

This Week at St Mary's

15th November 2020

TERNS AND ROOKS BY THE TRENT

It was a privilege on Wednesday at the Act of Remembrance on the Victoria Embankment to lead the prayer at the beginning and then the blessing at the end. The occasion was intentionally low key and had not been publicised.

As we stood in silence, the terns swooping above the Trent did the opposite. Their shrill cries filled the skies, and a rook or two joined in. These birds, known to many as 'scavengers', brought to the occasion for me at least an added poignancy to this emotional moment each year. Most obviously it evoked strong images of death from the battle field. But it also brought a cry from nature to us humans, to listen.

At my mother's burial in August, the birds also made a memorable appearance. She had spent much of her childhood in the Sussex countryside, building up from her grandfather knowledge and a great love of the natural world. To the end, she went every day to nearby woods and would listen to the birds. As the undertakers carried her coffin into the country churchyard on Romney Marsh, there was an amazing outburst of birdsong, reminiscent of the dawn chorus. It was totally fitting for her and there's no doubt she would have been delighted.

I don't want to read more into these avian voices than I should. Birdsong may not be God's primary way of communicating with us, but equally we know that He who loves us needs to get our attention. Birds 'interrupting' our annual national silence is certainly memorable and vivid. If ever in the year there is a time we focus on human sacrificial self giving love, it's then. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ cries out with all of creation that nothing is more significant at the very heart of God and how we should live.

Tom Gillum

MANY THANKS TO THE CULTURE RECOVERY FUND

Work to do long overdue repairs to St Mary's tower roof will shortly begin, to be completed early in 2021. Here is an extract from the Press Release issued by the Church of England.

Nearly 100 churches and cathedrals will benefit from a total of £13 million of Government investment, as recipients of Heritage Stimulus Grants. The funding from Historic England's Grants is intended for capital projects and range between £5,000 and £640,000.

The £13 million of capital investment for both Anglican and Roman Catholic buildings, funded by the Heritage Stimulus Fund administered by Historic England, is part of the Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund (CRF). Nearly half of all England's Grade I and Grade II listed buildings are Anglican or Catholic churches, and both organisations made central applications to Historic England for funding. An expert panel has allocated the funding to 68 Church of England churches and cathedrals and 29 Catholic churches and cathedrals, a total of 96 projects nationwide.*

Among the Church of England's allocation over £2 million, or 21 per cent of the total, will go to churches in the 10 per cent most deprived parishes nationally. The cash injection differs from previously announced funding from the CRF which benefited 70 Anglican churches and cathedrals to support organisational resilience and recovery.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "As a nation it is essential that we preserve our heritage and celebrate and learn from our past. This massive support package will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounceback post covid."

And Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator, Historic Royal Palaces, added: "There's no truer way to experience the past than to walk in the footsteps of those who have lived it - that's why preserving our built heritage is so important."

GIVING MONEY - Best done online via the **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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE - many positive comments on the broadcast, and Notts TV was very pleased with how it went. Viewing numbers to follow.

SERVICES DURING LOCKDOWN. Very disappointingly we are unable to have a congregation at a service until the lockdown ends. The only people allowed in the church are those participating in the service, ie leader, preacher, intercessor, readers and choir.

EMMANUEL HOUSE SUPPORT CENTRE premiered their film 'Lone' last week and it is now 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.

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER we are delighted to welcome Denis Tully Chief Executive of Emmanuel House as our preacher.

ADVENT SUNDAY 29th November there will be the Advent Procession Service at 6.30pm, suitably adapted for a livestreamed congregation.

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

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***

WORSHIP SERVICES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 11.00am SERVICE Preacher Tom Gillum

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

WEDNESDAY 6.15PM EVENSONG

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

THURSDAY 6pm EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Tom

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks
John Bowers
Rosemary Clark
Barbara Davis
Harry Palmer
Mike Ridley

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