

This Week at St Mary's

7 February 2021

DRIFTWOOD ART

I hope you saw beside the MIXLR player last Sunday the magnificent lion made from driftwood. It's just the sort of image I am drawn to. I chose it to illustrate God's redeeming work, taking something (someone) broken and apparently useless and valueless, and from it, re-imagining it to make something new and beautiful, beyond our imaginings. Driftwood Lion - Bing images

The stand on which my laptop sits while I type I recently made from offcuts from a large oak beam which had supported a roof. The rounded ends which for decades were pounded by the weather are integral to the design. I have simply 'cleaned these up', removing rotten parts and sanding them, especially the knots. I find it pleasing to look at and there is something really restorative in running my hand over it. Improved posture means my neck is less stiff.

I admire artists like the person who made the driftwood lion, able to see how the apparently random bits of wood could become a lion. Its head, especially muzzle and beard work particularly well, I think. Instead of leaving the wood on a beach to rot, each bit has been given an amazing future. I know it's an inanimate object, but it 'allowed' itself to become part of the new creation.

We may like to think we are, or not far off, the finished article that God wants us to be, but if I'm honest, I don't think that. Our suffering unites us as humans, but it leaves us broken and in need of redemption. Usefulness and value starts with our (it must be corporate) sharing Jesus Christ's vision of what it is that God is re-creating. For us to offer ourselves, with all we have, to become part of this wonderful 'New Creation' of God.

Tom Gillman

ONLINE ORGAN CONCERTS

With the suspension of services after Christmas due to the newer strain of Covid, I needed something to work towards - it was suggested that some lunchtime organ concerts would be a good idea.

The first programme, aired on 3 February, was recorded last year. The next two, on 17 February and 3 March will be recorded in the next month. I am grateful to Francis Shepherd for his technical expertise.

In spite of the forecast colder weather, the Ash Wednesday programme will be:

Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir - a setting each by J.S. Bach and Lionel Rogg, my professor at the Conservatoire de Genève. The chorale on which these pieces are based translates as *In deepest need I cry to thee*. The Bach setting features two parts played in the pedals.

Sonata on the 94th Psalm Julius Reubke illustrates verses from the Psalm

(Grave - Larghetto)

O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.
Arise, thou Judge of the world: and reward the proud after their deserving.

(Allegro con fuoco)

Lord, how long shall the ungodly triumph?

They murder the widow, and the stranger: and put the fatherless to death.

And yet they say the Lord shall not see: neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.

(Adagio)

If the Lord had not helped me: it had not failed but my soul had been put to silence.

In the multitude of sorrows that I had in my heart: thy comforts have refreshed my soul.

(Allegro)

But the Lord is my refuge: and my God is the strength of confidence.

He shall recompense them their wickedness, and destroy them in their own malice.

Reubke, who died all too young, was a pupil of Franz Liszt whose influence is unmistakable.

JOHN KEYS (Director of Music)

ASH WEDNESDAY 17th Feb. One of the most important days of the year, marking the start of Lent, the preparation for Easter. Be part of it by via our Online Ashing Service, available all day.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES St Peter's and All Saints Overseas Committee warmly invite St Mary's members to their pancake evening on Tues, 16 February, 6.30-8.30 pm. This year it will be on 'Zoom', (so bring your own pancakes). Email liz.marsh@nottinghamchurches.org to request the Zoom link. The continued links with St Peters and All Saints we greatly value (as they do with us) so let's join this pleasant and convivial occasion. Join whenever you wish from 6.30 pm; there will again be a quiz, during the second part of the evening.

LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH - an online course starting on Thursday 18th February. Five sessions to talk through understandings of human identity, changing patterns in relationships and families, changing sexual attitudes and activity. The sessions to include reading, visual media, Bible study and prayer. If interested, please contact dillsley@stmarynotts.org

THE ALPHA COURSE online, starting on Wednesday 24th Feb. Where the big questions of life can be asked. 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.

THE MEADOWS FOODBANK Donations of the following welcome: **tinned meat/potatoes; coffee; cereals; sugar.** 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**

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

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

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