

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

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

## **THE MAGIC OF MONARCHY**

In common with most, I was absorbed in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. What we did locally in Nottingham was so much part of it, as people will have experienced up and down the UK. Watching on the big screen at Cleaver and Wake, at the new Island Quarter development, we spontaneously stood for the National Anthem and joined in the Lord's Prayer.

What was it that was so extraordinary about the day? Anna Whitelock in Tuesday's Guardian writes, *'As a historian of modern monarchy, I thought I was immune to its magic. Not today. She says she found the day 'disorienting and bewildering, observing how a centuries-old institution retains such affection and, in some sense, relevance.'* She highlights as *'pointed and poignant'* the Archbishop's description of the Queen as *'an exemplar of a kind of "loving service" absent from many leaders'*. She draws out that it is the *'emotional, ceremonial and familial that appeal to the public's affection'* all of which were woven through the services.

For her (shared by many) the moment when the imperial crown, representing the sovereignty of the nation, and the orb and sceptre, representing spiritual and temporal power, were removed from the coffin, was when she says *'I became not a professor of the history of modern monarchy, but a disoriented fortysomething who, at least in that moment, witnessed the breaking of the spell: the shattering of the magic of monarchy that I have often described but had always assumed I was quite immune to.'*

Although she concludes that we will never see again *'a monarch who in a modern media age of populism and celebrity retained an echo of the mystical, age-old, divine right of kings, with her elusive charisma making her both known and unknown,'* I think I would keep a more open mind as to what the future might hold.

*Tom Gillman*

## FROM BISHOP JOHN FINNEY'S SERMON - 17<sup>th</sup> September

*It was a privilege to have Bishop John with us. As a young man, he was present at the Queen's coronation in 1953.*

Our late Queen had the gift of reticence, of reserve, of being able to keep secrets secret. Around her there was an aura of integrity, of honesty and wholesomeness.

She meant the words she had spoken at her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, that her whole life would be given to the service of her people. For 70 years she showed her words were 'trustworthy and true'. She kept her promise to serve us for the whole of her life. She lived her life to the full and her life was useful to the last.

She had profound depths. First her integrity, second her sense of duty and finally, she showed us how to die. Dr Katheryn Mannix an expert in palliative care has said: '*Missions are all accomplished, arrangements within the family in place*'. Even as the family was gathering, it was clear she was in the last stage of dying. "*She demonstrated the phases of ordinary dying to us all, how dying is mainly living, after all.*"

Her faith was her bedrock - indeed it was that that formed her life of integrity, service and perseverance. Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me... I am the way and the truth and the life.' Those who acted as her chaplains have said that as the years passed, that truth became more and more real to her. In one of her Christmas broadcasts she said, 'Christ's example has taught me to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none'.

We owe her so much... As we go into an extraordinarily clouded future, she teaches us how to live - and how to die. We have been fortunate to have lived in an Elizabethan age.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

### LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

**FRIDAYS AT ONE** with Ben Staniforth (tenor) accompanied by John Keys. Our pride in Ben and his exceptional talent grows more and more.

**TOWER TOURS** - on Saturday. Many thanks to the bell ringers for organising these. Gaining momentum throughout the day, was very much enjoyed by all. A big thank-you to all the volunteers for the day.

**FRIDAYS AT ONE** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Informal lunchtime concert with The Himley Duo (see website). 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](mailto:nottinghampassion@gmail.com)      [facebook.com/nottinghampassion](https://www.facebook.com/nottinghampassion)  
[www.nottinghampassion.co.uk](http://www.nottinghampassion.co.uk)

**WORTH THE WEIGHT** 1 October 11-5pm - vintage clothes - a regular & popular event.

**HARVEST SERVICE** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 10.45 featuring our new 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.

**ST MARY'S YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings to share in fellowship, discuss aspects of faith, eat, and pray together. If you would be interested in coming along, please contact [jamespersico@hotmail.com](mailto:jamespersico@hotmail.com)

**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** needs Shampoo; Deodorant; Shower gel; Soap; Children's tooth brushes and toothpaste; Shaving foam; Sanitary towels and tampons; Larger size nappies (4, 5 and 6); Laundry products; 'Bags for Life' type carrier bags, and any good condition children's books. 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 SUNDAY CHORAL EUCHARIST**  
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](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

Email [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org) Web [stmarysnottingham.org](http://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](mailto:tom.gillum@stmarynotts.org)