

# *This Week at St Mary's*

24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## ONE IN A MILLION

The Ardabil Carpet, completed in 1539-40, first came to London in 1892. William Morris the artist and designer described it as "a remarkable work of art... the design is of singular perfection... the size and splendour as a piece of workmanship do full justice to the beauty and intellectual qualities of the design." It is now permanently displayed at the V and A Museum, London.

The carpet is over 34 x 17 ft and with 340 knots to the square inch, I calculate there are nearly 30 million knots - each one a beautiful red, blue, yellow, green, etc. They all contribute something towards, as Morris describes it, the 'singular beauty'.

This for me well illustrates each of our place in God's New Creation. Our instinct isn't it, is to think individually; 'one in a million' means we need to stand out in some way(s). With God, it's the opposite. None of us will be anything unless we are part of the (much, much) bigger whole - of which by grace we are part. There is no 'murmuration' unless there are thousands of starlings flying and swooping in spectacular formation. Every bottle of vintage Dom Perignon has many grapes, each ripened in the champagne sun before being picked.

Life now for us is to do now as things will be in God's New Creation. Each of us has to work out how we are meaningfully part of a community of fellow Christians - with its diversity and richness. This will involve more than just turning up (now tuning in) on a Sunday, for a service - although that is a great part of it. Allowing our lives to intersect with others, being there for one another, together praying, learning and giving of ourselves is how each individual knot is woven into the whole.

Tom Gillman

**EDWARD BYRNE, ST MARY'S ORGAN SCHOLAR**, has been successful in appointment to a prestigious post at Worcester Cathedral.

Edward fought off competition to be appointed as Organ Scholar at the cathedral, commencing in September 2021 after completing his studies at Loughborough Grammar School. His duties will include playing for cathedral services, accompanying the choir, assisting with the training of choristers and managing the music library. He will gain tutelage and guidance from the music staff of the cathedral, including Director of Music Samuel Hudson and Assistant Director of Music Nicholas Freestone.

Edward has been Organ Scholar at St Mary's since 2019 and will continue in his role until he leaves for Worcester. Edward has made a huge contribution to the musical offering of the church as well as benefiting from tutelage by John Keys and accompanying the church's fine choir.

Edward says of his achievement,

*"I am incredibly excited to start working at Worcester Cathedral next year. It will be an amazing opportunity to contribute to the musical life of the Cathedral and also the opportunity to take part in the Three Choirs Festival. I am certain that this would not be possible without my scholarship here at St Mary's. I am indebted to John Keys for all of the support and opportunities he has given me over the last two years. I will really miss St Mary's but I look forward to coming back and playing when I'm in the area!"*

**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](mailto:kate.hurst@southwell.anglican.org)

**THE ALPHA COURSE** Got questions about life? Ask at Alpha, a place to ask the big questions of life. Connect with others online to watch a series of episodes and explore the Christian faith together. <https://alpha.org.uk> If you'd be interested to participate, please contact Grant.

**LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH** The course recently launched by the Church of England around questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, how they fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? Have a look at the website, watch the video and listen to the podcast. Living in Love and Faith | The Church of England. If you'd be interested to participate (online) please let Tom or Grant know

**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 c/o St Mary's 0115 958 2105 [tony.m1941@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org) Web [stmarysnottingham.org](http://stmarysnottingham.org)

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