

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

This Week at St Mary's

21st May 2023

SERVICES COMING UP

SUNDAY 21st May: Choral Eucharist (with St Mary's Children's Choirs) 10.45am

SUNDAY 21st May: Choral Evensong 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY 24th May: Choral Evensong 6.15pm

SATURDAY 27th May: Festal Evensong for the Choir Reunion 5pm

SUNDAY 28th May: Choral Eucharist 10.45am

SUNDAY 28th May: Choral Evensong 6.30pm

**St Mary's is OPEN for private prayer & reflection
11.00-2.30 Monday-Friday**

NOTTS COLLEGE EXAMS Please note that church will be CLOSED for examinations on 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th May.

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
Helen Latham

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Facebook Instagram Twitter [@stmarysnotts](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysnotts)

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St Mary's Church in the Lace Market High Pavement Nottingham NG1 1HN

This Parish is currently in vacancy.

SINGING AND SCORING RUNS

Charles Price writes:

Constantly changing weather forecasts means our cricketing summer is back and so I can legitimately talk about my favourite cricketer: Sir Alastair Cook. He is England's leading Test run-scorer with 12,472 runs, the leading Century maker for England, he's had the most consecutive Test appearances for any side (clocking in at a massive 159) and scored the second most runs by an England batsman in one series (that was 766 against Australia in 2010/11). He's also been the youngest player to reach 7,000, then 8,000, 9,000, 10,000, 11,000 and 12,000 Test runs. He's also left-handed. His leadership as England captain was viewed by many as like his batting: unyielding, determined and deliberate. It was his rock-like commitment to the cause, despite the many setbacks the side faced in the 2000s, and his high personal standards, that were cause for considerable respect and gratitude.

As a young child, Alastair was a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral School. The choir's busy schedule provided Alastair with immense structure, and required huge amounts of discipline. Crucially, it gave Alastair the opportunity to learn how to perform under pressure, and not dwell on his mistakes. In interviews he often describes how it was this experience that set him up perfectly for his impressive cricketing career.

Here at St Mary's we are immensely privileged to have such a strong choral tradition. Our choirs cannot dwell on their mistakes: the service has begun and the story and mystery of the liturgy must continue to flow. We can observe the discipline, skill and talent of the choir and wonder how that enriches their lives and those around them during the week. We can pray in particular for our children's choirs: giving thanks for the life-changing development that learning music alongside friends and performing under pressure provides. May God work through routine, rehearsals, services, concerts, and of course fun, to create outstanding people, no matter their cricketing prowess.

THE VENERABLE BEDE: PRIEST, HISTORIAN, AND SAINT

Tess Clothier writes:

Next week (25th May) the church celebrates the Venerable Bede, one of the earliest historians of England. He was a 7th-century priest, monk, and writer, and is best remembered for his historical work *Historia Ecclesiastica - An Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. His tomb lies at the west end of Durham Cathedral, and on his feast day the Eucharist is celebrated there, using his tomb as the altar. The Northern Saints have captured the national imagination, and Bede is no exception.

However, it's his childhood that is of most interest to me, though we know precious little about it. He began his religious life as an oblate at the monastery of Monkwearmouth-Jarrow in Northumbria - now just outside Sunderland. Records show that he was given over to the monastery by 'kinsfolk' aged seven, which suggests that he was an orphan. However, it was not unusual at the time for children to be dedicated to the religious life by their parents as an infant.

In time, Bede was ordained Deacon, and then Priest, but as a child he would have been given a full education by the monks, and one of the most important parts of his education would have been learning to sing the daily services (known as the Office). It is possible that Bede was the young boy who, when the monastery was stricken by a plague, was the only one fit and healthy enough to assist the Abbot with the Office. This unnamed child is mentioned in an anonymous *History of Abbots*, and at the time it was written was said to have become a priest. We can never know if he was Bede, but it is likely.

So while our young choristers haven't, in fact, been given over entirely to St Mary's, their ministry in this place, and in the history of the Church, long precedes them. We're extremely grateful for their contribution to our worship and are excited to see what this will lead to for each of them - priests, historians, saints, or something else entirely!

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

SATURDAY: Our Choir and the Orchestra of the Restoration performed a concert to celebrate the Coronation.

THURSDAY: We came together to give thanks for the life of The Rev'd Stephen Morris, former Lecturer of St Mary's.

FRIDAY: Notts College began their exam season, with the first of several sessions taking place in Church. See back cover for dates coming up when Church will be closed due to exams.

CALLING ALL WRITERS! We are looking for contributors to *This Week at St Mary's* during the interregnum. If you are interested in writing a short article of c.300 words, please email Tess at admin@stmarynotts.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We need volunteer stewards to help keep the church open during the interregnum. If you have a few hours to spare on a Monday or a Friday and would be interested in helping, please email Tess at admin@stmarynotts.org.

APCM Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place **TODAY**, Sunday 21st May, after the 10.45am Eucharist. All members of the electoral roll are welcome to attend and vote on important issues such as our PCC and Churchwardens.

FESTAL EVENSONG Saturday 27th May, 5pm. The Choir and Choral Scholars of St Mary's are delighted to invite you to a special celebratory service of Choral Evensong, where they will be joined by former St Mary's singers from years gone by. Music to include Howells, Finzi, and Clemens non Papa. All welcome.

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP 11am 1st June (*The House on the Strand* by Daphne du Maurier), 6th July (*What Maisie Knew* by Henry James). All welcome.

MEADOWS FOODBANK please support with especially: tinned fruit, meat, fish & soup; UHT milk; cereal; biscuits; fruit juice; toiletries. 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.