

This Week at St Mary's

15th January 2023

DRAWING CLOSE TO KISS

We are a dog loving family. my late mother's dogs were particularly important to her. She was horrified when I quoted a vet who described dogs as a 'camp followers'. Hers took centre stage at all times. However, for most people in most of history, the long and rich relationship between dogs and humans has not been an equal one. Dogs have grown to depend on us, especially for food - hence 'camp followers'. For their part, many are expert at reminding when feeding time is near.

The Greek word (proskuneo) used in the story of the Magi's visit to Bethlehem, describing when they knelt down and 'paid (Jesus) homage' has its origins in a dog 'licking the fingers', an expression of this dependent relationship. Used for the Magi, it brings out how these 'seekers of Ultimate Reality' immediately they see Jesus Christ identify Him as one from a world beyond ours, beyond time and space. Paying homage is an understatement.

However, I am not convinced really does justice to the Magi's response. I remember hearing the word proskuneo translated as 'drawing close to kiss'. It has remained with me, as it beautifully captures what the Christian worshipper also does. I don't want to strain the canine analogy, but a dog which licks the fingers is often bold and we experience it (not always welcome!) as intimate. The Christian worshipper needs to get on that wavelength. We are responding to One who unconditionally loves us. (My mother was one who saw dogs as expressing unconditional love - she's not alone.)

There is no doubt that a life given to worshipping Jesus Christ combines paying homage to Him who has given ALL for us to commit ourselves to live in dependence on Him, as well as in confidently 'drawing close to kiss' the God of the whole Universe. Doing so must lead us into a life of loving our neighbour as God loves us.

Tom Gillman

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The Churchwardens have been asked to make the following announcement:

6 January 2023

From the Archdeacons' Office

The Rev'd Thomas Alan Gillum, at present Vicar of the Benefice of St Mary the Virgin in the Lace Market, Nottingham, in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, is to retire with effect from 30th April 2023. Tom's last Sunday will be 23rd April 2023.

Update on Tom's retirement and the search process for a new Vicar

There will be an opportunity for us to express our thanks for Tom's ministry on his last Sunday, 23rd April.

The PCC has now completed the Parish Profile, which will be formally adopted at a Section 11 meeting this month. This meeting will also decide when and where to advertise the post and will appoint two lay representatives to serve on the lead group responsible for shortlisting and interviewing. We are now expecting the interviews to take place towards the end of February, and there will be opportunities for members of the congregation to meet the candidates during the process.

As always, we ask for your prayers during this time of change.

Ed Mills

Margaret Wiedemann

Churchwardens

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY - Nottingham College exams

TESS CLOTHIER and ANDY THOMAS both took up their posts, Tess as Administrator and Andy as Finance Assistant. Tess will normally work Wednesday - Friday and Andy mainly Tuesday, but some time on Friday too. We offer them both our welcome and we much look forward to having them on the staff team.

CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR NOTTS COLLEGE EXAMS for a number of days over the next month. Apologies for any inconvenience. The dates are January 17th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, February 7th, 9th.

INSIGHT MEETING Wed 18 Jan 12-1.30 on **Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers**, with Rev'd Liam O'Boyle. At St Mary's, with light lunch - email lensimmonds@gmail.com for numbers.

CONCERT OF SCHUBERT'S WINTERREISE Sat 21st January, 7.30pm - William Burn and Philip Robinson. Tickets £12.50 on the door at St Mary's Church, Clifton Village. The concert will last around 90 minutes. Please see Will for more information.

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP 11am 2nd February (The Clock Winder by Anne Tyler). All welcome.

LIGHT NIGHT 3rd & 4th February - Volunteers needed to help with candle-lighting and making space for reflection. Please contact Tess for more information at admin@stmarynotts.org

THE NOTTINGHAM PASSION TICKETS NOW ON SALE - sure to be an amazing production and we need your help to spread the word. Do come along to see and please also pray for the project! Tickets available from Nottingham Tourism Office, St. Peter's Church Office or online at www.TicketSource.co.uk/nottinghampassion

DONATIONS - from members and friends are a vital part of our income. Please prayerfully consider how you might so be able to help. There is a projected deficit this year and funds are needed to repair the Gable End wall - £180,000.

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.

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

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 SUNDAY EVENSONG

12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION

6pm THURS EVENING PRAYER ON SKYPE

**ST MARY'S is OPEN for private prayer & reflection
11.00 - 2.30 Monday-Friday**

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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