

This Week at St Mary's

24th July 2022

THE ONE THING THAT IS NEEDFUL

There is nothing more precious than having close friends. Human affection, the honesty and loyalty of friends, amidst the highs and lows are life giving. St Luke gives us a window (10.38-42) into Jesus Christ's friendship with Mary and Martha of Bethany and their brother Lazarus.

Jesus seems to have been a regular visitor at their home, treated as part of the family. Hearts would rise when he appeared. We know Jesus pointed out to Martha when she was 'stressed out'. She seems to have been in a bad way, blaming her sister Mary who wasn't helping with the food, instead (with the men) she was listening to Jesus. Perhaps a bad day for Martha, perhaps more than that.

I feel sure the early church saw in this story a vivid metaphor for church life. Whenever we meet, we 'welcome' Jesus. Our hearts rise, affection is present as with a close friend - which is reflected in how we are, especially with the visitor or newcomer. All churches experience stresses - maybe resulting from money issues, projects not happening as hoped, or frustrations with the Vicar, and more. We are wired differently and we rub one another up. The story reassures that God knows about it all and in the midst of and in spite of our 'mess', his grace continues.

Mary is told she has chosen the one thing which is needful. I think the emphasis is on the word choice. The church functions at its best as we are attentive and sensitive to listen to Jesus by the Holy Spirit, then to act on what we have heard. All ministry and mission flow from there. Jesus' words are meant to empower each of us to do as Mary did, the one needful thing.

Tom Gillman

ST MARY'S CHOIR IN CANADA 2022

On July 9 members past and present of St Mary's Choir gave a concert in Christchurch Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia, and sang Sung Eucharist and Evensong the following day. How, you may ask, did this come about?

In 2019 Wendy Williams, mother of Simon who was Organ Scholar before going up to Cambridge and then afterwards whilst taking an MA at Nottingham University, arranged for me to visit Vancouver and Victoria. In the latter I renewed the acquaintance of Donald Hunt, the Director of Music at Christchurch Cathedral. We discussed the possibility of our choir visiting Victoria while the resident choir would be at the Edinburgh Festival in 2020. Needless to say, that was not possible thanks to Covid 19. We considered a visit in 2021 - it was thought too risky given the uncertainty about progress of the pandemic and it was a relief that it was not safe to make arrangements given that Vancouver Island then experienced similar unusual temperatures that we experienced this week.

Our concert was very well attended - perhaps some of the locals had come to 'check us out' during the Friday rehearsal - and incredibly well received. We were privileged to sing for the main Sunday services and to be accompanied by Donald Hunt. Recordings of all these can be found at the Cathedral's website.

Many thanks to those who were able to travel - Cecilia, Elysia, Genevieve, Leah, Niraali, Thea, James, Jean, Odila, Freddie, Jonathan, Lloydie, Ben, Johannes and Matthew. We were grateful to the Choral Scholars of Christchurch for providing three of their number to help choral balance. It is a pity that the dates were not convenient for some of our choir and not enough notice to make arrangements for our newest members. France next?

JOHN KEYS

SERVICES OVER AUGUST

Sunday 10.45 Parish Eucharist each week

Sunday 6.30 Evensong - none, resumes 4th Sept.

Each week there will be Sunday Evening Worship at 6.30 in the Vestry. All very welcome.

Wednesday 6.15 Evensong - none, resumes 14th Sept

Thursday 12.45 Communion - none, resumes 8th Sept

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Thursday - **Nottingham Shakespeare Company** richly entertained in the grounds with *The Comedy of Errors*. A good time had by all with blankets & picnics.

Saturday & Sunday - **Nottingham Chamber Music Festival** featuring a play-along session and closing concert with *The Villiers Quartet*.

QUIET DAY 3 SEPTEMBER

Every year or two the Third Thursday Prayer Group, which meets at the Mitchells', organises a Quiet Day at Sacrista Prebend Retreat House for its members and any others who would like to join us. Our next Quiet Day, postponed because of Covid, will be on Saturday 3 September, when Angela Ashwin will lead us in meditation on St John's Gospel. The cost of the venue and speaker is met by the group, and we'll each be paying between £20-£30. If you will struggle to afford this, please speak to Margaret Wiedemann in confidence. Lifts will be offered. To sign up, or to find out more, contact Margaret through the office, or just have a word in church. We always find these quiet days very satisfying for the soul, and paradoxically we experience a great sense of community in the silence.

Margaret Wiedemann

The next meeting of **St Mary's Book Group** will be on Thursday 4 August at 11 am in the church. We'll be discussing *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, a story of two Afghan boys with very different stories who meet again in adult life. All welcome, and let us know if you'd like to borrow a copy of the book.

GIVING TO ST MARY'S We rely on your financial support. Kindly use online banking (NatWest 56-00-61, St Mary's PCC a/c 00834602); cash or cheque in the donations chest; the card reader; or via the website. Please use Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer. Standing order forms are by the south porch.

WORKPLACE WEDNESDAY at St Mary's, each week, a third space to work away from home & the office. St Mary's is a unique setting with wi-fi & fresh coffee. 9 to 12pm, no fee or need to book.

MEADOWS FOODBANK please support with biscuits; cereal, coffee; fruit juice; noodles; rice; squash; sugar; tinned toms; toiletries. 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

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

10.45am CHORAL EUCHARIST

also Audio Broadcast live via our website
(follow the link, including for Order of Service)

6.30pm EVENSONG

12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER

On skype - contact Grant - gwalton@stmarynotts.org

ST MARY'S REMAINS COVID SENSITIVE,
especially to the most vulnerable,
in respect of the use of masks, distancing and sanitising.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks Jenny Du May & her husband Peter
Stephen Morris Kirsten Solway

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.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