

This Week at St Mary's

31st January 2021

A TASTE OF THE NEW CREATION

The story of Jesus turning water into wine is well known. Wedding parties could go on for days, with family and friends dropping in at any time to join in. But something went disastrously awry: the wine ran out. A social faux pas of note! This would never be lived down and would be the talk of the town for years to come. This is when Jesus quietly steps in to rescue the situation, but more than that, to set the tone for his ministry that is going to show us what living as part of the new creation is like.

The amount of water he turned into wine was more than enough to keep the party going for days. Somebody suggested that this represents around 700l of wine. Not only that, but it was the very finest quality. As someone who very much enjoys a glass of good red wine, I would love to have tasted a sample made by the hands of the creator himself.

In some ways, the story pre-figures that great Kingdom banquet at the end of time when God will complete what he has started. It also represents the here and now, the abundance of the new creation in our present lives. Wine itself speaks of the Holy Spirit, the one who comes to make this new creation life a reality within us and our communities. St Paul picks this up when he says in Ephesians: "Do not get drunk with wine, but instead be filled with the Spirit..." and he goes on to speak of music, singing, and grateful hearts. We are invited to participate in this, to respond to Jesus' call to follow him, to allow the wine of the Spirit to fill us afresh today and renew our lives so that God's recreation project will widen and deepen until it embraces the whole world.

GRANT WALTON

PROPOSED NEW LIGHTING SCHEME

Key new elements:

- a. Nave Pendants - to be modified to enhance their appearance and move the shades to be level with the band, reducing the direct glare from the shades. A working prototype to be commissioned. Illumination levels to be zoned along the west-east axis.
- b. Nave Spotlighting - to provide directional highlighting for points of focus at the head of the nave, by fitting spotlights to the hanging rods from which the pendants will be suspended.
- c. Transepts Spotlights in positions similar to the existing large metal halide floodlights, to be installed in neat vertical clusters following the rhythm of the wall shafts below the transept clerestory, to include individual points of focus, eg pulpit, lectern, cross above the rood screen.
- d. Aisle Highlights - a spotlight, at ceiling level, behind each column to illuminate the aisle wall opposite. The historic door in the north aisle to be illuminated.
- e. The Baptistry and proposed Servedy - spotlights to highlight, create a general wash and define the areas.
- f. The Chancel and Sanctuary - new fittings to light the choir, lectern, Reredos, High Altar and Sanctuary Step.
- g. The Chapel - to help bring intimacy and ambience, instal a 24-light Flemish candelabra (as in the vestry)

Important to ensure St Mary's retains the appropriate balance of highlighting, general illumination for safety and the presentation of the architecture of the interior. A control system (dimmable and zoning) to allow simple settings to be created, balanced, and stored. Using "warm white" colour, the natural colours and tone of the interior dressings and finishes to be seen without distorting their true colour. All of the new light sources will be long life, low energy LEDs, the careful use of the lighting control system will provide increased energy saving capability and work towards the 2030 Net Zero Carbon goals.

CHURCH OPEN for private prayer & reflection 11.30-2.30 but as Duncan is self-isolating, please **check with Tom (07825 041 432)** before coming to ensure we are open.

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 & FAITH - an online course at St Mary's, starting in February. All around us we see changing understandings of human identity, changing patterns in relationships and families, changing sexual attitudes and activity. What does it mean for followers of Jesus to walk in love, faith and holiness today? Join us as we explore this question in five sessions, each of which includes reading, visual media, Bible study and prayer. Specific topics to be covered:

- What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ?
- How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender?
- What kinds of relationships does God call us to?
- Where do our bodies and sex fit into all this?
- How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church?

All sessions are online and require a reasonable internet connection and knowledge of using Zoom/Teams. If you are interested, please sign as soon as possible up with Di at dillsley@stmarynotts.org

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK 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

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

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

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