

This Week at St Mary's

2nd May 2021

BEYOND THE FLAG

It was King Edward 111 who in 1350 (coincidentally during another pandemic, the Black Death) decided our patron saint would be George. Last week marked his day. He was not English, had no connection with England (although Uffington, Berkshire may well disagree) and the dragon story is 'uncorroborated'. He lived in the 1st century, a soldier martyred under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Later, soldiers who returned from the Holy Land during the crusades were greatly inspired by stories of his courage, gallantry, honour and strength.

His flag is of course still England's (and 7 other nations'), visible especially at formal occasions and sporting fixtures. We all also know the flag has been hijacked by some right-wing political groups and so, most regrettably, it has also come to be associated with racism and xenophobia. That perhaps is as good a reason as any to re-state what lies at the heart of the story of our patron saint.

For what George made his stand which led to his death, we do not know. As a Christian, it is more than a fair guess to say that his driving vision and inspiration was that by the death and resurrection of Jesus, a man (well, the Son of God) who had defeated death, a new age had dawned. Further, God's work of 'new creation' had begun, here and now, that was why God had poured out His Holy Spirit.

Soldiers in the middle ages would have been likely (I think) to see in George not just a really impressive character. Edward 111 also recognised, in George, an 'ordinary' person someone through whom the power of Jesus' resurrection was at work revealing a way of grace and honour to live by, like no other.

Tom Gillman

MIKE RIDLEY

Mike's funeral took place at St Mary's on Easter Thursday. Mike was married to Jane, Jan Buckland's daughter. The service remains on our website for another week. Here is an extract from the tribute.

From his school days, Mike learned to be independent and his passion for reading was born. He read anything he could lay his hands on and retained copious knowledge. If anyone wanted to know something, Mike would have a book about it, or certainly recall facts from previous reading.

At 18 he was admitted to Northumberland College of Education. At the end of his second teaching practice the Headteacher said 'Don't worry you'll qualify but they'll be scraping the barrel'. He found a job in Nottingham and rose to Deputy Head. His first Headteacher said, 'Mike was superb, a born teacher. His relationship with children had no equal. They absorbed his sense of humour and he had no disciplinary problems. He was totally loyal and a constant support to all those around him.'

When he retired, he volunteered each week with the Notts Wildlife Trust, dealing with phone calls about distressed hedgehogs or orphaned birds and also participating in habitat management. He was a volunteer at Bromley House Library, where he became known for his wide range of knowledge and eclectic choice of reading matter, as well as his quick wit, humour and ability to get the job done efficiently without fuss. Gardening continued to be his passion and he was perfectly content when sowing seedlings and propagating new plants - proper gardening as he called it- not just cutting lawns and weeding.

Life was very cruel to Mike and the family during the last two years following his diagnosis of prostate cancer, exacerbated by COVID. Jane and Mike became even closer. They were able to fulfil his wish to die at home, surrounded by family. Spring was his favourite time of year and the dawn chorus started just as he died. He would have enjoyed that.

REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL IS NOW DUE & being updated. If you are not already on our ER please complete a form in church or download from the website. Send to Parish Office (full address below) or put in the box provided in church by 12 May. Any queries or changes in circumstances (change of name or address etc) please to lorna.richardson@live.co.uk or via the Parish Office.
<https://www.stmarysnottingham.org/2021/04/21/revision-of-church-electoral-roll/>

NOMINATION FORMS FOR PCC MEMBERS are now available in church or by email via the Parish Office. Please complete and post in the box by the South Porch, or by email. The **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** is on Sunday 30th May at 12.30pm in St Marys Church. Also see website for details

SUNDAY EVENSONG 6.30pm resumes on 9 May.

SURVEY COMMON WORSHIP Please complete one of our surveys if you'd like to, to help as we have started to use Common Worship for our 11am Sunday service.

MEADOWS FOODBANK - demand continues - Items welcomed: UHT dairy milk, Cereals, Soap bars, Surface cleaner, Shower gel, Laundry tablets, Cooking oil (small bottles), Jelly cubes, Puds/Instant desserts, Tins potatoes/rice pudding/custard, Biscuits, Toothpaste, Coffee (small), Fruit juice. If you are delivering, details of mitigation in place available through our office by email. Cash donations also welcome. Co-op members please also nominate the Foodbank as your 'local community cause.'

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)

6.15pm Wednesday Evensong (also Broadcast)

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

ST MARY'S IS OPEN
Monday-Friday 11.30-2.30

Please note that on Thurs 6 May St Mary's is being used as
the local Polling Station.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
Estelle Barks Harry Palmer

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