

This Week at St Mary's

8th November 2020

WORSHIP AND PRAYER DURING THE LOCKDOWN

"We are clear that we do now need to call all Christian people to pray and to do so continually over this next month. We set out an invitation to you to join in this call to prayer and to keep both praying and serving our communities." So began a letter from the Archbishops and Bishop of London to all clergy.

Their suggested focus of prayer is to be 6.00pm, each day. Please join in that if you can. Our aim is to livestream Wednesday Evensong, and there is also Evening Prayer on Thursday, which we are moving from 6.30 to 6.00pm. Initiatives to stimulate prayer at St Mary's during these 4 weeks will be welcomed, please let me know of any.

The church will be open over the middle of the day during the week for private prayer and do make use of that. Best to check with the office (or me) we are open before coming. Please let others know we are so open.

Congregations can't come to a regular service. This weekend is the 10.45 Remembrance Service to be broadcast live on Notts TV and the special Eucharist at 6.30 - live on our website too. Thereafter, we will be broadcasting from the church at 11.00 on a Sunday (along the same lines as during the spring lockdown) and at 6.15 on Wednesdays for Evensong.

The letter ends with a call to pray and to fast at this time.

"Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer. We invite you to fast in a way appropriate to you as well as pray for our nation every Thursday, for its leaders, its health and essential services and all those who suffer."

Tom Gillman

OPEN MEETING ON RE-ORDERING

Tom writes: Thanks so much to everyone who gave up time to be at the Open Meeting last Sunday. It was particularly good to have Peter Rogan our architect with us and also that Bruce Kirk from Light Perceptions could join us online.

I found it a valuable time. I have asked Peter to move things forward to get to the point of applying for a Faculty for the new West End porch. An upgraded lighting system, to allow St Mary's to be seen, used and enjoyed in its full glory was enthusiastically welcomed. With Bruce and Peter, Peter Bartlett and Holly Mills will be helping to move this forward.

The meeting explored the balancing of how we see St Mary's, a place of prayer and worship, as the main civic church becoming a 'larger resource church', with particular emphasis on hospitality, creativity, and engaging with life at the heart of Nottingham. Formation of 'new worshipping communities' lies at the heart of this, which will include how we provide office space to make this possible.

There was particularly helpful comment to see more work is needed to envisage the new 'hospitality' area in the north west corner of the church. This is linked to resolving where a storage room can be located.

The opportunity is considerable, but as Peter explained, what can be done in this medieval grade 1 listed building is limited. He said that for so large a church to lack smaller (meeting) spaces is unusual. Our long term need for this is inevitable which is why we must consider shared use of the choir vestry. A small group, mainly from the choir, will consider the feasibility of this. Potential funders will inevitably want us to maximise use of our existing space before any 'new build' might be considered.

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.

NEW TOWER ROOF work will be starting soonest to ensure completion by 31 March 2021, as per terms of 80% granted from the Culture Recovery Fund for Major Churches. Many thanks especially to Peter Rogan for all his work on our behalf.

ST MARY'S WILL BE CLOSED because of use as exam hall on Monday 8th.

MADONNA AND CHILD PAINTING has been removed for cleaning and restoration. If you'd like to contribute to the cost (est £5,000) that would be much appreciated.

EMMANUEL HOUSE SUPPORT CENTRE premiered their film 'Lone' last week and it will now be available to watch on their website emmanuelhouse.org.uk. Launching their Winter Appeal in an alternative way, Lone is a short film highlighting actual experiences of homeless people in Nottingham. Do watch.

HOST NOTTINGHAM Online Open Evening 12 Nov 6pm
Find out how Host Nottingham is supporting refugees and asylum seekers and how you can help. Hear stories from Volunteers, Hosts and Guests and discover how you may become involved. For Zoom details email: hostnottingham@gmail.com

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. See transformingnottstogether.org.uk/areas-of-work/equipping-churches

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK -they welcome toiletries, washing up items, tinned veg & meat, sugar, jam. 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
11.30-2.30pm each weekday -
please call to confirm if visiting as this may change*

10.45 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at St Mary's

Broadcast only

(See Notts TV & our website and follow the link, including Order of Service)

6.30pm ALL SOULS' EUCHARIST

Broadcast only

6.15PM WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

Broadcast only

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Tom



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