

This Week at St Mary's

14 November 2021

BEWARE OF FINANCIAL INDIGESTION

'Money is like food. Unless it passes through the system, it leads to indigestion'. I read that recently in an article about Jonathan Ruffer, the successful investment advisor who has put his money where his mouth is, giving a 9 figure sum to help rejuvenate the North East. His advice sums up well a Christian approach to money.

Conventional wisdom all around us says the opposite: hold on to what you have! Accumulate more! Isn't it the case that the more we have the less we think we have, leading us to hang on to it even more? Of course, having enough money is important, but choosing for it to 'pass through the system' applies to all of us.

I do not see myself as a 'fundraiser'. As Vicar, my priority is that we Christians live distinctively, with the freedom, joy and trust God longs to give each of us. All money we have is a gift from God (so we sit light to it) and it is the poor who are 'blessed', ones who have no choice but to let it 'pass straight through the system'. All of us can give money to support a vision we share, and a local church is right up there.

It is distinctive by diversity, as a wide range of people worship and pray together and reach out to those on the edges of our city. Our medieval building speaks of beauty, stability and strength. Set in the heart of a dynamic and creative city with vast numbers of younger people gives amazing opportunity. Our work is to change the negative perceptions - of the 'not for me, thanks' brigade.

Unsurprisingly in Covid because of no collections, reduced lettings income, etc, St Mary's anticipates this year a loss of around £53,000. Our inherited assets mean we can cover this, but once gone, it's gone. Would you please consider making a donation before 31st December, to support our vision and part of ensuring your money 'passes through the system'.

Tom Gillman

TO THE LAST ROUND

This is the title of local military historian Peter Hart's book on the South Notts Hussars, with whom we will be doing the Remembrance service. It covers the years 1939-42, ending with the siege of Tobruk in North Africa. Peter was interviewed as part of last year's corresponding service, broadcast by Notts TV.

The book underlines what others have said on war, that there is a lot of hanging around for something to happen, but when it does, it is horrendous. Through the use of interview, the words of those involved tell the story. Boredom was almost as much an enemy as the Nazis and the desert itself. Rations were limited to bully beef and biscuits, heavily rationed water (very chlorinated) occasional small quantities of beer, supplies of cigarettes ran out, poisonous centipedes, scorpions, flies, dysentery, etc etc. Occasional moments of relief, in cabarets and bars.

Some of the details given of the combat require a strong stomach. The young soldiers experienced to an extreme degree fear, injury and death. An artillery regiment, enemy shells were targeted at their batteries and when hit, the consequences appalling. The descriptions of Knightsbridge, where the regiment was defeated at Tobruk, underline to awfulness of war.

One soldier commented that there are no atheists on the battle field. The chaplain, Padre Parry had a lot of work to do. He was there in the thick of it, seen hauling a couple of the wounded into the back of his truck as the guns were blazing all around. There is an account of an air raid when the Padre said to his driver, "It's all right my boy, God will protect you". The driver replied, "Aye God will protect me just as much, if not better, with great respect, Sir, in that slit trench!"

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

St Mary's Book Group - the first meeting was a highly enjoyable occasion, with some interesting discussion flowing as we warmed our hands on cups of coffee. Not everyone had read the book recently, so we recapitulated the story and looked at one short scene in detail. For our next meeting we've decided to stay with Muriel Spark and will be reading **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**. You can get used copies from £2.27 including postage on the website abebooks.co.uk. We'll meet in church at 11 am on Thursday 2 December to discuss it, and all are welcome. You can just turn up, but if you let Di in the office know beforehand we'll count out the right number of coffee cups.

Margaret Wiedemann

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

ROTA FOR MORNING SERVICE REFRESHMENTS. This is now in the kitchen, waiting for kind volunteers to put down their names. Thanks to those who have come forward. Many hands make for light work.

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 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE in St Mary's Church
also Audio Broadcast live via our website
(follow the link, including for Order of Service)**

6.30pm REMEMBRANCE TIDE EUCHARIST (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

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnotttingham.org
Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)
Office Mon-Fri 10-3pm 0115 958 2105

St Mary's Church in the Lace Market High Pavement Nottingham NG1 1HN
Rev'd Tom Gillum 07825 041 432 tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org