

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

16<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## **WHAT A RICH RED**

When I arrived at St Mary's (2018) I was told the tragic story of Katharine Wade Walker. In October 1918, she married William, but just a week later died in the Spanish flu pandemic. The poignancy of this is captured in the memorial window in the side chapel.

Her father, Gustav Flersheim, heartbroken in his grief, died in 1921. The painted panel behind the altar table in the Chapel is in memory of him. I love praying there and particularly am drawn by the wonderful red liberally used in the picture.

The baptism of Jesus is depicted. The key word to describe what was going on is ANOINTING. 'Commissioning' and 'identity' are other possible words, but ANOINTING, I judge, to be the richest and the best. With the windows above - they are one with the picture - we are clearly in the territory of love and suffering. Jesus' ANOINTING in the River Jordan marks His resolute yes, that His life's pattern would be to choose for the Holy Spirit to fill Him each day with God's love and, as God's servant, to live each day with and close to suffering.

The painting allows us to identify, as a church and individually on that same journey. Red is the colour of the Holy Spirit underlining (in red!) that we can't do this except by that same power. Allow the angel on the right to see us safely take the necessary step into the water. On the left waits another angel, red robe in hand to equip us. See the dove, symbolising the Holy Spirit, with the rays shining from above and look up into the stained glass. You'll see that His banner over me is love, that the Holy Spirit who came upon Mary will come upon us so that we can be witnesses of God's great saving love, as we live close to suffering.

*Tom Gillman*

## BOOK GROUP

We've now got ten people on our emailing list for the book group, and there's room for a few more. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 11 am in the church. It's very informal and there's no expectation that anyone will be able to remember what happened on page 94, or even what happened at all. We've been reading classic novels of the fifties and sixties which you can get online at under £3 for a used copy in good condition, but if you don't want to do this, libraries are a good resource or someone will always be happy to lend.

In our first book, *The Girls of Slender Means* by Muriel Spark, the story ends with a fire in a women's hostel, where those who are slim enough can get out through a narrow skylight. When one particularly glamorous girl goes back into the burning building, it's assumed she is helping her friends, but in fact she's rescuing the ball gown they share round for special occasions. Her boyfriend reflects that this is an act of pure evil. Our second book, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, featured some unorthodox educational methods that today we might consider abusive. We're currently looking at Nottingham writer Alan Sillitoe.

We're aiming to discuss novels which both entertain and provide food for serious thought. If you'd like to be kept informed, ask Di in the office to put you on our emailing list.

Margaret Wiedemann

## LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

**EPIPHANY PROCESSION** - what a memorable service this is, during which we spend time each of the great Epiphany stories, with the climax of renewing our baptism vows and praying for the richness of the life of Christ to be made known. T S Eliot's poem *The Journey of the Magi* a real highlight. Beautiful music, as ever.

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - 10.45 ALL FAMILY SERVICE.** The theme is Candlemas, with the moving story of Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus in the Temple. Procession with candles, Covid regs permitting. Please note this service will NOT include communion.

**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - 6.30pm EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE (BCP) -** also on the theme of Candlemas.

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY LIGHT NIGHT** - one of the venues will be St Mary's.

**EXPLORING FAITH** - initial meeting on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan** after the 10.45 service. ANYONE INTERESTED VERY WELCOME - or contact Tom. To include those Considering Baptism or Confirmation.

**HARRY PALMER'S** funeral will be at Wilford Hill on 20 Jan at 3pm. No flowers, but any donations please to Air Ambulance.

**ST MARY'S FLOWER GROUP** - St Mary's would like to thank Dawn Taylor for her tireless work and flair over many years for the group. She has devotedly organised orders, plans, finances and the team, whilst her artistic talent has enhanced this beautiful church on so many occasions. She has now handed over the day to day management to Jane Ridley, but fortunately for us she will still work her magic arranging from time to time.

**GIVING TO ST MARY'S** - we are not taking up collections at this time, but we still very much rely on your financial support. Either use online banking (NatWest 56-00-61, St Mary's PCC a/c 00834602) cash or cheque in the donations chest, the card reader next to the chest, or via the Donate button on the website. Please use Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer. Standing order forms are by the south porch.

**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; hot chocolate; jam; small bottles cooking oil; tinned meat, fruit, potatoes; toilet rolls; shampoo; shower gel; toothpaste; laundry tabs; washing-up liquid; 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

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**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**

**6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG**

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

### **CURRENT COVID GUIDELINES**

Masks to be worn in St Mary's, please.  
Distancing and sanitising as before.  
We regret we are suspending refreshments.

### **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR**

Estelle Barks    Stephen Morris    Kirsten Solway

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