

This Week at St Mary's

12 December 2021

A SHOOT THAT HARDLY ANYONE NOTICES

I am drawing again on Henri Nouwen, someone whose life and writings continue to help many connect with Christianity. He wrote this in 1983, in relation to Advent.

“Somehow, I keep expecting loud and impressive events to convince me and others of God’s saving power, but over and over again I am reminded that spectacles, power plays and big events are the ways of the world. Our temptation is to be distracted by them and made blind to the ‘shoot that shall sprout from the stump’ (Isaiah 11). Our salvation comes from something small, tender and vulnerable, something hardly noticeable. God, the Creator of the Universe, comes to us in smallness, weakness and hiddenness.”

“When I have no eyes for the small signs of God’s presence - the smile of a baby, the carefree play of children, the words of encouragement and gestures of love offered by friends - I will always remain tempted to despair.”

“The small child of Bethlehem, the unknown young man of Nazareth, the rejected preacher, the naked man on the cross, *he* asks for my full attention. The work of our salvation takes place in the midst of a world that continues to shout, scream and overwhelm us with its claims and promises. But the promise is hidden in the shoot that sprouts from the stump, a shoot that hardly anyone notices.”

“I remember seeing a film on the human misery and devastation brought by the bomb on Hiroshima. Among all the scenes of terror and despair emerged one image of a man quietly writing a word in calligraphy. All his attention was directed on writing that one word. That image made this gruesome film a hopeful film. Isn’t that what God is doing? Writing the divine word of hope in the midst of our dark world?”

(From Henri Nouwen, Gracias! A Latin American Journal)

Tom Gillman

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Many will have seen St Mary's all decked out for Christmas, lots of Christmas Trees, and the columns lit. We are particularly grateful to Becky Valentine of Spenbeck who made the Tree Festival happen. And to Lorna who made sure everyone had everything they needed when they came to decorate. Here are the participants of the Christmas Tree Festival.

- **CAVENDISH RESIDENTIAL** - Estate and letting agency.
- **CREATIVE QUARTER** - champions of the creative and digital economy and growth of the Creative Quarter area.
- **EDEN PR** - specialising in marketing communications.
- **HUNGRY PUMPKIN** - local café, the provider on the day of sandwiches and cakes for the tree decorators.
- **LACE MARKET APARTMENTS** - short stay accommodation.
- **NOTTINGHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL** - the whole school to be welcomed on 17th for their Carol Service.
- **NOTT'M WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY** - providing invaluable support to businesses across the city.
- **QUIDMARKET** - Flexible alternatives to payday loans.
- **ROYTHORNES** - Commercial & private solicitors.
- **RUSTY MONKEY** - branding agency.
- **SPENBECK** - bespoke, sustainable and inclusive creative space in the Creative Quarter.
- **WORKS SOCIAL** - co-working and events space for independent workers, micro-businesses and small teams scaling-up.
- **YMCA** - Housing, Childcare, Gym & more...

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO EMMANUEL HOUSE

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

(December 22nd - 26th)

WEDNESDAY 22nd	1.00pm	Lace Market Carols
CHRISTMAS EVE	7.00pm	9 Lessons and Carols
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.45am	Sung Eucharist
BOXING DAY	10.45am	Parish communion

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL will run until 5th January. We hope lots of people will come and enjoy St Mary's in this festive season.

NEW YEAR PRAYER at St Mary's, Tuesday 4th January 7.30pm - Nottingham City Prayer, all welcome. Guest speaker Rachel Hickson from Heartcry for change. Offers to help serve refreshments please?

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 in & select Meadows Foodbank on 'your local causes'. Currently needed - **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 EVENSONG (Live & Broadcast)

6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

**6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER (skype) Contact Grant
(gwalton@stmarynotts.org)**

**ST MARY'S IS OPEN
Monday-Friday 11am - 3pm**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks Stephen Morris Harry Palmer Kirsten Solway

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