

This Week at St Mary's

19th September 2021

TRUTH BEFORE BEAUTY

I don't want you to think that I spend my holidays being a culture vulture, if anything I only accompany Joanna as she knows far more than I do. Last month, we found ourselves in the South of France and were richly rewarded in visiting the Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence.

The artist Henri Matisse moved to Vence during WW2. Recovering in 1941 from treatment for cancer from which he nearly died, he was nursed by Monique Bourgeois - he had advertised for 'a young and pretty nurse'. Soon after, Monique responded to a call to become a Dominican nun. It was through this that Matisse offered to design a chapel for the Dominicans. It was the first time a painter had designed every detail of a Chapel - from the roof tiles, the furnishings, the windows, the crucifix, the robes (the pink ones are unbelievably beautiful!) and of course the paintings, simple lines on large white tiles.

Matisse saw it all as the culmination of his life's work, in gratitude for his life having been spared. He said, "this work required of me four years of an exclusive and untiring effort and it is the fruit of my whole working life. In spite of all its imperfections I consider it as my masterpiece."

He was a staunch atheist who once wrote that 'my only religion is love of the work to be created, and total sincerity'. The following words of his would suggest that's not the whole story. "The Stations of the Cross is the deepest tragedy of humanity. Faced with this tragedy the artist cannot remain a mere spectator. He must involve himself. These drawings must come from the heart. As long as I have not immersed myself in this violent tragedy, I remain incapable of understanding it. I must not seek beauty, but truth."

Tom Gillman

RECENTLY AT ST MARY'S

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS - Last Wednesday, St. Mary's was transformed into Skid Row, NY for BJW Productions' performance of the 2003 stage adaptation of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the 1986 TV musical. Shy florist's assistant Seymour discovers a new plant, which he quickly discovers has an insatiable taste for human flesh & blood! I particularly enjoyed how instead of using a puppet as the plant, Audrey II, the production used an on-stage actor, bringing a lot more life into the role. The costumes were also very effective in portraying the growth of the plant. It was a great success and a very enjoyable evening out!
Ben Staniforth

THE NOTTINGHAM SHAKESPEARE COMPANY 4 Sep "If music be the food of love, play on", proclaims Orsino in the opening lines of *Twelfth Night*. Members of the Nottingham Shakespeare company put on an excellent play replete with comedy and some wise words spoken by Feste, the fool. The performance of in the grounds of St Mary's was lively and engaging, and enjoyed by the audience picnicking on a mild summer's evening. The stage was to the side of the West entrance, and a small gazebo served as the wings. With only a bench and a few props, the actors told the timeless story about love, deception and ambition. It was a great evening, and we'd love St Mary's to host more of their performances.
<https://www.nottinghamshakespearecompany.co.uk>

EMMANUEL HOUSE OPEN DAYS FOR ST MARY'S MEMBERS - Friday 24th Sept 2:00pm - 5:00pm and Saturday 25th September 10:00am - 1:00pm. St Mary's has for many years raised money for Emmanuel House and you'll be able to see how your support makes a difference to support those who are homeless and rough sleeping. We'll also be able to tell you about some of our new services. Book your free ticket on our Eventbrite page, where you will find all the information about the event <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emmanuel-house-open-days-free-tickets-161609376997>.
Also watch 'Lone' on <https://www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/>

HARVEST - Sunday 3 October 11.00 All Family Service. Please bring non perishable foods to be donated to Emmanuel House. There will be a BCP Eucharist at 6.30pm.

CONCERT featuring **Braimah Kanneh-Mason** on violin & **Beate Toyka** on piano with the Orchestra of the Restoration, directed by John Keys, Saturday 23 October 7.30pm at St Mary's. Vivaldi's The Four Seasons and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1. £15 (£10 conc £5 U23s) via <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BDWX> or Nottm Tourism Centre NG1 2BY 08444 77 56 78 & Windblowers NG1 5BA 0115 941 0543, or on the door subject to availability.

READING GROUP - Margaret Wiedemann would like to start a reading group and is completely open to ideas - 'The frequency and venue of the meetings would be up to the members to decide, but it could either be in the church during the day or at my house (Nottingham Park) in the evening. We won't be reading explicitly Christian books, but mainstream novels to which we might bring a faith perspective.' Please contact Di in the office for details.

THE ALPHA COURSE - starting week 27 September (specific date & time to be agreed with participants) online - further details to follow. 8 sessions to explore the Christian faith together. **Good internet connection necessary.** It would be great to have you join in - please contact Grant if you are considering it, or if you have any questions or suggestions gwalton@stmarynotts.org <https://alpha.org.uk>

MEADOWS FOODBANK - donations please at the front entrance (larger ones still to the rear entrance). Please wear a mask & if dropping off at the rear, use the QR code, sanitise, complete a donor slip and give us a shout. We welcome: **UHT milk; 500g bags sugar; toilet rolls; small bottles cooking oil; tinned meat, fruit, potatoes, pasta; shampoo; toothpaste, or cash donations.** Tues 5.30-7.15, Fri 10-12, Sat 11-1pm NG2 2JD

GIVING AT ST MARY'S - We are most grateful for all donations which are our main source of income. Please use the new contactless donation station by the South Porch. Alternatively cash/cheques may be placed in the nearby chest, using Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer, or use the Donate button on the website. Please consider giving by Standing Order (NatWest St Mary's PCC 560061 00834602).

**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)**

6.30pm SUNDAY EVENSONG (Live & Broadcast)

6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG (Live & Broadcast)

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

**ST MARY'S IS OPEN
Monday-Friday 11.00-2.30**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks Stephen Morris Harry Palmer

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