

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023**

## **HONEY FROM THE HEART OF GOD**

The appeal of honey is timeless. Winnie the Pooh famously said that *'a day without friends is like a pot without a single drop left in it'*. The sweetness of honey has been celebrated as an/the ultimate taste. Today its therapeutic and wellbeing qualities are widely recognised. How honey is created is awesome - 50,000 bee miles with visits to 2 million flowers produce 1lb.

There are several Bible stories where honey features. In the early chapters of Ezekiel, this ancient Hebrew prophet saw himself eating a scroll and described it as tasting as sweet as honey. We say things like, 'it has left a really nice taste in the mouth' for a Bible story, a song, a poem, a book, a film, or a work of art which 'get into us'. It's as though we have eaten something delicious.

Ezekiel seems to be getting at something more. The words on the scroll which he eats he says are words of *'lamentation, mourning and woe'*. For them to taste like honey is unexpected: a cynic might conclude revealing something weird if not unpleasant about the prophet, gloating over the misfortune of others. Much more likely, I think, is that the lamentation, mourning, and woe are describing the heart of God. Despite His repeated warnings and pleadings, nothing seems able to prevent them going down a doomed path of disaster and self-destruction. BUT even so, God has not given up on them.

This combination of food and words came into sharp focus as Jesus laid bare the heart and showed the lengths to which God would go to save us from disaster and self-destruction. At His final meal with them, the disciples ate bread and drank wine. As we also continue to do so, the taste deep within is indeed sweet, honey of the New Creation.

*Tom Gillman*

## MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Rev'd Liam O'Boyle, Partnerships Officer for the Diocese co-ordinated Wednesday's Insight Meeting which attracted a wide audience. With Refugee Roots and Host Nottingham, insights were given into what is going on within the complex world of refugees, asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and forced migrants.

More than 45,700 migrants crossed the Channel by small boat in record breaking 2022 - including 90 on Christmas Day and 1,295 in one day alone. More than 1,700 Ukrainian refugees alone have arrived in Nottinghamshire since the Russian invasion began. Around 140,000 people from Hong Kong have applied to come to the UK after the introduction of the British National Overseas visa scheme established by the UK Government in January 2021.

People leave their own countries for all sorts of reasons: many are refugees fleeing persecution and seeking asylum and safety. Some are forced to come here against their will, kidnapped or enslaved. Many are economic migrants looking for work and a better life. People arrive here and are being sent to cities - some put in hostels and hotels some being put into houses.

The schemes to help Ukrainians have given homes to almost 2,000 people. Many adults have now got jobs. Uncertainty as to how long guests will stay and cost of living financial pressures have been factors. Friendship and support in some cases have continued beyond the Scheme.

An extremely helpful Directory of all that is on offer in the city (going beyond refugees, asylum seekers, etc) was referenced - copies available. See also [Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants - Transforming Notts Together](#) [Notts Churches' Response to Ukrainian Refugees \(Local Support\) - Transforming Notts Together](#)

We as individuals cannot solve the global problems that have led us to this situation but we can help people feel safe, and to be welcomed warmly, for however long they are with us.

## LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

**MONDAY** - Service in memory of Andre Mercurio Telo

**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY** - Nottingham College exams

**WEDNESDAY** - Insight Meeting, see above

**CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR NOTTS COLLEGE EXAMS** 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> January, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**CANDLEMAS** - 29<sup>th</sup> January Festival Service with our Children's Choirs. NB Sung Eucharist at 6.30pm BCP.

**ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP** 11am 2nd February (*The Clock Winder* by Anne Tyler), 2<sup>nd</sup> March (*A Town Like Alice* by Neville Shute). All welcome.

**LIGHT NIGHT** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> (6-10pm) & Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> (5-10pm) February - Inspire Youth Arts have worked with young people across Nottinghamshire on a spectacular light and sound installation exploring human displacement and the consequences of climate change. Our choirs perform on Friday at 6 (children's) 7, 8, and 9. Volunteers are needed to help with candle-lighting and reflection stations. Please contact Tess for more information at [admin@stmarynotts.org](mailto:admin@stmarynotts.org)

**INSIGHT MEETING** - next one 22nd Feb "A tricky time for businesses and employees"

**CONCERT** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in church. The Choir of St Mary's and the Orchestra of the Restoration will be performing Schubert's *Symphony No. 5* followed by the UK Premiere of Richard Prior's *Stabat Mater*. Tickets available from Nottingham Tourist Office or at [www.trybooking.co.uk/BYQG](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/BYQG). Sponsored by T. Bailey Asset Management.

**THE NOTTINGHAM PASSION** 31<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April, 7.30pm. Tickets now available [www.TicketSource.co.uk/nottinghampassion](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk/nottinghampassion) or from Nottingham Tourism Office, St. Peter's Church Office or talk to Margaret or Lorna after Sunday Eucharist.

**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.

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you,  
especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's

**FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**10.45AM CHORAL EUCHARIST**

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

**6.30PM SUNDAY EVENSONG**

**6.15PM WEDNESDAY 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. 9am-12pm, no fee or booking.

**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

**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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