

This Week at St Mary's

7th March 2021

AN EXAMPLE OF SELF GIVING LOVE

Robin and Diana Cavendish had recently married and she was expecting their first child when he contracted polio. As a result, aged 28, he became paralysed from the neck down. Initially given 3 months, that was extended to a year - but he lived to the age of 64. It's an extraordinary story and my uncle remembers him arriving at their old regiment's reunions via a removed window, the only way his wheel chair could gain access.

He could do nothing for himself and was dependent for his every breath on a mechanical ventilator. Pioneering design work on wheel chairs allowed him to move around, and that he did, tirelessly campaigning and working on behalf of others similarly paralysed. Thousands around the world enjoyed greatly improved quality of life. Robin had to (learn to) receive care for his every need, provided mainly and amazingly by his devoted wife Diana and then also by Jonathan their son. An exceptional story of giving and receiving sacrificial love.

The obituary in the Independent commented, *It is a strange irony that, professing to be an unbeliever himself, he had a capacity for making other people feel closer to God.* The reason I, as a Christian, would give is that because sacrificial love is central to the character of God, any such human example can inspire us to recognise something of God Himself. The fullest picture we will ever get comes in the life and person of Jesus, especially his suffering and appalling death. In His resurrection, we see the vindication of this life so (very well) lived which benefits us directly today. Our response can only be to choose to receive for ourselves this love from God and each day to give of ourselves to our fellow humans.

(Their story was made into the film, Breathe, produced by Jonathan Cavendish and featuring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy)

Tom Gillum

RESUMPTION OF 'IN CHURCH' WORSHIP

We agreed that after the Prime Minister's announcement on 22nd Feb we would review what St Mary's is currently able to offer in the way of public worship. As a result, from 14th March our 11.00am Service will resume in St Mary's building. Sufficient staff and volunteers have confirmed they are willing to attend church to ensure the necessary tasks are resourced to mean we can meet 'safely'. The service will continue to be broadcast via the website.

It is more than understandable that while we remain in a 'lockdown' some members of the congregation do not feel yet is the time for them to return to an 'in church' service. Of course, public worship has remained permitted throughout, and a number of you have said how eager you are that services in St Mary's resume, not least so that you can join in communion. There won't be a live choir, but we have plenty of recorded music. The regs (although these may be updated) about masks, no singing, distancing, signing in etc will continue.

Not least in the light of the successful rollout of the vaccination programme, it will be very good to be together again.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER (all services broadcasted)

Palm Sunday 28th March 11.00 Parish Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 1st April 7.00pm Eucharist (traditional language)

Good Friday 2nd April 12.00 - 3.00 Service for Good Friday (1st and 3rd hours to be broadcast)

7.00pm (online only) A performance of the Reinhard Kaiser Markuspasion arranged by J.S. Bach with the 18th Century Sinfonia and members of St Mary's Choir.

Easter Day 4th April 5.30am Easter Vigil

11.00 Easter Eucharist (we hope also to be able to resource a service in traditional language - TBC)

Easter Monday 5th April 10.00am Easter Garden Service (for children under 8, contact holly.mills@live.co.uk for more info)

EXAMEN Excellent ancient prayerful way to deepen awareness of God's presence in our lives and grow in grace. (For more details, 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 onto your phone or tablet and follow the devotions
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

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

Our 11.00 am Service next Sunday, 14th March will take place
in St Mary's church (also to be broadcast live)

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Grant
(gwalton@stmarynotts.org)

CHURCH OPEN for private prayer & reflection
11.30-2.30 Monday-Friday

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

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