

This Week at St Mary's

21st February 2021

OUR MORNING SERVICE

Over the past months, the PCC in consultation with the Worship Committee has been discussing the right framework for our Sunday morning Communion Service. What we have been using has evolved over the years, so that it now includes elements drawn from old and new Services.

The decision has been made for St Mary's to use what is called Common Worship Order 1. These are the reasons:

1. The musical content we currently use can all continue to be included.
2. Order 1 allows flexibility as to the use of prayers, especially the Communion Prayer.
3. It includes rich 'seasonal' material, ie around the Festivals (we have been using some of this the past year).
4. The hope is that it will contribute to make our worship more accessible, although we recognise that for this other things will also be needed. When children return to church, we will be developing the All Family Services we began a year ago.

For St Mary's, use of the Book of Common Prayer has and will remain a vital part of our worship. In addition to Evensong, the evening Communion Services eg Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc will continue to be Prayer Book Services. We aim to develop these, to include (resourcing allowing) on Christmas and Easter days to have both a Common Worship and a Prayer Book Service.

When we resume worship in church, we will begin a 3 month 'trial period' using Order 1. Please contact me or Tony Mitchell or Margaret Wiedemann if you'd like to discuss this in more detail. We are also making available a questionnaire to hear how the service is being received, which anyone is welcome to complete. Near the end of the 3 months, we will have an open meeting to review how it has been going.

Tom Gillman

LENT: A TIME FOR EMPTYING

Lent is a preparation for Easter. It's also a preparation for death, our own death, symbolised by the tenth Station of the Cross, "Jesus is stripped of his garments". The tenth Station traditionally represents letting go of the world, and it's not just things like pleasure in a new car or satisfaction at making a clever riposte. It's letting go of the people you love, the people who need you, letting go of a project that will make a difference.

Jesus faced this in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Lent is a reminder that we will all have our own Gethsemane. Most of us will have been alongside someone who hasn't long to live, who is moving out of the world. A short period of giving up something you enjoy is a trial run, a reminder that we can take nothing with us and that others will finish the work we've begun. Speaking personally, I'm not good at self-denial but I try to use Lent as an emptying time, and in normal circumstances I usually go on a February retreat.

The Maundy Thursday service commemorating the Last Supper concludes with the stripping of the altars as the choir sings Psalm 22: "I am poured out like water". The penitential music of Lent and Holy Week is ravishing. Every resolved discord paradoxically reminds us of the intense life that the words are urging us to discard. Letting go is agonising but necessary. Psalm 22 looks forward to God's kingdom, but only after we have lost everything: "none can keep alive his own soul".

Margaret Wiedemann

During Lent, welcome are other reflections along the lines of 'What Lent means to me and how it helps me enter into Easter'. 300 words max please.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BURNING ISSUES We welcome your recommendations of local charities/projects known to you working in areas of social justice.

LENT RESOURCE Why not download the app onto your smart phone or tablet and follow the devotions online?
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

£130 DONATED TO A CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE by Ecclesiastical Insurance when you take out a new home insurance policy with them under their **THREE TRUST 130 DONATIONS** offer. www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 0800 7830 130 quoting TrustCT

THE ALPHA COURSE - starting on **Wednesday 24th Feb** online **7.00 - 8.30pm**. 8 sessions to explore the Christian faith together. **Good internet connection necessary**. It would be great to have a couple more join in please contact Grant if you're considering it. <https://alpha.org.uk>

MEADOWS FOODBANK the current level of demand is around **3 times higher** than in the same period a year ago. Increased numbers are experiencing financial difficulties and many other foodbanks in the City are closed or operating on a limited basis. **A financial donation** would be welcome. Also if you are a **CO-OP member**, consider nominating the Foodbank as your '**local community cause**', just access your account on-line and select 'choose a local cause' at the top of the page, go to 'start supporting this cause' and nominate the Meadows Foodbank & Community Café. Items needed: **Sugar - white please and in 500g bags - Coffee - Tinned meat - Toilet rolls - Shaving foam/gel - Shower gel - Toothbrushes - Fruit Juice.**

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 (or by post - full address below).

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 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**

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.org

Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](#)

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