

This Week at St Mary's

27th November 2022

IN THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

If only because of what many others are going through, we'd need to be on a parallel universe not now to be thinking about money.

What might it mean to say, '*Put your trust in God when it comes to money*'? I suggest it's both 'spiritual' and practical. Money has great capacity to generate anxiety and fear. The best reason to get us to pray! Our instinct seems to be to put spiritual things in a category of their own. Let's keep the spiritual and the practical close, so that we bring before God things to do with money.

God's door is wide open, at all times, for all to enter and bring ourselves as we are to Him. All prayer starts with silence, steadying ourselves for us to know his calm and peace. Sharing our financial anxieties also with another person we trust can be transformative, creating a new perspective.

Trusting God is to trust that He is kind. That means trusting that giving is deep at His core. All we have and enjoy is a gift, from the wonderful creation, to life itself, and especially His most precious gift, that of His Son. Things get practical as a church does all to foster an atmosphere of kindness. That means we proactively look out for one another (and beyond) and listen carefully to all who may be in need, to see what each can do to help.

At a time like this, using wisely and generously whatever money we have is especially important. Please let us not respond by 'battening down the hatches', tightening our fists. I'd say the opposite should be the case. Whether we have a little or a lot to give, let each do whatever we can to help our fellow humans, be that supporting a business, a family in need or a local church or charity.

Tom Gillman

ADVENT STARTS ON SUNDAY

For the Church, Advent is more than a warm up act for Christmas. Along with Lent, it has long been a time of penitence, important in itself but also the best preparation to enter the Feasting of Christmas and Easter (don't peak too long before the Festival itself!)

FASTING goes well in Advent. This can range from giving up something ie coffee, cakes and biscuits, alcohol to missing meals. Fasting and prayer are often linked, using the absence of the food/drink to identify with those who go hungry - and maybe this year, lack basic warmth.

CONTEMPLATING in prayer on Bible passages on judgment. It's a good thing to read a Psalm each day, and to pray from it. Advent would encourage focus on the verses we naturally avoid! Simply repeat them before God in a contemplative way, for Him to take and use.

ST MARY'S FINANCES. We near the end of the end of our financial year. As at the end of September we are facing a deficit of £46,000 for the year.

Donations from members and friends are a vital part of our income. Thanks so much to all who regularly give. We've not been taking up collections, perhaps for some now would be a good time to make a donation. Thank you. Please would everyone prayerfully, willingly and cheerfully consider how they might help. It's up to each to decide.

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

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY - Passion Play Auditions. James Pacey reports: *The auditions for The Nottingham Passion have been hugely successful. We had an enormous response - far better than I would have hoped. The play has now been cast with actors being informed this week so full steam ahead for rehearsals in the New Year!*

SATURDAY - Whisky Festival organised by Gauntleys and The Whisky Lounge, one of the top whisky events of the year.

TUESDAY - NGHS Concert - great occasion and the school filled the church with wonderful music.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christingle	Sunday	11 Dec 10.45am
Lace Market Carols	Wednesday	21 Dec 1pm
9 Lessons & Carols	Saturday	24 Dec 7pm
Christmas Eve Midnight	Saturday	24 Dec 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Sunday	25 Dec 10.45am

HELP WITH CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - we are expecting LOTS of children - there could be 50 in the choir alone, so we will need plenty of help before with the Christingles and with refreshments at the service. Contact admin@stmarynotts.org if you can help.

REFRESHMENTS AT THE 10.45 SERVICE - the rota in the kitchen is currently blank! All help most gratefully received & if interested to help please talk to Margaret Wiedemann.

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 With Di stepping back we are recruiting. Please see details on our website for 2 part time posts, although they could be carried out by the same person. The roles are a **Financial Assistant** (7.5 hrs a week) and **Parish Administrator** (25 hours a week) Please pray that we identify the right person(s) and pass the word on to anyone you think might be suitable. Closing date 8th December.

WARM SPACES - we have joined with other city centre churches to offer a welcoming space for people, providing warmth, company, hot drinks and biscuits. Our Warm Space will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11am-2.30pm, from 2nd December. **If you would like to help with hospitality** email Julie at jhilton@stmarynotts.org

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 BCP

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

6.30pm AN ADVENT PROCESSION 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

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