

## With thankful hearts - September 2022



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept the News launched the Harvest Campaign for this year – ‘With thankful hearts’. The next day those words took on another meaning and depth.

As we heard of the death of Her Majesty the Queen we had a mixture of emotions (as we do at the death of anyone we love). As we acknowledged our sadness and sorrow at the loss our nation and ourselves, we also remembered her life and example with thankful hearts.



There have been many tributes, reflections and words – but at the heart of all of them lie our recognition of an outstanding example of Christian living and faithful dedicated service to God and his people.

As the days have unfolded and we have shared in the national events so we also offer with thankful hearts our prayers for our King and for those who will advise and support him.

On Sunday (11<sup>th</sup>) we offered a Requiem Mass for Her Majesty and ended praying for the King – with our first singing together of the National Anthem ‘God save the King’.



**St Mary's** has (and will continue to) been **open each day from 9am – 6pm** giving anyone who wishes a chance to pause, reflect and offer prayers and light

candles.

Over the weekend as a city there will be many opportunities to gather and express our loss and thanksgiving – including a gathering in the Guildhall Square at Noon on Sunday and a Civic Service at the Cathedral at 3pm.



On **Saturday at 6pm St Mary's will hold a time of reflection, remembrance and thanksgiving** – with music, readings, prayers and an opportunity to place our

memories and thanksgivings on prayer trees and light candles. We will be joined by many local community groups and others. We hope you will also join us for this service.

Then on the **day of the Funeral (Monday 19<sup>th</sup>) the church will be open from 9am** and if you wish to share in the Funeral service with others, **the coverage will be shown on our large screen** and tea and coffee will be available.

We will be issuing our Harvest Leaflet next week and giving full details of upcoming services and events. Here, though, is a brief glimpse at what is currently planned :

- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm** Frs Bob and Rajiv and others will do a **sponsored Bike Ride** around 15 places of worship in the city centre. Please join us at St Mary's at 2pm or sponsor them ...
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm St Mary's Choir** will be holding an **open evening for children** and parents to come and explore what it means to be part of the choir. Please encourage any one aged 7 or over to come along
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm St Mary's DCC** meets
- **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> after Noon Mass at St Mary's A Fellowship lunch** (bring your own food) and Mthr Charlotte will be talking about the Reredos at St Mary's and its history
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am at St Mary's** – join us for a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** (or send a donation or cakes!)
- **At 7pm An Organ Recital** by Richard Moore
- **Saturday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am – Noon** : Listening to Creation – **Messy Harvest at St Mary's** (Offers of help to Fr Rajiv)
- **3pm A Mass celebrated by Fr Nicholas Frayling** to mark his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood at St Mary's
- **Sunday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Listening to the Voice of Creation with Thankful hearts Harvest Celebrations** at all 3 Churches.

- **Noon onwards** (combining the Parish Bar B Q – postponed from 11<sup>th</sup>) and **Harvest Supper – a Bar B Q lunch** (cost £3 adult and £2 children) and at **1.30pm some entertainments.** (Tickets from Bar B Q are still valid – please confirm attendance with us)
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October a quiet day at the Sustainability Centre** – please contact Revd Sam to book a space.

*Best wishes*

*Father Bob*