

This Week at St Mary's

20th November 2022

NO GREATER LOVE

Remembrance Sunday brings to the surface how, in military conflicts, humans can reach our greatest heights. I briefly told the story of Nottingham legend Albert Ball, the WW1 airman, who demonstrated exceptional courage and single mindedness, not counting the cost to himself. In our family, we are very proud of my father's brother Kenneth who, similarly, was willing at D Day in 1944 to place himself in extreme danger. He died on 9th June, aged 20, the same as Albert Ball.

It doesn't take long to discover how 'messy' war can be. Things are not always done with 'military precision', hard decisions have to be made quickly and 'strategic' factors can result in tragic outcomes for the unlucky. Nonetheless, what really move us are the stories of individuals who demonstrate exceptional courage, single minded determination and selflessness, inspired by a bigger picture and willing to die for something.

'Myths' develop around these heroes. Their stories, often get embellished in various ways, but they will remain a really good way of inspiring especially younger people to live well, by those same values which lead to a person being willing to die for the sake of something bigger. Long may this continue.

Christianity, starts with a (real) person of history, Jesus Christ. Throughout his life he uniquely lived out the heights of selfless love, inspired and shaped by a vision of a renewed world. For the sake of this (much) greater purpose, voluntarily he willingly put himself in the middle of the 'mess' of political expediency, knowing his own death would be the outcome. His confidence was in God, who would take the offering of his life to transform each of us and all creation.

In telling these stories, especially the one about Jesus, we are inspired and shaped, even reaching the same heights of humanity.

Tom Gillman

WHERE WE ARE IN APPOINTING OUR NEXT VICAR

First, a big thank you to everyone who completed the recent surveys. These have proved most valuable in working out our priorities for the Parish Profile.

The Parish Profile Group has met 6 times since September and a lot of work has been necessary in between meetings. (*Our indebtedness to this group is considerable.*)

A draft has been submitted to both the PCC and to the Diocese. Once all comments have been taken into account Amber, our Designer, will produce a formal document.

The post is to be nationally advertised in early January with interviews at the end of the month. Our aim is to make the appointment so that the new Vicar will start in May.

TALKING ABOUT MONEY... we shall be doing so this Sunday, as we near the end of the end of our financial year. Many, if not all, are facing very difficult financial circumstances.

Talking openly about money, indeed true with many things, is the place to start. We are extremely grateful to all who so generously give regularly to St Mary's. Income this year from 'events' is looking to be good; from our investments good in parts; donations and other income need to increase to avoid a hefty deficit for the year 2022.

We are asking everyone to consider how they can help. Financial participation in the church is something for all Christians - it's up to each to decide, willingly and cheerfully.

Options for making a donation. **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**, using **Gift Aid** if you are a UK tax-payer.

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

FRIDAY - enthusiastically received concert by Nottingham Symphony Orchestra with popular European Classics.

SATURDAY - Craft and Flea Fair attracted a steady stream of people throughout the day.

WEDNESDAY INSIGHT MEETING - Fascinating presentation by Louise and Katie into the world of work as it is emerging.

ADVENT SUNDAY (27th Nov)

10.45 am Service - Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist.

6.30 pm - ADVENT PROCESSION. With special music and readings, and the church filled with candles, the choir make their way from west to east. This much-loved service is a perfect way to begin Advent.

TALK BY MARGARET WIEDEMANN -27th Nov 12.30 to 1.30 "The Man Born to be King": In 1941, crime writer Dorothy L Sayers caused a national furore with her radio dramatisation of the gospels, though Archbishop William Temple judged it to be "one of the great contributions to the religious life of our time". Margaret did her doctorate on Sayers' plays & describes the dramas both on air & off.

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP 1st Dec 11am (*Clear Light of Day* by Anita Desai), 5 January (*Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce), 2 February (*The Clock Winder* by Anne Tyler). All welcome.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANT Di Illsley, after over 4 years in St Mary's office, has decided the time has come to step back. She will be VERY MUCH missed. We will soon be advertising for her replacement - details to be posted on the website. We are taking the opportunity to define a new paid **Financial Assistant** role, to be 8 hours a week, who will work closely with our bookkeeper, payroll advisor, accountant, gift aid processor and with our (yet to be identified) Treasurer. The **Parish Administrator** role (25 hours a week) will involve being a key part of our small office team, often the first point of contact, and with specific responsibilities for Services, office administration, returns and supplies. With suitable skills, the two roles could be carried out by the same person. Please pray that we quickly identify the right person and please pass the word on to anyone you think might be suitable.

MEADOWS FOODBANK needs UHT milk; pet food; items for Christmas - biscuits for cheese, nuts, mince pies, Christmas puddings and cakes, biscuit boxes, chocolates. 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 SUNG EUCHARIST

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

6.30pm EVENSONG Live & Broadcast

6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER ON SKYPE

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

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