

# ***This Week at St Mary's***

**21 November 2021**

## **CALM AMIDST THE RESTLESSNESS**

Life often can seem to be filled to capacity, even a maelstrom. For me, with completion of the sale of my late mother's house now imminent, it's been a busy few days doing the final clearing, needing lots of careful planning. It's all happening as the autumn leaves in their stunning colours are fast falling, the very evocative season which reminds of the inevitability of death. On returning to Nottingham, I was buzzing with physical, mental and emotional tension - poor Joanna!

As I was trying to pray in the church, the sun broke through onto the Madonna and Child painting. Her serenity and calm appeared in sharp contrast to the 'wriggling toddler'. This illustrates well a common experience we all discover as we begin to pray. For me, in my state, it didn't take long for me to make the connection, wriggling as I was, not in the peace which his mother represents.

I am so pleased Fra Bartolomeo chose to emphasise the humanity of Jesus Christ, in contrast to many other artists for whom His divinity is where they lay stress. Both are correct, but for me, I can the more easily relate to One who, as the writer to the Hebrews says, 'became like us in every respect' (2.17). It's not hard for us to identify the 'wriggling toddler' within. However, even more important is that we see how God has identified so fully with each of us, His great gift of grace. It is that alone which leads us to trust that we can enter into the peace His mother Mary so beautifully illustrates.

This recently restored painting now has a light, on these dark evenings we can see it. St Mary's is indeed extremely fortunate to be home for this fine painting. Let's make full use of it.

*Tom Gillman*

## FROM THE REV'D JAMES PACEY'S SERMON AT SUNDAY'S 'SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED'

There's a line in the Lord of the Rings that always stands out to me. As the Fellowship of the Ring are journeying through the mines of Moria, Frodo turns to the wizard Gandalf and says, "I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened."

Those of you for whom the grief of recent times, or times long ago - continues to be a very real, deadly and unrelenting companion - how many times have you echoed those words? Those who have been unable to be with their loved ones in hospital at the height of the pandemic know all too well the perplexity that compounds grief, as if life itself has stood still, and an impenetrable void of confusion and sorrow permeates every cell of every pore of their being.

And yet, as we gather in this church, preparing to receive this sacrament at this altar, we do know on some deep level that grief and pain do not have the final word. Even as we go through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we know that Easter Sunday will come, and *has* come.

As the evil forces of Mordor are about to swarm the city of Minas Tirith, the hobbit Pippin turns to Gandalf and says 'I never thought it would end this way.' Gandalf replies, "End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it." Pippin replies: 'What? Gandalf? See what?' "White shores", Gandalf says, "and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise." "Well", says Pippin, "that isn't so bad." "No," says Gandalf. No, it isn't."

May you know this day in the darkness, the comfort and the living hope of the one who Himself has gone through death and swallowed it up in victory and who will one day wipe every tear from every eye and will say 'behold, I make all things new.'

## LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

**WINE FESTIVAL** - long queues were seen waiting to gain access for this popular event - opportunity to sample wines from around the world.

**SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** - a full church participated in this annual service which we do in partnership with the South Notts Hussars. The importance of acts of 'communal remembering' cannot be overstated.

**SERVICE FOR THE RECENTLY BEREAVED** - also on Sunday, done in partnership with Nottinghamshire Hospice, especially a priority following 18 months of restricted funerals, etc. Faure's Requiem provided the musical setting. Described as 'a hugely emotive service and was so poignant and touching to the bereaved'.

### **ADVENT SUNDAY** (28<sup>th</sup> November)

10.45am Sung Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

6.30pm Advent Procession

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME** - see the website.

12<sup>th</sup> December 10.45am Christingle Service

**GIVING TO ST MARY'S** - with our year end approaching, we are looking at a **DEFICIT** of approx **£53,000** - not surprising in this Covid era. Please would you consider making us a donation and/or entering a regular financial commitment? Either use online banking (NatWest 56-00-61, St Mary's PCC a/c 00834602) alternatively standing order forms are by the south porch, cash or cheque in the donations chest, or use the Donate button on the website. Please use Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer.

**FROM MEADOWS FOODBANK** - please choose us as your local cause on the Co-op Members' website. Log onto your Co-op a/c, [https://account.coop.co.uk/signin?utm\\_source=Coop.co.uk&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=CoopNavLink&utm\\_content=Sign+in](https://account.coop.co.uk/signin?utm_source=Coop.co.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=CoopNavLink&utm_content=Sign+in) select Meadows Foodbank on 'your local causes' at the bottom of the next page.

We currently need **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

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](mailto: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   Kirsten Solway

Email [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org)   Web [stmarysnottingham.org](http://stmarysnottingham.org)  
Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://www.facebook.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](mailto:tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org)