

This Week at St Mary's

3rd October 2021

WHO IS THE DISABLED ONE?

Most of us humans don't fit into neat boxes and that's the same for disabled people. Isn't it easy, however, with them to do so? How many people over the years, failing to recognise this genius, assumed Stephen Hawkins was intellectually impaired? My brother is now resigned to be 'disabled' but for much of his life it has been more blurred. My parents, doubtless for good reasons, wanted him treated as being 'normal' but then at about 8 he went to a special needs school. In some ways he is disabled, in some he is not, but he is categorised as being 'disabled'.

There are several encounters the Bible tells us Jesus had with disabled people. 'Take heart' are the first words he says to one. Spoken with heartfelt warmth, he is making a human connection with this man, raising his hopes that things will improve. The grace of God reaches him, he gets up, healed and told his 'sins are forgiven'. At that point, the focus shifts to religious leaders present: 'face your sins', perhaps starting with you categorising and 'depersonalising' this and other such men.

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities for disabled people, said new volunteers all had to learn that the distinction of 'able bodied'/'disabled' is false. The first thing each had to do was face their own disability. They could then begin to appreciate the gift a disabled person brings - in the case of a Downs person, he says, friendship from the heart, which in fact is how God befriends us.

Lessons which cannot be learnt in any other way, come as we choose to open ourselves to be healed by Jesus Christ. We can face ourselves with new honesty, with a vision of God's grace. Longing follows for the Holy Spirit to fill us with Christ's love, for all.

Tom Gillman



**Do you want to grow in your relationship with God?
Then join us on THE PRAYER COURSE - An eight-week journey
through the Lord's Prayer**

The course is created by Pete Grieg, leader of the 24/7 world-wide prayer movement established in 1999 and explores connecting and communicating with God through prayer: hearing God's voice; experiencing more of His presence; unlocking the power of prayer.

Mike and Alison Davies who have set up Urban Abbey in Sneinton, part of the 24/7 prayer network, will be leading the course at St Mary's. They will be with us on Sunday 10th October at 11.00, speaking about it at the Service and then around afterwards over cake and coffee to discuss further. The course will be on Thursdays at 19:30, 21st October - 2nd December, by Zoom. Each session is 1 hour long. It includes watching a video and discussion, with a practical prayer activity.

To book your place please email dillsley@stmarynotts.org

RECENTLY AT ST MARY'S

BAPTISED on 18th - Joshua James Sharp, son of Joe and Jordan, and on 26th, Esme Susan Hughes, daughter of Steve and Hannah, we warmly welcome you both.

MARRIED on 24th - many congratulations to Kim and Alex, now Mr and Mrs Stevenson, long delayed because of Covid.

THE ST MARY'S BELLRINGERS were delighted to host the *Robert B Smith 12 Bell Trophy* competition on Saturday. Eight teams from around the country, and over 100 ringers and friends gathered to enjoy rekindling old friendships, good ringing and refreshments throughout the day. Two Nottingham teams entered, from the University Society and City Centre, who were pleased to come 2nd and 4th respectively. Huge thanks to the volunteers who made the day possible, and the church for enabling us to host.

Emma Jones, Tower Captain

REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN have now arrived in Nottm. Men's Joggers, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, T Shirts, Jeans in medium and large and good trainers. Phones, unlocked, good condition needed too. <https://www.hostnottingham.org.uk/donate>

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.

ART EXHIBITION at St Mary's from 13th - 17th October 10.00 - 4.00 (1.00 - 5.00 Sunday). Nottingham City Artists Studio Group will present Shades of Green, as the church is 'transformed into an oasis of green', in its varying tones, lime and leaf, tea and pea through to olive and the darkest ivy.

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

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.org

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