

# *This Week at St Mary's*

11 September 2022

## JOINING IN WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING

It's easy to assume we know what we mean by the word 'faith'. G. B. Shaw commented that people had exchanged faith in God for faith in the medical profession - and we could add scientists, influencers and more.

The writer to the Hebrews (ch 11 v 1) offers a definition of faith - *being sure of what we hope for, having conviction about what we don't see*. That does not mean positive thinking, ie the more we say we believe something the more likely it is to happen. The stories of the heroes of faith in the rest of that chapter in Hebrews are about people who decided to join in with something they thought God was doing. It's very practical territory, going with a vision, with other people making sense of it all and from that, living distinctively and differently.

For the Christian, joining in with what God is doing will inevitably take us close to suffering and hardship. The God who brought newness out of the death and suffering of Jesus Christ we trust to do the same in all circumstances, although often we may not see how. The pattern of God taking broken pieces and re-creating something beautiful from them, of His taking crumbs and making a feast from them lies at the heart of Christian living, being part of a Christian community.

Like me, I expect you sometimes wonder if and when we did join in with something God was doing. I strongly suspect we may not be aware of things we did which will turn out to be of infinite value. I am sure it's more about what WE do than what I do - although I must do my bit. It's being part of a community committed to the way of Christian humility and love, prayerfully trusting that the Holy Spirit will do His work, in and through even us.

Tom Gillman

## FRANCIS SHEPHERD

*Francis recently took up a new post as a verger at Southwell Minster.*

**WILL BURN WRITES** Francis joined St Mary's in February 2020 as Assistant Organist. He had previously been a lay vicar at Truro Cathedral, which he combined his work as a recording engineer and freelance cellist. His arrival in Nottingham coincided with the outbreak of the pandemic, and the choir immediately benefited hugely from Francis' outstanding skills in music production. Every week, Francis took the recordings made by the singers alone in their bedrooms/sitting rooms/cupboards under the stairs and combined them into a virtual choir, allowing St Mary's online worship to continue to a standard that far exceeded much bigger and grander institutions elsewhere.

During this period, Francis also oversaw the video and sound recording of Reinhard Keyser's *St Mark Passion* for Good Friday 2021. For those of us who sang that day, it was a joy to make music together again, and the professionalism of the final broadcast was a testament to Francis' dedication and hours of hard work. We will continue to benefit from his efforts in the form of the new microphones and recording infrastructure that Francis set up in the church to broadcast services and concerts.

As a choir, we will greatly miss Francis' musicianship. As a conductor, he is a pleasure to sing for, able to combine a deep understanding of vocal technique with good humour, patience and attention to detail. The congregation will mostly have heard Francis accompanying the choir from the organ console, and his playing went from strength to strength during his time at St Mary's. His knowledge of the modern choral repertoire is first rate and he was always keen to listen to others' suggestions for how to expand the choir's repertoire into new and exciting areas.

We wish him all the very best for the future and would like to thank him for all his hard work during his time with us.

## LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

**Wedding 3 September** Many congratulations to Kay Knowles & Des Oldham.

**ALLY BETTS** - with a very heavy heart we heard that Ally died last Sunday. Diagnosed with cancer several years ago, her courage and cheerfulness were amazing. She will be much missed, not least within the choir of which she was part. Our prayers are with her husband Ben and their young son Ethan.

**INSIGHT MEETING** Wed 14 Sep 12-1.30pm. 'Live' COVID-19 and its ramifications. Len Simmonds, the compiler of *Interesting to Know*, will be looking at our pandemic experiences. A buffet lunch is provided so please confirm at [lensimmonds@gmail.com](mailto:lensimmonds@gmail.com)

**FRIDAYS AT ONE** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Informal lunchtime concert with Benjamin Staniforth (baritone). Lasts about 40 minutes - feel free to bring your own lunch. Free admission with retiring collection.

**ANNUAL TOWER TOURS** Saturday 17 Sep 10-12.30 & 1.30-4pm (last 3.15pm). Sensible attire, good fitness & restrictions on children's size/age. ALSO have a go at brass rubbing, & explore our medieval heritage. Refreshments available &/or bring a picnic.

**PRAYING FOR THE CITY** Sat 17<sup>th</sup> drop in anytime from 9.30-11.00 to pray about the work of God in the City Centre.

**REALLIFE** starts 20 Sept, for anyone who wants to grow deeper into Christian discipleship. Comprising 3 10-week blocks over a year looking in detail at ten key aspects. Hosted by Christ Church Chilwell and St Mary Magdalene Newark evenings; & online from Wed 21 Sept 2.30pm. Free - please register asap. [RealLIFE 2022/23 - Southwell & Nottingham Learning Hub \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/RealLIFE2022/23-Southwell-Nottingham-Learning-Hub)

**HARVEST SERVICE** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 10.45 featuring our new children's boys' and girls' choirs.

**ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP** Thurs 6 Oct 11am with *The Captain's Daughter* by Leah Fleming. Then 3 Nov (*The Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys), & 1 Dec (*Clear Light of Day* by Anita Desai). All welcome.

**A NEW TREASURER** - Jean our amazing Treasurer is standing down at the end of the year - please be in touch with Tom if you can help.

**CATHEDRAL MUSIC TRUST GRANT** We are extremely grateful to the Cathedral Music Trust for their generous grant in support of our children's choirs and schools' work.

**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; via the website, or standing order. Please use Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer.

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 SUNG EUCHARIST**

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**

**12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION**

**6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER**

On skype - contact Grant - [gwalton@stmarynotts.org](mailto:gwalton@stmarynotts.org)

**WORKPLACE WEDNESDAY** at St Mary's, each week, a third space  
to work away from home & the office. 9 to 12pm, no fee or booking.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR**

Estelle Barks  
Jenny Du May & her husband Peter  
Stephen Morris Rick Savage Kirsten Solway  
Oliver Webb & Helen Latham

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