

This Week at St Mary's

25th OCTOBER 2020

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Since Covid struck, we've been forced to re-think lots of things - not least about money. Government borrowing at near unprecedented levels, whole sectors of the economy collapsing, unemployment on the rise, financial hardship looming for many, etc. Simply carrying on as though nothing has changed is inconceivable.

Not I hope to sound opportunist, but doesn't this chime in with Jesus Christ's teaching? Following the resurrection of Jesus, something has fundamentally changed. The world is now on a course which demands a total re-think, not least on money. The vision of the new is far more exciting and vitally important, the new thing is right here, now.

Money becomes a means of **expressing our gratitude** to God. It's a **gift**, it's not 'mine'. It can be **gone as quickly as it came**. We are '**stewards**' of what we have, with opportunity to **invest generously** (the hallmark) where we, being shaped by and led by the Holy Spirit glimpse 'treasure in heaven'. All very practical, **decide** what to support; **give as much as you can; make it happen**.

I am so grateful to all who are investing money in the ministry and mission of St Mary's. Let me thank you all, most sincerely. Since my first visit, I have felt 'what an amazing opportunity there is. With our history, location, civic role, the people here and who are being gathered, our amazing music, the building and its potential, now our development plans, etc - it really is extremely exciting.

In common with pretty well all churches, our income has taken a hit in 2020 (not least from reduced 'events'.) Jean's best estimate is a £50,000 loss this year. Prayerfully, I know we will open ourselves to God's leading, how each of us can participate to respond to the generosity God has showered on us.

Tom Gillman

THE WIDER DIOCESAN FINANCIAL PICTURE

The Diocese anticipates a substantial deficit this year. A *Parish Share Support Fund* is being set up under which the Church Commissioners are offering £35 million nationwide to support dioceses. An application has been submitted to receive money from this fund. The Parish Share Support Fund is being made available to support parishes in 2021 and is to mitigate the impact of a loss in trading and rental income. Bishop's Council are releasing £400,000 but consideration will be given to increasing this if the need is greater than anticipated.

For 2020, Nottingham South Deanery was asked, and agreed, to "freeze" our allocation at the level of payments actually made for 2017 (just over £881,000). For 2019 we achieved 96.6% payment success - nine parishes paid in full, six parishes underpaid, and six parishes made voluntary extra payments. Diocesan Synod has, for 2020 set at £83,358 what each parish needs to pay to cover the cost of ministry.

Using the August data from the Diocese, and adjusting up for four parish payments on 31 August that did not reach the Diocesan bank account until September, we have paid 55.9% so far in 2020. St Mary's has agreed to pay £50,000 a year.

Gary Stephenson, our deanery Treasurer writes: *All Deanery Leadership Teams have met with key Diocesan staff and we are all being urged to make our best efforts to pay our allocations in full to finance clergy stipends and other church/diocese work.*

In Nottingham South Deanery we are working to continue the "partnership" approach among our parishes, so we can help each other where possible in the spirit of Galatians 6 vv 2 & 5 ("Bear one another's burdens" & "We all have our own load to carry"). Support is also available from the Leadership Team.

GIVING MONEY - Best done online via either the QR code or Donate button on the website. Preferable from St Mary's viewpoint is a Standing Order (NatWest 560061 00834602) For one-off donations, cheque, cash yellow envelope, in chest by South Porch Door.

POETRY COMPETITION - well, that may be overstating it! So many new phrases and words have emerged these past months which deserve exposing in poetry. Thinking of 'waiting in the lobby' (online meetings) and now 'circuit breaker' along with the familiar social distancing, self isolating, etc. Let the creative juices flow!

ALLY AND BEN'S WEDDING - 31st October 2pm Ally (a member of our choir) and her fiancé, Ben want everyone unable to attend St Mary's in person due to current restrictions, able to feel part of their ceremony. It'll be broadcast on the church website in the usual way. Do listen in and support them as they become husband and wife.

CHURCH OPEN MEETING to consider proposed re-ordering plans Sun 1st Nov, immed following the 11.00 Service. Plans on display in the church. Please let the office know if you would like them sent. To make the most of this meeting, please let us have in advance, ideally in writing, your questions, comments, etc.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 8th November 1045am Notts TV will be televising the service. Numbers will be strictly limited, in line with regulations. Please let Di know asap if you would like to come and if you are able to help on the day.

GRIEF AND LOSS WORKSHOP Transforming Notts Together is offering this (and other workshops, ie Covid cash Recovery) free online to anyone living within Nottinghamshire. Highly recommended, 2 hours long.
<https://transformingnottstogether.org.uk/areas-of-work/equipping-churches>

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK - this week they welcome toiletries, washing up items, tinned veg & meat. Contact Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR Estelle Barks, John Bowers, Rosemary Clark, Barbara Davis, Harry Palmer, Mike Ridley

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
11.30-230pm each weekday - please call to confirm if visiting*

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

(Livestreamed - see our website and follow the link, including Order of Service)

6.30PM SUNDAY EVENSONG from 1 Nov

6.15PM WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

6.30 THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Tom

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST MARY'S.

- Numbers limited to 50, please let the office know if coming.
- Test and Trace signing in or by App, please.
- Automatic hand sanitiser at door and/or wash hands.
- Wearing of masks, please.
- Sorry, no communal singing.
- Communion, bread only.
- Please take away the paper service sheet you use
- Please avoid gathering at the South Porch on arrival/departure



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