

# ***This Week at St Mary's***

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

## **A RICH HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

“There’s no stone in front of the cave!”

As children brought their flowers to the Easter Garden, I’d told them something would be different when they came back. Spring flowers - primrose, forsythia, camellia, grape hyacinth, hellebore, arranged in jam jars looked really good. Wearing their magnificent Easter crowns, the children gathered close to look into the cave. “What can you see?” “A strip of cloth”, said one - connection with the story in the Bible clearly being made. Harder, it proved, to describe the cloth which had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. I drew attention to the Paschal Candle close by, reminding us the Risen Christ is with us today. We prayed that we *meet Him today and every day, that He speaks to us and reveals Himself as the living Lord and that we share the good news with others.*

It has been a rich Holy Week and Easter and so good to see, returning, a number who have not been able to worship at St Mary’s for over a year. The magnolia in full bloom beside the south door looked at its best in the glorious sunshine. Too cold to have the vigil outside, but at 6.30 we ventured out to watch the dawn breaking. We’d been at the last supper and at Golgotha, memorably at the brilliant Markuspassion and by 7.15 on Easter morning, the sun was pouring in, rich golden on this morning of the resurrection.

Had the early church invented the ‘story’ of the empty tomb, they could only have drawn on familiar ideas about someone returning to life. This would either have been resuscitation, or some sort of spiritual being. But what they describe is RESURRECTION, someone recognisably human, but different, in a new life form. That’s what so arrested their attention and convinced them it was of the utmost importance.

*Tom Gillman*

## REFLECTIONS ON LLF AT ST MARY'S

*Living in Love and Faith* is a collection of resources compiled by the Church of England in order to spark conversations within the Church regarding sexuality, identity, and relationships. The project has been in the works for some years, and has been met with mixed responses from various groups in the Church. Part of the resources pack was the material for a course, and this Lent a group of us from St Mary's has been working through it with Grant and Tom.

I must admit that as a member of the LGBTQ+ community myself I approached the material with some apprehension, but our small group was excellent and I was pleasantly surprised. We had some excellent and fruitful conversations in response to the questions and talking points raised, and I consider myself very fortunate that our group proved to be a safe space to discuss these sensitive issues. It is important to note, however, that many groups and individuals within the Church of England consider this material to be 'too little too late' when same-sex marriage has been the law of the land for seven years, reflecting the Church's reputation as a 'slow-turning ship' in response to a number of social issues.

That being said, within our community the conversations were generous and thought-provoking, showing that even flawed resources can land well when the intentions of those discussing them are good. Our engagement with LLF as a church has exceeded my expectations and I am glad that there is a clear willingness among those of us who participated to continue these conversations beyond the end of the 5-week course set out by the Church. I look forward to seeing how this develops at St Mary's.

**TESS CLOTHIER**

**SERVICES AT ST MARY'S.** We are planning that the choir returns at the 11.00 am Service from 18<sup>th</sup> April, **Wednesday Evensong** resumes on 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6.15. and **Sunday Evensong** on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**EASTER GARDEN.** Please bring your own (simple) arrangement of flowers to add to the Easter Garden, so that it can be kept fresh. For size, the existing ones are all in jam jars.

**MARKUSPASSION** by Reinhard Keiser arr J.S. Bach. Watch this brilliant performance by our choir and let others know about it, [Reinhard Keiser - Markuspassion | 18th Century Sinfonia & St Mary's Consort - YouTube](#)

**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.

**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 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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