

This Week at St Mary's

31 October 2021

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

“Remember your creator in the days of your youth”. These words (from Ecclesiastes 12) are more than advice to a young person to make the most of the one life we have, and that death may come sooner than imagined.

The words begin one of the great poems in ancient literature, a description of what it's like to grow older. At 66, I find lots of it resonates - deteriorating eyes, ears and teeth, waking up with the birds, reasons for anxiety never far away and 3 brilliant metaphors, almond tree blossom (white hair) grasshopper dragging itself on the ground (lameness) and 'desire fails' (sex).

I am convinced the main point of the poem, however, is a plea to young people to see that to be a Jew is for them, their natural strengths are what it's all about. For Christianity, the same is true - even more so. The evidence of our eyes might leave us thinking otherwise, 'religion' is the domain of an older person, something we might perhaps to pick up on in retirement. No!

The imagery in the poem of the darkening sun and moon speak of fading vision. Having vision comes naturally to a younger person, open to new ideas and looking for what is going to shape their life at its dawn. Vision is what a young person 'does'. So many examples of life and change in the church have come from young people - Taizé in my lifetime.

To be a Christian it's essential to have courage. That too is more naturally the domain of the young. A (young) entrepreneur may not even realise the guts needed to invest all in their idea - without courage, it won't happen. Christians using the word 'faith' - to follow and obey Christ means courageously going for something, when others may see only uncertainty and doubt.

Tom Gillman

OUR HOUSING CRISIS

I suspect if we have not already arrived we are about to experience the greatest housing crisis in Nottingham in modern times. To rent somewhere is becoming more difficult. In Emmanuel House we support people who have been evicted from a property for a range of reasons. It happens to people in work as well.

Having a home is our anchor in which we develop our identity in a community. It is the point from which we belong. Going on holiday has particular meaning only when we know we have a home to return to. We become a traveller or we are compelled to look for refuge (a refugee). Without a home we abandon what we know about where we lived and the place where we lived abandons us. Having a home is critical and integral to our wellbeing. What kind of system do we have that turns a home into an economic unit?

Sam Wells, in his book, '*A cross in the heart of God*', refers to as the most important word in the Bible: **with**. God is with us. God does not do to us. God is for us but not before being with us. He made a choice to love us, on the cross bonding with humanity in a way not known before and in the resurrection he declares he loves us forever. Love is the capacity to be present with and understand and see another human being for who they are and to accept them for who they are, exactly the way they are.

Emmanuel House cannot change the system but the support you provide contributes to us finding ways to make the hugely challenging possible. We support people into accommodation every week. Every day we work with people to overcome the challenges of finding a home. In your support you accompany us to accompany others. For the months and years to come the system will remain broken and many who are without a secure home will so remain. As we are the hands and feet of Christ it is incumbent on us to act.

Denis Tully
Emmanuel House

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

On Thursday, Collisons Theatre Company powerfully presented **Breaking the Silence of the British Slave Trade**, allowing us to enter the extreme hardships and emotions present in the early 19th Century.

On Saturday, concert by **Beate Toyka and Braimah Kanneh-Mason** featuring Beethoven and Vivaldi. Enthusiastically appreciated and well supported.

COP26 GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Sat 6 Nov 1.00pm meet Forest Rec, Gregory Boulevard. 2.00pm March to Old Market Square. 3.00pm Rally in Old Market Square.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 14 November 10.45am - Civic service with South Notts Hussars, to include traditional elements.

6.30pm Remembrance-tide eucharist with Fauré's Requiem. To include reading names of loved ones and lighting of candles. Please click on the website notice to submit name or to admin@stmarynotts.org

BACH CHOIR CONCERT 20th November 7.30pm. Featuring pieces by Britten, Corelli and Bach. Tickets £18 tickets@nottinghambachchoir.org.uk or buy at door

MEADOWS FOODBANK welcomes: UHT milk; 500g bags sugar; toilet rolls; small bottles cooking oil; tinned meat, fruit, potatoes; shampoo; shower gel; 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 QR Code, the donation station by the South Porch or the Donate button on the website. Or cash/cheques may be placed in the nearby chest, using Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer. 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**

**10.45am 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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