

This Week at St Mary's

17th January 2021

BEING INTERRUPTED BY GEORGE FOX

One of the most interesting moments in St Mary's long history is the arrest of George Fox, the founder of the Quakers. As a 25 year old, he made the journey from (now) Fenny Drayton, near Nuneaton. Attending a service at St Mary's which he described as a great "Steeple House", he interrupted the preacher, with whom he disagreed. This led to the first of a number of his imprisonments. The story does not end there as what Fox had said led to the conversion of the sheriff, splendidly named Reckless, and the formation of the Quakers in Nottingham.

Fox was an uncompromising preacher, who 'hurled disputation and contradiction to the faces of his opponents'. His preaching was grounded in scripture, but its strength lay in the intense personal experience he was able to project - he suffered from depression and he certainly knew persecution. Firsthand, he knew the power of Jesus Christ to bring inward transformation, and he was not impressed by outward ritual which he saw as superstition. Through his ministry, many were healed and set free to lead a new life.

His arrest at St Mary's was in 1649. The Civil War was over, King Charles had recently been executed. Fox lived through a time of national turmoil, politically, religiously, economically, etc. The great plague came in 1665 and he died just after the 1689 Bill of Rights. It'll be interesting to see what historians make of our times, but it certainly feels as though we may not be in such different territory.

I think I'd welcome one of my sermons being interrupted by someone like Fox, with his courage and deep prayerfulness, because its origin was a man who knew the transforming grace of Christ and longed that everyone should experience what lies at the heart of Christianity.

Tom Gillman

BARBARA DAVIS

Barbara was born in 1930, one of eight children (7 girls), 7 of whom were born in nine years (her father was a vicar who needed to build up his congregation - quick.) She made her mark in the family by making everyone laugh - though she did enjoy a good grumble from time to time. After school, she went to Canada as a nanny for two years. On returning she looked after her grandparents in Devon, going to business college there. Then to London to work first at Hammersmith Hospital and then the Rudolf Steiner School for children with Special Needs. 'Across a crowded room', as they say, she met Dick and they got married shortly after, living in London, Canada and finally Nottingham.

She brought up their three boys, (with perhaps a little help from Dick) setting a wonderful example of humanity and consideration for others. She had grown up in a house full of music, and continued that interest by joining the Nottingham Harmonic Choir, making good friends through music. She started a social club for people in the Park. This brought pleasure and companionship to many. She organised a programme of events and activities for the club, including a yoga group in their living room which ran right up to the start of the pandemic.

When their sons had left home, Barbara started to take in theatrical lodgers, as well as young relatives of family and friends, often nursing personal problems. Barbara looked after them all, and they became our family. The Guest Book reveals the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Gruffalo, Postman Pat ... and his cat, and TV newsreaders who are still on the screen today. One of her favourites was a gorgeous Russian male dancer who played Dracula with a swirling red and black cape. Sometimes over the weekend rehearsals took place in the garden for their next murder mystery play.

You couldn't help but warm to her wonderful smile which would light up a room. She was so generous and always saw the best in everything and everyone.

CALLED TO SERVE - 4 evenings designed to allow people to hear God's voice for where we are called to serve be it workplace, church, or community, by licensed or ordained ministry, chaplaincy, mission or otherwise. 25 Jan, 1, 8, 22 Feb 7.30-9pm on Zoom. Contact: kate.hurst@southwell.anglican.org

BRILLIANTLY DONE DI who spent 150 hours hand-knitting this stunning Fair Isle cardigan. She says it helped fill the social void during lockdown last year. Many thanks to all who entered the New Year raffle for it & we are delighted that £1000 is on its way to our friends at Emmanuel House.



Congratulations to Karen in St Albans for ticket 73! Projects are being considered for this year's Lockdown Opportunity...☺

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK had a busy time over Christmas, receiving a number of large donations. Stock awaiting dating and shelving is expected to take the rest of January. They have adequate stocks of a number of items, in particular toiletries and cleaning products. Donations of the following welcome: **Tinned meat - Coffee - Tinned potatoes - Cereals** - (particularly the types liked by children, no porridge needed) - **Sugar**, white and preferably in 500g bags. Contact Beth Mitchell 07775707855 0115 947 6736 tony.m1941@icloud.com

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.

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you, especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's

11.00am SUNDAY SERVICE Audio Broadcast

Please see our website and follow the link,
including for Order of Service

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Grant
(gwalton@stmarynotts.org)

Please note that all our public services have been cancelled
until further notice

St Mary's is usually open for private prayer and reflection
11.30-2.30pm each weekday - please call to confirm if visiting
as arrangements could be changed at short notice.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
Estelle Barks, John Bowers, Harry Palmer, Mike Ridley

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.org

Facebook Instagram Twitter @stmarysnotts

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