

This Week at St Mary's

28th February 2021

GENTLY DOES IT

That's the decision I've made this year about Lent. Whilst still in this lockdown, it does not seem sensible to be setting the bar too high with Lenten observance, with rigorous self-imposed disciplines. Many are experiencing a fragility (through no fault of their own) and I am sure we should be careful not to overload the system.

As I'm sure I've said, I'm not a great fan of giving up chocolate or alcohol as the only thing done. Trying to keep central to Lent as a time of preparation for Easter, this year I am majoring on two things. First, meditation on Isaiah 58.1-12, one of the Ash Wednesday readings, which I am combining with some sketching. I am NOT good at drawing, but find that slowly creating images inspired by this poem gives a rich opportunity to reflect, to pray and open myself for the Holy Spirit to do much needed work in my heart. I have done this in previous years on different passages from the Bible and it has borne good fruit.

The other thing I am trying to do, is to connect deeper with social need and injustice, especially in Nottingham. I've just become Chair of St Mary's Charity - see below. Lent is a great time to get more informed and the internet gives easy and instant access. If you know good local charities/projects, do pass on details, especially where you've had first-hand contact. Helping out in any way possible, donating money, telling them the good job they are doing, and praying for them, is just a phone call or click of the mouse away.

I'm also reading the Archbishop's Lent book by Hannah Steele - a great reminder that Christ's resurrection, the greatest news ever, is where our mission begins and ends.

Tom Gillman

ST MARY'S RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

We should talk about this far more. St Mary's Charity (as it is known) is a wonderful dimension of our ministry in the city, providing in the main, small grants to individuals (Nottingham based) to meet emergency expenditure, quickly paid out. Relatively small grants but with high impact. Applications have to be supported by a support worker, to a maximum of £250. Grants can also be made to organisations involved with social need.

It was established in 1975 as an amalgam of 26 small charities founded by local people between 1524 and 1956 (19 of them predate 1800). The first was under Thomas Willoughby's Will by which the church wardens were directed to use the funds for Almshouses bearing his name. John Morris in 1769 donated generously to expand them. The Warser Gate & Pilcher Gate Almshouses charity is another. Reading down the list, many were to provide basics - ie food, including by Hannah and Elizabeth Meetham who gave bread from their bakehouse on 11th November and on Christmas Eve each year. Henry Martin (1689) donated for apprenticing poor children and Henry Locket 1790 and William Burton (1881) for coal.

Tom, as Vicar, is an ex officio Trustee, so is the Lord Mayor. There are other nominations, and currently Len and Rachel are included (John Henson after many years has just stood down - huge thanks for his service). St Mary's Church comes through as the common thread, distributing, looking after the money, etc. The rich tradition of Christians being close to those most in need must continue.

The needs today are great. In addition to continuing to use its historic resources (£6,000 pa is given away), the Charity wants to bring the many Nottingham people, who would like to donate, together with those whose need is greatest.

EXAMEN Grant referred to this last Sunday. Excellent way to deepen awareness of God's presence in our lives and grow in grace. (See TWASM 20/12/20)

- 1. Father, may we be aware of your presence with us, your grace and unconditional love.*
- 2. May your Holy Spirit shine His light as we look back on today with gratitude and honesty.*
- 3. May we rejoice and give you thanks for those moments when we felt your life at work in and through us.*
- 4. We bring before you those moments when we turned from your ways or when others sapped life from us.*
- 5. As we look ahead to the day to come, may your Holy Spirit lead and guide us in all things.*

LENT RESOURCE Download

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/liv Lent2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story> onto your phone or tablet and follow the devotions.

£130 DONATED TO A CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE when you take out a new home insurance policy with EIG under their THREE TRUST 130 DONATIONS offer. Call 0800 783 0130 or see www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 quoting TrustCT

MEADOWS FOODBANK currently 3 times higher demand than in the same period a year ago. Many other foodbanks in the City are closed or operating on a limited basis. A financial donation would be welcome. CO-OP members, consider nominating Meadows Foodbank and Community Café as your 'local community cause'. 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](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)
Office Mon-Fri 10-3pm 0115 958 2105
St Mary's in the Lace Market High Pavement Nottingham NG1 1HN
Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432 tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org