

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

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

## **SHIPWRECKED CHAMPAGNE**

On the morning of November 3, 1916 the Jönköping, a Swedish freighter on its way to Russia was sunk by U22, a German submarine. With it descended to the bottom of the Gulf of Finland 3,000 bottles of champagne, 1907 Heidsieck & Co Monopole Diamant Bleu.

There they remained undisturbed until 1997 when a Swedish salvage team located the sunken ship. In Baltic Sea silt at an estimated 60 to 65 meters below the surface, the pressure is around six atmospheres, almost identical to that in a bottle of champagne. This meant an almost equal pressure inside and out; the temperature a constant 4°C; and in darkness, no ill effect from light, the conditions for preservation were 'perfect'.

What at the time had been 'rather ordinary' champagne had become exceptional. Some of the bottles of the famed "Shipwrecked Champagne," have been sold for \$275,000. It has been described as 'sweet, fruity with a fresh nose, dominated by honey and exotic fruit and raisins with an amazingly good balance and structure - leaving a most memorable and historic aftertaste'.

This description gives a hint of the quality of the wine enjoyed by guests 2000 years ago at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. Jesus Christ 'helped out' in a crisis - what looked would be a very bad outcome was transformed beyond all imaginings. The Gospel writer, John, identifies the story as the most wonderful picture of 'redeeming grace'. Very much still going on today.

Don't let's allow this treasure to remain ignored and near forgotten in silt at the bottom of the ocean! You and I can be part of a 'salvage team' to bring to light and into the experience of many (not at £200,000 a bottle, but FREE) the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. As Mary said to the servants, let's 'do whatever He tells us.'

*Tom Gillman*

## **MANAGING WHILE DUNCAN IS OFF**

Many will know that Duncan our Verger has damaged one of his Achilles tendons and has to be in a moon boot for many weeks, unable to work. Painful and slow recovery. As we are working out the best way to cover in his absence for what he does, we are sure the congregation would want to know the ways individuals could help out.

SUNDAY duties are one area, both morning and evening (and also for Wednesday Evensong). Whilst we have sides people arranged, another pair of hands would be really useful, to help 'behind the scenes' getting everything ready and then being around by the door, tidying up after etc.

WEEKDAY VOLUNTEERING is another area - especially on a Monday or Friday. For the church to be open from 11.00 to 2.30, we need 2 people at least in the building, one specifically to greet visitors, provide help, etc (DBS check is needed to do this).

HELP AT OCCASIONAL EVENTS. This is mainly being 'another pair of hands', helping move chairs, operate the PA, etc before and/or after, to be around, and to do some cleaning. Many hands could well make light work. There are a number of occasions in the coming weeks when some help is likely to be invaluable. Please contact Di for more information.

## **LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S**

On Sunday the family of Colin White were present for the interment of his ashes in the Garden of Remembrance. Our prayers for them continue, especially his widow Pauline.

**CANDLEMAS PROCESSION.** The 10.45 service on 30<sup>th</sup> January is going to be upbeat and for all the family, processing with candles and with fantastic music. Ideal occasion to invite friends. (NB not a communion service).

**CANDLEMAS EUCHARIST AND PATRONAL FESTIVAL 6.30** on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. BCP liturgy with incense, and the choir on top form - of course.

**EXPLORING FAITH** ANYONE INTERESTED VERY WELCOME - or contact Tom. If you are considering baptism or confirmation, this would be in preparation.

**LIGHT NIGHT** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. St Mary's promises to look amazing, as you've never seen it, a 'son et lumiere' using all benefits of modern technology. At half hourly intervals, groups will enter to see 11 minutes of the interior spectacularly lit. Outside too will be a display. Get the word out widely!

**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 Live & Broadcast**

**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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