

# ***This Week at St Mary's***

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## **A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER**

With Christmas approaching, in common with everyone else, flexibility in what we will be doing is going to be the order of the day. This 'Christmas like no other' will bring considerable human cost to many, unable to spend time with family and friends. On top of the existing isolation, this is very hard. Phones and Facetime will be active - certainly they need to be.

We are working with the Lord Mayor's office in putting together a videoed Carol Service which will be posted online before Christmas. The Nottingham Music Hub is working with several schools on some of the pieces and our choir will be also contributing. We are working with both the High School and the Girls' High School in the production of their online carol services and filming at St Mary's for both of those will be taking place next week. From all the above, Notts TV will be selecting items to be woven together in a special Christmas programme, to be compered by Fran Finn.

Disappointingly congregational singing is still not allowed inside, BUT we can sing carols outside. We won't need to do a survey to find out if people want to join with that! Our plan is that at 1.00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, when we would normally have the Lace Market Carol Service, AND at 1030 on Christmas morning, we will sing carols outside, in the church grounds, before going inside. Safe, Covid protocols, of course. Stating the obvious it's weather dependent. Your reaction would be much appreciated.

We will be decorating the church this week. It has not been possible to have a tree festival, but lights are going up on the magnolia by the south porch. Some additional Christmas arrangements would be great and if anyone would be kind enough to make one, big or small, it would be welcome.

*Tom Gillman*

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

## YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN NOTTINGHAM

*"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight." James 1:27 (MSG).*

Open Homes is a Nottingham based Christian charity supporting 16-25 year olds facing homelessness. Firstly through 'Nottingham Nightstop' a project providing emergency accommodation in the homes of volunteer hosts, typically for 1-3 nights at a time. All training and support provided and hosting flexible to your availability. A host testimony can be viewed at [www.tinyurl.com/OHhost](http://www.tinyurl.com/OHhost). Our second project is called 'Supported Lodgings', whereby longer-term support is provided by hosts who receive a lodging income to house a young person for up to six months.

Both projects are early intervention initiatives with the aim of protecting young people from street homelessness/inappropriate accommodation and their associated pitfalls, instead enabling powerful acts of radical biblical hospitality. Our young people are usually the victim of family breakdown or violence and are simply looking for somewhere safe to lay their heads. To view Jordan's testimony visit [www.tinyurl.com/OHyoungperson](http://www.tinyurl.com/OHyoungperson)

For those without a spare room, we also have volunteering opportunities as drivers and mentors. One pregnant young beneficiary recently commented "They helped me to find my own house. They helped me with baby things, I mean they took me to hospital and helped me take care of my son." Could you play your part in changing the lives of vulnerable young people in our city?

If you are interested in volunteering or want to find out more, please email [admin@openhomes.org.uk](mailto:admin@openhomes.org.uk), phone us on 0333 3232 265, or visit [www.openhomes.org.uk](http://www.openhomes.org.uk).

Finally, if you would like to support our work financially, from 1st-8th December 2020 we are taking part in 'The Big Give Christmas Challenge' whereby all donations made within this window will be **DOUBLED!** You can donate via [www.tinyurl.com/openhomesbiggive](http://www.tinyurl.com/openhomesbiggive). **THANK YOU!**

**CHRISTMAS** - With numbers restricted, there will be two Carol Services (duplicated.) Carol Singing outside on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Day. Max numbers permitted to be 120.

**IT IS NECESSARY TO BOOK A TICKET FOR ALL THE BELOW.**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm Carol Singing outside St Mary's (Link to follow)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Carol Service <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WZS>

Christmas Eve 7.00pm Carol Service <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WZW>

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WZX>

Christmas Day 10.30am Carol Singing outside St Mary's & 11.00 Sung Eucharist  
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WZZ>

**LONE** Emmanuel House Support Centre's short (9 min) film, highlighting actual experiences of homeless people in Nottingham. Very highly recommended. Available to watch on their website [emmanuelhouse.org.uk](http://emmanuelhouse.org.uk). Launching their Winter Appeal in an alternative way.

**ADVENT RESOURCES.** Prayer and reflection are central to Advent. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy> See also *Finding Light in the Deepest Dark: Journeying through Lament to Gratitude* combining biblical reflection with activities and music. Features work by artist Scott Erickson. Designed for one sitting, either by an individual or in a group [www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org/uk](http://www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org/uk)

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** - DONKEY and DOVE Christmas cards left over from last year - if you'd like some, let us know, no charge, but please make a donation to Emmanuel House via their website or by cheque payable to Emmanuel House.  
<https://www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/category/donations/>

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** Notts TV viewing numbers - 20,000, with several hundred seeing the service online.

**THE MEADOWS FOODBANK** - this week they welcome toiletries, washing up items, pasta sauce, sugar, tinned veg & meat. Contact Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 [tony.m1941@icloud.com](mailto: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*

## 11.00am SUNDAY SERVICE

*(Live & broadcast - see our website and follow link, including Order of Service)*

**6.30pm SUNDAY EVENSONG** *(Live & broadcast)*

**6.15PM WEDNESDAY EVENSONG** *(Live & broadcast)*

**6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Grant**

### 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.
- Distancing as you would expect.
- Wearing of masks, please.
- Still no communal singing inside.
- Please take away the paper service sheet you use
- Please avoid gathering at the South Porch on arrival/exit

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

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