

This Week at St Mary's

PALM SUNDAY 2021

ENTERING INTO HOLY WEEK

Last Tuesday was the first anniversary of the UK first going 'into lockdown'. There's no getting away from the impact there has been on all of us, some in extreme ways. I've been reflecting on how things are a year on as we approach Easter.

We have a new vocabulary - distancing, isolating, quarantining etc. We have all had to become familiar with the territory, things are different. Worship is still restricted, but at least we can now meet together in St Mary's building. We will have a small choir. We remain extremely grateful to those who worked so hard to make possible our broadcasts. With the vaccine programme having gone so well and all Covid precautions still in place, there can be a reassuring confidence in the safety of our being together. For some, however, we know the time is not yet to venture out which of course we understand.

Holy Week and Easter are a continuum - there is no final Blessing from Maundy Thursday till Easter morning. With the Services also being broadcast and left up on our website, we hope it's easier than ever to take part - we have maybe the best of both worlds.

By necessity the services will be kept simple. This may help focus on what one man went through now 2,000 years ago. Our aim is to enter into Jesus descending to the depths and then rising to the heights, doing so intentionally, not for Himself but for the 'greater good of mankind' - an understatement.

This last year many have been challenged that mere words are seldom enough. The Gospel reading on Maundy Thursday will say, 'now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you DO them'. Easter is ultimately about a different way of living, a very different way.

Tom Gillman

SCIENCE HELPING UNDERSTAND CHRISTIANITY

The assumption for some is that scientific advances have undetermined confidence in Christianity. This gained momentum following Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, seen as undermining the Genesis account of creation. But its effects have gone further. Many, however, recognise that science should inform and complement Christianity and vice versa. They are each at their strongest when in constructive conversation.

The New Testament makes use of a number of 'scientific' illustrations to explain God's grace and truth. Speaking to an audience familiar with farming, Jesus (probably often) spoke of the process of nature seen in the growth of a seed. For the listeners, with their long experience and local knowledge, they'd be likely to have 'got' the point. It's likely to make more sense to us urban dwellers if we explore 'the science'.

Jesus says, 'unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single seed, but if it dies, it bears much fruit', as he speaks of his impending death, he is drawing attention to the quality of seed corn. Science reveals to us the 3 elements of a grain of wheat; the GERM (embryo), BRAN (protective outer coating) and ENDOSPERM (protein rich energy). The germ is protected and nurtured so that it will grow. However, its health and yield depends on the quality of the seed corn/source plant. 'If the source plant is not healthy,' stated one speaker at a recent webinar, 'whatever you multiply or use it for will be unhealthy'.

The quality of the germ in the seed corn God has used to rescue and recreate the world is beyond our imaginings. It (or rather HE) is perfection. The staggering part is that the same life is present in his followers. As part of the Church we need to do all we can to be nurtured by the 'endosperm' he provides.

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).

EASTER PROGRAMME

Palm Sunday 28th March 11am Sung Eucharist *(Live/Streamed)*

Maundy Thursday 1st April 7.00pm Communion Service
(Prayer Book) *(Live/Streamed)*

Good Friday 2nd April

- **Service & Meditation 12-3pm** *(Live, & Streamed 12-1 & 2-3)*
- **7pm via YouTube (see website) Reinhard Keiser**
Markuspassion arr by JS Bach *(Streamed only)*

Easter Day 4th April

- **5.30am Vigil & Communion** *(Live)*
- **9.30am Sung Eucharist (Prayer Book)** *(Live/Streamed)*
- **11am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)** *(Live/Streamed)*

Easter Monday 5th April Children's Easter Garden Service
(for the under 8s, contact holly.mills@live.co.uk for more info)

MIKE RIDLEY died at home, early on 25th March, having been ill for a while. Our prayers are with Jane and their children Katherine and Tom at this very sad time.

DANIEL HANSON Nottingham haute couture, well known for their dressing gowns, did a photo shoot at St Mary's on Tuesday. Delighted to welcome the family for the day.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER see last week's TWASM. Might you be willing to take on this important parish role. It would involve working with our Ops Director, Julie. No previous experience of safeguarding necessary, but familiarity with current practice working with children and vulnerable adults would help.

MEADOWS FOODBANK - demand inevitably continues -
Items needed: UHT Milk, Sugar-white please and in 500g bags, Coffee, Curry sauce, Tinned meat, Toilet rolls, Shaving foam/gel, Shower gel, Toothbrushes, Squash/Juice, Laundry tablets. Financial donations are also most welcome. If you are delivering, details of mitigation in place available through our office by email.

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you, especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's

**11.00am PALM SUNDAY SERVICE in St Mary's Church
also Audio Broadcast live via our website
(follow the link, including for Order of Service)**

**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**

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