

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

SERVICES COMING UP

SUNDAY 12th Mar: Choral Eucharist 10.45am

SUNDAY 12th Mar: Choral Evensong 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY 15th Mar: Choral Evensong 6.15pm

THURSDAY 16th Mar: Holy Communion 12.45pm

THURSDAY 16th Mar: Evening Prayer (Skype) 5.30pm

SUNDAY 19th Mar: Service for Mothering Sunday (with St Mary's Boys' and Girls' Choirs) 10.45am

SUNDAY 19th Mar: Choral Eucharist (BCP) 6.30pm

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.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks
Jenny Du May & her husband Peter
Stephen Morris Kirsten Solway
Oliver Webb & Helen Latham

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This Week at St Mary's

12th March 2023

BUOYANCY OF GOD

I've recently been watching my grandchildren learn to swim. A float held by the child plays a big part. This has obvious benefits, one of which is to make it hard for a child to tense up and thrash around which would inevitably result in sinking. Staying relaxed in water is the best way to buoyancy, but it needs learning.

I find helpful the illustration of 'faith' as floating in a deep and vast ocean. A person who can relax in that situation will float, meaning survival can follow. Trusting in the 'buoyancy of God' perhaps helps describe a Christian. Our only contribution is to trust in something beyond ourselves, in God Himself. This always feels counterintuitive, if not radical, but it's the sort we will need to believe in Jesus Christ.

St John (ch 3.14) uses an episode from the Israelites' wanderings in the desert to help make this point. Deadly snakes had become a serious problem, resulting in Moses putting a bronze replica of a snake up on a pole. It acted as more than as a warning sign of deadly danger, for those who chose to look at it were healed. St John draws a parallel with our choice to believe in the One he's writing about, he who was lifted high so that anyone looking to and believing in Jesus Christ can receive God's gift of life, a part of God's newness.

In an age which commonly sees trusting God as an optional lifestyle choice, life and death metaphors such as a snake attack or being out in a vast ocean may help us appreciate the wonder of all Christ has done for us. How much we have learnt to trust in the 'buoyancy of God' is likely to be seen in our anxiety levels as we look death in the face. Growth in faith as trust casts out anxiety.

Tom Gillum

GET OUR BELLS RINGING AGAIN

The gap is narrowing—very many thanks to all who have so far responded. We are approaching 50% the £180,000 we need to raise. Let's all now give what we can, so that the bells can be rung on 6th May. To donate online, please use the QR code on the right.



LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

SATURDAY Craft and Flea Market

SUNDAY The High Sheriff's Legal Service. Very well-attended and a fantastic occasion with excellent contributions from Pulp Friction, Misha and Marcellus from Switch Up! and the Nottinghamshire Police Band.

PULP FRICTION supplied the delicious pies we enjoyed after the Legal Service.

Set up by Jill Carter and her daughter, Jessie who had wanted to get a part-time job in a fancy restaurant, unfortunately, it became clear that it was unlikely local businesses would be able to support her needs in a work environment. In 2009, they saw a pedal-powered smoothie bike at the Robin Hood Festival at Nottingham Castle, after talking with the owner of the stall they began to explore the potential of a pop-up smoothie bike for events.

Jessie and four of her friends successfully applied for the Youth Opportunities Fund. Using money from this grant Pulp Friction was born, they bought a smoothie bike, a laptop and a mobile phone. At an event at their local youth club, a parent invited Jessie to bring the bike to his family BBQ and was willing to pay for this. Jill began to see the potential of the smoothie bike, in 2011 Pulp Friction became a Community Interest Company.

Pulp Friction Smoothie Bar began to attend multiple events, including school fairs, youth clubs, playschemes, community festivals etc. Allowing Jessie and others to gain valuable work experience, work as a team and build friendships. By 2014/15 Pulp Friction was a running business, all money earned was put back into the business.

Pulp Friction has diversified as it has grown from one smoothie bike we now operate in a number of different settings, ie Community Events, Catering Enterprise, Environmental Initiatives, Education & Qualifications and Social Activities. (pulpfrictioncic.org)

THE REV'D JAMES PACEY It was announced last week that The Rev'd James Pacey, Chaplain at NUH and long-time friend of St Mary's, will be leaving the diocese in the summer to take up a new post as Canon Chancellor at Hereford Cathedral. We wish him every success in his new ministry.

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday 19th March is Mothering Sunday and all are welcome to our 10.45am service which will be led by our Children's Choirs. At 6.30pm there will be a BCP Choral Eucharist in place of Evensong.

INSIGHT MEETING 22nd March 12-1.30pm The present Nottingham Playhouse opened 60 years ago this year. At the next Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy Meeting Chief Executive, Stephanie Surr, will be joined by Head of Participation, Martin Berry, to give an INSIGHT into the world of theatre and the wide-reaching participation programmes that help create life-changing experiences for our community. A buffet lunch is provided. To confirm your attendance please email: lensimmonds@gmail.com

THE NOTTINGHAM PASSION 31st March & 1st April, 7.30pm Both nights are now SOLD OUT, in large part due to your immense support—thank you. The cast, crew, and production committee would be very grateful for your prayers as the project enters its final stages.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

PALM SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 10.45am Choral Eucharist with Procession of the Palms and dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative; **6.30pm** Choral Evensong

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 7.30pm Solemn Eucharist with Stripping of the Altars and Silent Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY 7TH APRIL 10.30am-12pm Good Friday Service; **2pm** Children's Gathering; **7.15pm.** The Choir of St Mary's and 18th Century Sinfonia will be performing Rheinhard Keiser's *Markus-Passion*. Free admission with retiring collection.

EASTER DAY 9TH APRIL 5.30am Dawn Vigil with Readings and the First Eucharist of Easter; **10.45am** Choral Eucharist; **6.30pm** Choral Evensong

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP 11am 6th April (*Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart), 4th May (*A Child in the Forest* by Winifred Foley). All welcome.

MEADOWS FOODBANK please support with especially: jam, UHT milk, tinned potatoes, shaving foam, deodorant, washing powder, meat soup, tinned vegetables, chocolate spread, peanut butter, bags for life. Tues 5.30-7.15, Fri 10-12, Sat 11-1pm NG2 2JD

DONATIONS - from members and friends are a vital part of our income. Please prayerfully consider how you might so be able to help.

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.