

This Week at St Mary's

7 November 2021

'I'M ALREADY MARRIED'

It's always good to uncover a bit about our history and our All Saints service provided an opportunity to talk about St Catherine.

Nottingham's growth in the 19th century led to number of new churches, one of which was St Catherine's in St Ann's. Finished in 1896 it had a capacity of 600. However, by the 1970s, there had been large scale demolition around the church, such that in 1980 it was declared redundant and the parish united with St Mary's. The diocese sold the building to Christ-Citadel International Church in 2007.

I am so glad we have the link we do to the late 3rd century St Catherine (of Alexandria). Her story is one of great devotion to God, reaching its heights when at the age of 18 she turned down a marriage proposal from the Emperor, telling him she was 'already married to Jesus Christ'. She had been converted following a powerful vision of the Virgin Mary with her young Son. She then challenged the Emperor over the persecution of Christians. 50 philosophers were deputed to silence her, but many were instead converted to Christianity. Imprisoned, she received 200 visitors including the Empress, who herself with all the others were converted. It is said her cell was filled with the radiance and fragrance (literal) of Christ and that she was ministered to by angels and a dove. The Emperor's fury at being rejected led to her death sentence, on a spiked breaking wheel. At her touch, this shattered and instead she was beheaded.

Her single minded passion, one married to Jesus Christ is what stands out for me. A heart wonderfully filled with grace, a passion full of the Holy Spirit's love, joy, gentleness and peace. I have no doubt she would say to all of us in some way we too can experience He whom she knew so loved her.

Tom Gillman

STREET PASTORS

“Street Pastors is about Christians rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in practically responding to the problems of crime and safety...” The Church in action on the street. So begins their website [Street Pastors](#)

Since formation in 2003, over 12,000 street and prayer pastors have been trained in the UK, mainly to be active every Friday and Saturday night from 10pm until the early hours supporting vulnerable people. More than 240 towns and cities around the UK have a team. No patrols were possible in 2020, but they are gearing back into action, to support or signpost homeless people, to enter into conversations and to collect or dispose of glass bottles.

In Nottingham, funding has been received from Nottingham Bid and Nottinghamshire Police. A director of Nottingham BID said “We have continued to develop strong working relationships with the emergency services and door staff to effectively carry out our role in the city and have seen wonderful results including many people safely assisted home.’

Some appreciative comments “Thank you to those of you who helped my daughter and her friend tonight outside a club - very grateful to get them home safely.” “Me and my friends have just come in from a night out where our 6 inch heels were killing our feet. We just so happened to pass Nottingham Street Pastors who gifted us with flip flops and lollipops and it was amazing. Keep doing what you’re doing guys! Really appreciated!”

More volunteers are needed. They say, “We know that God has positioned us to help those most vulnerable and spread his love throughout the city so we would love to have more faithful volunteers in our team”. They also hope to recruit more prayer pastors, as prayer vitally underpins all they do.

Email Jess Raper at streetpastors@maltcross.com or phone 07398 364384 for more information.

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Many congratulations to **Raj Pathak and Katherine Ridley**, married on Saturday, having their reception in the church too. This had been postponed due to Covid and then following the death of Mike, the bride's father. It was a very special day

Our faithful bellringers returned after the wedding to '**ring out for climate change**', part of a national initiative on the eve of the start of COP26.

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

6.30pm Remembrance-tide eucharist with the beautiful music of 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

VOLUNTEERS FOR MORNING SERVICE REFRESHMENTS. Thanks to those who have come forward. Many hands make for light work. If you feel able to be on a rota to help with this, please email Di in the office dillsley@stmarynotts.org

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).

PARISH ADMIN is now on annual leave until 18 Nov - please direct anything urgent to Julie on j.hilton@stmarynotts.org or leave a message on the office answerphone 0115 958 2105.

**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

**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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