

This Week at St Mary's

18 September 2022

BIGGER THAN ALL OF US

It's probably become a cliché to say that we are experiencing national mourning on 'an unprecedented scale'. Following the death of HM Queen on 8th September, the Royal Family has agreed to allow the cameras to transmit live, in real time, the central moments of the 10 days of grieving. In a way which would be the envy of our forebears, we have opportunity to be present, albeit virtually. Not the same as being physically there, but still very real.

We are first and foremost honouring our late Queen. It is being done with deep affection and care. For many today, communal grieving and the rituals which accompany it are unfamiliar territory - made even more extreme during the pandemic. On a grand scale and in a traditionally British State way, it is being played out before us in a time-honoured way of mourning. All of us are part of it.

The traditions bring home that we are part of something (someone) much 'bigger than me', for us to choose to place ourselves under. Plenty of time is being given. Nothing is being hurried, as we have time to enter in, to 'be there'. Silence. Described by one person as 'deafening' (we all know what he meant) the absence of noise, as it always can, allows us to open ourselves at a deeper level than we usually do. The sadness in all of us can be given expression.

As the Queen's coffin has travelled from Balmoral to Westminster, the 'sure and certain hope' Christians have in Jesus Christ has been the golden thread. At each moment, times of worship have spoken powerfully. Her body in the oak coffin is still 'her', not at all an empty discarded shell as some suggest happens at death. Throughout, 'she' has been lovingly honoured, waiting now for her body to be raised to new life.

Tom Gillman

A QUIET DAY at Sacrista Prebend on 3 September: Praying with St John's Gospel, led by Angela Ashwin

Ruth Lindstrom writes:

It was my first time to a silent retreat. As soon as I entered Sacrista Prebend in Southwell I noticed the peace and calmness of the lovely house. We were warmly greeted by Angela, and Vincent, her husband, had tea, coffee and biscuits prepared for our arrival.

During the day Angela spoke from St John's gospel. "Abiding", "Seeing" and "Suffering" were the topics. After each talk we went our own way to sit silently in the lounge, library or in the garden.

The absolute stillness was immediate. My mind was quiet, my body still. I reflected first on Angela's words but then I was able to think about how great our God is and felt his love. This was special. The quietness enabled me to listen to God. For me, the day was a special experience. One that I hope to repeat and can thoroughly recommend.

Margaret Wiedemann writes:

In the session on "abiding", Angela talked about Jesus's seven "I am" statements. I was struck by her suggestion that "I am the true vine" evokes the tangled convolutions of a vine's branches as a symbol of our life of discipleship.

When Pilate says "Behold the man", the gospeller is inviting the reader into the scene alongside the eyewitnesses. I've always taken Pilate's words as an unconscious proclamation of Christ's kingship, but Angela suggested that when Pilate points to Jesus, bleeding and exhausted, he is saying "Look properly. Is this ruined figure really a threat to Jewish or Roman authority, meriting execution?"

Redemption through suffering is not an easy concept and Angela focused on the experiences of those suffering vicariously: Jesus's mother, the beloved disciple, and Peter, who denied Jesus three times and then was given three chances to affirm his love by the early morning lakeside fire.

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

FRIDAYS AT ONE John Keys perfectly judged his organ recital the day after HM Queen Elizabeth died. The tenor bell had tolled 96 times.

WEDDING 10 September - Many congratulations to Elisha & Wayne.

FRIDAYS AT ONE Friday 23rd Informal lunchtime concert with John Keys (Organ) presenting a popular programme. Lasts about 40 minutes - feel free to bring lunch. Free admission with retiring collection.

NOTTINGHAM PASSION AUDITIONS 'The Nottingham Passion' is being staged here next Easter, a dramatic and dynamic re-telling of the last days in Jesus' life. We are seeking actors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities for an informal audition and information evening on 17 November. Help spread the word!
nottinghampassion@gmail.com [facebook.com/nottinghampassion](https://www.facebook.com/nottinghampassion)
www.nottinghampassion.co.uk

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/RealLIFE-2022-23-Southwell-Nottingham-Learning-Hub)

CRAFT & FLEA 24 September 11-5pm - a regular & popular event.

HARVEST SERVICE Sunday 2nd Oct 10.45 featuring our new children's boys' and girls' choirs. Please bring dry & tinned food to be donated to the **EMMANUEL HOUSE HARVEST APPEAL**.

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.

MEADOWS FOODBANK please support with tinned fruit, meat & tuna; UHT milk; noodles; toilet rolls; shampoo; toiletries; bags for life. Tues 5.30-7.15, Fri 10-12, Sat 11-1pm NG2 2JD

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 CIVIC SERVICE FOR HER LATE MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

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

6.30pm EVENING EUCHARIST Live & Broadcast

6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER

On skype - contact Grant - 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

Email admin@stmarynotts.org Web stmarysnottingham.org

Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://twitter.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