co-authored with Tony Horsfall). She conducted psychological research at Oxford University Psychiatry Department for nine years before moving to Nottinghamshire.

To book a free place, or for details of livestreaming, please contact Di Illsley at dillsley@stmarynotts.org T:0115 9582105. Please note, St Mary's has measures in place for Covid safety as you would expect, including requesting all visitors to wear a face covering and hand sanitise on entry to the church; maintain social distancing; provide contact details for NHS Test and Trace; use a single point of entry and exit to the church as indicated. Privacy Policy consents required.

CARMEN FLORES AT ST MARY'S If you have not yet had the chance to listen to virtuoso violist Carmen playing Bach at St Mary's, there is a treat in store. Part of the Nottingham Chamber Music festival Separation and Serenade series, music has been selected to complement the venue it is performed in. See NCMF website - still to come Nottingham High 21st, Royal Concert Hall 23rd, Nottingham Contemporary 25th.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST MARY'S.

- Numbers limited to 50, please let the office know if you are coming. Names to be recorded and kept for 21 days.
- Automatic hand sanitiser at door and/or wash hands.
- Wearing of masks, please.
- All music pre-recorded, communal singing is *discouraged*.
- If you use a paper service sheet, please take it away with you.
- No collection - cash/yellow envelopes in chest by south door.
- Communion, bread only.

CHURCH OPENING This week the church on Wednesday and Friday is the venue for the deacons' pre-ordination retreat and so will be closed. ALSO, we need volunteers to help keep open the church, as there has to be someone present to record names of those who come to visit. If you can help, please contact Julie.

FABRIC COMMITTEE we need to strengthen the team as we plan to do exciting work to the building. Expertise, interest and energy needed to help us make the very most of our Grade 1 listed medieval building.

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK - gratefully received: Shampoo, soap bars, toothpaste, pasta sauce, custard, rice pudding, tinned peas/potatoes, macaroni cheese, sugar. 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. *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 is usually open for private prayer and reflection 11-3pm each weekday - please call to confirm if visiting (closed this Wednesday & Friday for events - please see above)

**11.00am SUNDAY SERVICE at St Mary's
Live & Streamed**

*(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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Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.org
Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)
Office Mon-Fri 10-3pm 0115 958 2105
Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432 tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org