

free

A vision for our city

Jane Todd sets out a
plan for the future



Robin Hood

Connecting the legend
with St Mary's Church

Planting hope

The role of the All
Saints' Peace Garden
in the community

Beyond Sunday

Services throughout
the week in our
churches

PLUS

Details of services and events
over the next 6 weeks



nottinghamshire hospice

Celebrating 30 years

adding life to days

Moonlight Memory

Walk 2010

Saturday 17th July 2010

Walk in Memory of a Loved One whilst raising much needed funds for your local Hospice

Our 10 kilometre circular walk begins and ends at Nottingham Forest Football Stadium.

Our theme this year is 'Sparkle & Shine' so dress up as little or as much as you like to make the evening more special

Entry is £12.50 for adults (Group Discount of 10 walkers for the price of 8 = £100) and £7.50 for children (aged between 8-15 accompanied by an adult) which includes food and drinks

Sign up now and help make the 2010 Moonlight Memory Walk even bigger and better than 2009

Pre registration required – register early to avoid disappointment!



Contact Nottinghamshire Hospice Fundraising Team now!



t: 0115 910 1008

e: fundraising@nottshospice.org

w: www.nottshospice.org



The Nottingham Emmanuel School

A Voluntary Aided Church of England Secondary School

The Nottingham Emmanuel School,
Gresham Park Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7YF

Telephone: 0115 977 5380

Website: www.emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

Email: admin@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

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You may not think you're a carer, but if you spend regular time caring for a friend or family member, give us a call. Crossroads Care provides short breaks for over 1,000 carers in the East Midlands, often funded by the local authority.

But the government is changing the way carer support works and it may become quite complex. As the East Midlands' leading carer support charity, Crossroads Care can help you understand your options and provide services you can trust.

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or email: call@emcrossroads.co.uk**

Just let us know where to find you and we'll keep you in touch with the changes. **It's completely FREE.** You'll get a newsletter, the chance to chat with other carers and ask for help and advice.



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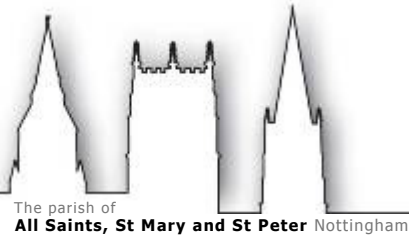
St Peter's Church Coffee Room

Open Monday - Friday 10.30am-2pm

St Peter's Centre
St Peter's Square
Nottingham
NG1 2NW

St Peter's Church Coffee Room offers a large selection of hot & cold drinks, homemade cakes, freshly cut sandwiches and light lunches, all prepared and served by friendly staff and volunteers.

If you would like more information about the coffee room, or are interested in becoming a member of the group of volunteers, please call the Parish Office on 0115 9483658 or email office@nottinghamchurches.org.
<http://www.nottinghamchurches.org/parish-life/coffee>



Welcome

Whether you have been worshipping in our parish for years, have just moved to Nottingham or are just visiting, we hope **nottinghaminfaith** will be of interest to you. If you would like to find out more about our churches, please contact the parish office (details below).

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Cover Image

Nottingham from the tower of St Mary's. Photograph by Ed Mills.

Send your photos of parish life, our churches or anything in Nottingham to office@nottinghamchurches.org

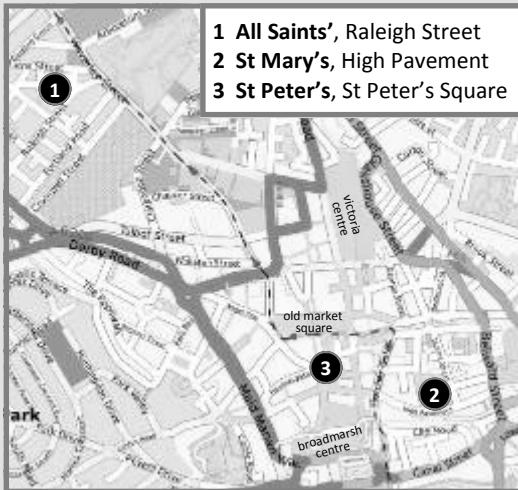
Getting in touch

Please contact the parish office (details below) if you have any queries about the churches, including church opening times, baptisms, weddings and home communion for the sick or house-bound.

If you need guidance on spiritual matters the parish office will be able to put you in touch with a member of the clergy.

Remember, if you urgently need to talk to someone, and can't get through to us, you could try The Samaritans on 08457 90 90 90 or Childline on 0800 1111

Where we are



- 1 All Saints', Raleigh Street
- 2 St Mary's, High Pavement
- 3 St Peter's, St Peter's Square

Who we are

Our parish aims to...

- live and proclaim the Gospel for the 21st century in our modern, challenging and fast-developing city
- develop ministry together in the city in a way that makes clear that all people are valued within the thought of God, and loved by God
- speak out together, wherever possible, on matters of justice and injustice, of inclusion and exclusion, of rights and responsibilities, of integrity and transparency

Contact information

The Parish Office

St Peter's Centre
St Peter's Square
Nottingham
NG1 2NW
E: office@nottinghamchurches.org
T: 0115 948 3658
www.nottinghamchurches.org

Clergy

Priest-in-charge: Reverend Christopher Harrison
Lecturer: Reverend Stephen Morris
Associate Priest: Reverend Chrissie Little
Workplace Chaplain: Reverend Alison Maddocks
Office Staff
Parish Administrator: Wendy Pearce
Parish Secretary: Adele Charter
Finance Assistant: Sarah Hopkin

Contributions

Please send any contributions or suggestions for **nottinghaminfaith** to the parish office:
office@nottinghamchurches.org
The copy deadline is the **10th** of the month prior to publication.
Editor: Ed Mills

News from the Churches

Coffee Break Concerts in June

The Coffee Break Concerts continue *every fortnight* in June. This month, we can look forward to Pergolesi's beautiful setting of the Stabat Mater on 12th June as part of the parish music festival, and the St Peter's Patronal Festival concert on 26th June where the church choir will perform Vivaldi's buoyant setting of the Gloria.

The coffee room will be open in aid of the organ appeal on each Saturday in June. Please support the appeal by coming along to the concerts, and enjoy a spot of lunch afterwards.

Saturday 12th June – Pergolesi: Stabat Mater
 Saturday 26th June - Vivaldi: Gloria

Food for Thought—a breakfast event

Decision makers of Nottingham were invited to enjoy a slap-up breakfast at Adam's Restaurant, whilst benefitting from hearing the thoughts of key Nottingham leader, Dr Glenn Crocker, the Chief Executive of BioCity. Nottingham is recognised as one of seven national 'Cities of Science'. BioCity is an incubator unit for bio-technology companies, and is leading the way in bio-technology development in Europe. We look forward to future such breakfast events.

Rededication of war memorial to 200 Nottingham men

On Monday 10th May a quiet but moving ceremony took place in the Galleries of Justice, at which a memorial to over 200 men from Nottingham City Transport (see right) who served in the First World War was dedicated. This remarkable wooden structure, containing individual photographs of these men, had been moved from a social and recreational building in the Nottingham City bus depot in the Meadows, where it had been situated ever since it had been made, by transport operatives, shortly after the war. At the ceremony, speeches were made by the outgoing Lord Mayor, Jeannie Packer (her last official event as Lord Mayor), and senior figures from Nottingham City Transport and the Galleries of Justice. The rededication was performed by Rev. Christopher Harrison. Do visit the Galleries to see this unique and deeply moving tribute to these Nottingham men (access to the memorial, which is now above the main entrance, is free of charge).



Peace Garden Summer Fair

Many thanks to those who are continuing to support and maintain the Peace Garden at All Saints'. All of the hard work is paying off, and the garden is looking beautiful with its array of brightly coloured flowers and plants. The Peace Garden Summer Fair will take place on Saturday 31st July, 2.30pm—5.30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are able to donate items for the fair, or could help in any way, please contact John Ferris (0115 9222882) or Julia Atkins (Church warden, All Saints').

City Debate

The second in the series of City Debates will take place on Thursday 17th June at St Peter's church, coffee from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. We are lucky to welcome another influential guest speaker, Jane Todd, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council. Jane (who has also written an article for this issue of **Nottinghaminfaith**) will give an address entitled "Nottingham: a city for local people with a global future". All are very welcome to attend.

If you would like more information about this or future debates, please send your email address to Adele Charter (adele.charter@nottinghamchurches.org) and you will be added to the City Debate mailing list.

Orchestra of the Restoration
 Choir of St Mary's

Saturday 12 June 2010 - 7.30pm

at

St Mary's Church, Nottingham

Pianist Noriko Ogawa

Manfred Overture Schumann
Schicksalslied, Op.54 Brahms
Piano Concerto Schumann

Tickets £15 (£13), £12 (£10), £5 (student standby on the door £3) from Nottingham Playhouse Box Office tel. 0115 941 9419

From the Registers

Baptisms

Louis Miller - 2nd May - St Peter's

Weddings

Viv Smithers & - 8th May - St Mary's

Daniel Skurok - 15th May - St Mary's

Rachel Cockram & - 15th May - St Mary's

Henry Grochowski

Workers' Memorial Day, 28th April

This year, for the first time, Workers' Memorial Day was officially recognised in this country. Marked at St Peter's, in conjunction with UNISON, this year's service included a poem inspired by last year's service, by David Siddon:

Our blood oils the gears of industry,
The silent masses that none can see.
Of corners cut that stilled our hearts beat,
For the expedient, healthy, balance sheet.
What of loss of parent, partner, child or friend?
All for a shareholder's annual dividend.
We are the acceptable loss, the ones that fall,
Because it's as far as is reasonably possible.
So expose the lie, expunge the pain,
And fight that we may not die in vain.
In our struggle, brother, sister, never cease,
That the silent masses may rest in peace.
Your vigilance kept down the endless years,
Lest we forget what it is that oils the gears.

Recognising the inherent challenge of remembering the dead and fighting for the living, this partnership with UNISON sees the Church at its most pastoral and prophetic. One of the readings was read by the MP (elect), Lilian Greenwood.

Dedication of VC Memorial

I've just completed my role as Chaplain to Cllr Jeanie Packer during her year as Lord Mayor. It was a pleasure. Prominent on her agenda was to improve the City's recognition of the courage and dedication of service men and women, past and present. Through the year, the Nottm and Notts Victoria Cross Committee managed to raise sufficient sums to provide a beautiful granite memorial in the Castle grounds to honour all 20 VCs from the City and County.

On 7th May, I was privileged to dedicate the Memorial at its unveiling by the Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor, the Chair of the County Council and the Chair of the VC Memorial Committee. The Memorial is well placed near the band stand, just along from the statue of Nottingham born Captain Albert Ball VC, DSO and 2 bars who died on that date in 1917.

Reverend Stephen Morris



Prayers for June

Please remember to include the following in your prayers this month:

On 6th June, the third of our three **congregational meetings** to elect members to the new Committees will happen at All Saints'. We pray for that and for all those who have been elected to the Committees and that there will be good agenda setting and wise counsel.

Through the month, the **Stewardship Committee** will be working on the program to address the parish's funding and fund-raising. We seek God's guidance for them and for a spiritual and prayerfully motivated response to the campaign in the autumn.

Nottingham Boys' High School Founders Day service in June reminds us to pray for all those who are involved in the provision and administration of education as well as pupils and students. This month we have particular care for those who will be sitting examinations at any level.

We are thankful for the **Communications Committee's** talents, hard work and devotion as they continually update us on the life of this very busy and complicated parish.

The end of the month brings Peter-tide. We pray for **St Peter's congregation** and for our work and witness in worship and service through the coming year, anticipating the long awaited new organ; we also pray that all the concerts and other music of the parish will continue to inspire and stimulate us in our wonder at God's creation.

Revd Stephen Morris

Parish Barbecue

The annual parish barbecue will take place on Sunday 25th July, 12.30pm at St Peter's Church. All are very welcome to attend. Gail Phillip, our former CMS Mission Partner, will also be preaching at St Mary's at the 10.45am Eucharist that day.

Services and events in the next 6 weeks

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6th June All Saints' 10.30 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 10.45 Sung Eucharist * 6.30 Choral Evensong* St Peter's 8.15 Holy Communion 10.45 Sung Matins* 6.30 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	7th June St Peter's 13.15 Meditation	8th June All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 13.15 Tuesday Talk	9th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 18.15 Evensong St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	10th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 13.15 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	11th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal 1130 Coffee Break Concert Pergolesi: Stabat Mater* St Mary's 1930 Noriko Ogawa with the Orchestra of the Restoration (See page 4)	12th June St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal 1130 Coffee Break Concert Pergolesi: Stabat Mater* St Mary's 1930 Noriko Ogawa with the Orchestra of the Restoration (See page 4)
13th June All Saints' 1030 Choral Eucharist* St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Choral Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Choral Evensong*	14th June St Peter's 13.15 Meditation	15th June All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion	16th June All Saints' 0900 Morning prayer St Mary's 0800 Nottingham High School Founders Day Communion 18.15 Evensong	17th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 13.15 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1830 City Debate: Jane Todd	18th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1100 Nottingham High School Founders' Day Service St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal	19th June St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal 1130 Coffee Break Concert Vivaldi: Gloria* St Mary's 1930 Bach Choir Concert
20th June All Saints' 1030 Morning Worship St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Taize Service	21st June St Peter's 13.15 Meditation	22nd June All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 13.15 Tuesday Reflection	23rd June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 18.15 Choral Evensong*	24th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 13.15 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	25th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal 1130 Coffee Break Concert Vivaldi: Gloria* St Mary's 1930 Bach Choir Concert	26th June St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room open in aid of St Peter's Organ Appeal 1130 Coffee Break Concert Vivaldi: Gloria* St Mary's 1930 Bach Choir Concert

27th June All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Choral Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Choral Compline*	28th June St Peter's 1315 Meditation	29th June All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	30th June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*	1st July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	2nd July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	3rd July
4th July All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 The Obit* 1445 Organ Recital: Adam Brakel 1830 Choral Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Matins* 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	5th July St Peter's 1315 Meditation	6th July All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	7th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion	8th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	9th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	10th July
11th July All Saints' 1030 Choral Eucharist* St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Choral Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Choral Evensong*	12th July St Peter's 1315 Meditation	13th July All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Tuesday Talk	14th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion	15th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	16th July All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	17th July
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*Indicates that the service is accompanied by choir

Robin Hood and the Monk

Pauline Miller investigates a tale that suggests Robin Hood was captured by the Sheriff at St Mary's Church

Some time ago I read a letter in the Evening Post objecting to the building of a flashy new art centre on historic Garners Hill. The writer said Robin Hood had been imprisoned beneath the Town Hall that stood on this spot so I contacted him to ask about the story. Historian David Greenwood was to appear in Parliament the following week to answer questions on Robin Hood and kindly sent me a copy of his presentation.

According to a medieval ballad, Robin's arrest in St. Mary's happened at Whitsuntide on a sunny May morning with the birds singing.

*He gos into Seynt Mary Chirch
And kneled down before the rode
All that ever were the Church within
Beheld wel Robyn Hode*

As Robin knelt in prayer before the old rood screen in St. Mary's, a monk wearing a large hood appeared beside him - a monk who recognised an outlaw who had recently robbed him of a hundred pounds. The monk hurried from the church, seeking out the Sheriff, shouting that he had spied the "King's felon" and the traitor's name was Robin Hood. The Sheriff set off for the "kyrk", followed by a baying crowd which pushed in through the door of the church.

Robin rose up and, clasping a two-handed sword, rushed at the Sheriff's men, killing some, wounding many more and breaking the sword on the Sheriff's head. In the excitement some of the crowd fell over unconscious. Robin was captured and thrown into gaol in the caves under the old town hall.

Little John vowed he would go and find the



Above: The old town hall, under which Robin Hood was temporarily incarcerated

monk, taking "Much", the Miller's son with him. The two met the monk and his little page in the forest on their way to meet the King, and told him they had been robbed. The monk told them Robin had stolen a hundred pounds from him and they all set off for Nottingham together, John leading the monk's horse by the reign, before killing both the monk and the page and burying them in the forest.

Little John and Much the Miller rode off and presented the monk's papers to the king, informing him that the monk had died. The grateful king richly rewarded them. Riding into Nottingham they found the gates barred, the porter telling them that Robin Hood was in prison. The brave pair found the sheriff drunk and unconscious after celebrating Robin's capture. They killed the jailer, held up the porter at the gate at sword-point for his keys and rescued Robin, throwing him a sword to defend himself.

In a scene worthy of any modern film, Robin leapt over the lowest part of the town wall and disappeared into the forest. The Sheriff awoke and found the bird had flown. The outlaws had a wonderful celebration feast of venison and

wine and the King recognised the loyalty of Robin's merry men while having a quiet smile at the Sheriff's embarrassment.

So who was the King? Who was the Sheriff? And when did all this happen? Reading the earliest known sources of the Robin Hood legend, David Greenwood pieced together the most likely explanation that fits the connection of a King of England with Nottingham. He believes that the King was Edward II of Queen Isabella and Mortimer's Hole fame. Edward II's cousin, Thomas Earl of Lancaster and Earl of Lincoln, was executed and buried at St. John's Priory, Pontefract after the 1322 siege of Tickhill Castle. 150 of his men fled into the area around Barnsdale and the King declared them outlaws. No-one's land was safe, people fled from their properties and assumed false names. Robin Hood, Little John, Much the Miller's son and Will Scarlett emerged and together with 143 outlawed men wearing the green livery of the Earl of Lincoln they moved to Nottingham, taking with them a young poet who became their chronicler.

Around 1315 William de Amyas was a successful merchant, property owner, four times Mayor of Nottingham and acquainted with his King. In 1333 he was the victim of outlaws marauding through Sherwood Forest, having to pay a fortune of £20 or seeing his property outside the town's walls go up in flames. William de Amyas endowed the chantry chapel of St. Lawrence in St. Mary's and died in 1345. Part of his original tomb is included in the Thurland tomb in the north transept of St. Mary's. John de Seagrave was the detested Sheriff of Nottingham at this time. Was he the one who got drunk because he believed he had captured Robin Hood, but was shamed when Robin slipped through his fingers? What do you think?



From Robbie Williams to Right Reverend...

Introducing Nick Gurney

As we welcome him to the parish, Nick Gurney explains his journey from radio DJ to vicar in training

From Robbie Williams to the Rt Reverend is an amazing live tour, but it's not one you can get a ticket for, as this is my own personal journey! I've spent nearly twenty years behind a microphone, presenting local Breakfast Shows, interviewing Actors and Singers; working Clubs and even commentating from Wembley. Now when I

stand behind a microphone the adrenalin rushes to a new level, as the message I now present far exceeds that excitement. It's no longer the news of the day that I'm eager to broadcast, but a radical and electrifying story of a life of passion, change and transformation for us all. It's no longer the news of the moment, but the Good News of all-time!

From a DJ to a Vicar, I'm on my journey through Nottingham. Having spent the

previous three years for Christian Radio, TV & Media organisation UCB, I'm currently training at St John's College, and I've been given the exciting opportunity to learn alongside Rev'd Christopher Harrison. Up until Christmas you'll find me getting involved in the numerous activities that make church such an engaging and important part of our life. I will spend time behind the microphone again, as well as be a part of the variety of groups, celebrations and help that the churches of All Saints in

A Parish Miscellany — We're not just open on Sundays...

By: Rev'd Christopher Harrison
Priest in charge



Several years ago, I visited a Native American museum in Colorado, USA, where I read that a tribal chief of the colonial period had said, 'White people worship God only on Sunday;

we worship God all the time'. In our parish I am greatly encouraged that our worship is far from limited to Sundays – in fact there is a thriving programme of weekday services. I suspect, however, that only a minority of our church members are fully aware of what goes on in our churches during the week.

From 8 'til late at St Mary's

You could, for example, begin your Wednesday early and come to the 8.00 am communion service in the chapel at St Mary's. This can be rather demanding on a dark and icy January morning, but when the sun streams in through the beautiful stained glass windows, even the early start seems worth the effort. Coffee or even breakfast in the newly-refurbished Hungry Pumpkin cafe across the road energises your morning even more fully. You might then return at 6.15 pm for choral evensong with St Mary's choir, which lasts around half an hour and draws you into a meditative musical and liturgical experience of the highest quality. This is an opportunity to find personal space to pray, reflect, or just unwind after a hard day's work or shopping.

Peace and reflection at St Peter's

On Mondays at 1.15 pm, Richard Evans leads a half hour meditation in St Peter's church, usually including a Biblical theme.

You don't have to 'know how to meditate' in order to appreciate the peace and calm which may help you to deepen your understanding of God, and can enable your inner self to become more attuned to the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit. On Tuesdays, also at 1.15 pm in St Peter's, there is a monthly pattern of short, meditative services, mostly led by our workplace chaplain Alison Maddocks. These usually fall within a 'theme for the month', often linked with aspects of working life, but of relevance to everyone in their journey of faith. Some of these services are Eucharists; all of them encourage listening and spiritual reflection.

It's all happening at All Saints'

In recent months there has been an increase in the numbers of those attending the Tuesday morning Eucharist at 10.00 am at All Saints. This, again, is a quiet, reflective service: why not come along with your boots and gardening gloves and, after the service, join the All Saints Peace Garden team for their regular Tuesday morning work session? Don't forget that Clarence Rickards is usually in All Saints to say Morning Prayer at 9.00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – all are of course welcome.

Lunchtime Communion

On Thursdays there are two said communion services, either side of lunchtime. That which takes place at St Peter's at 11.00 am is based on the Book of Common Prayer; there are regularly twenty or more people present, which is excellent for a midweek service. There is coffee afterwards in the St James' room, and if you come often enough you might even be given a card on your birthday! The service at 1.15 pm in the chapel at St Mary's uses more modern language.

Those who are used to attending the main Sunday morning services might also be surprised how many regular worshippers there usually are at the Prayer Book communion service which takes place each Sunday morning at St Peter's at 8.15. If you are not used to this service, try letting yourself enter into its beauty and calm dignity, not necessarily striving to take in every word, but allowing it to create within you a spirit of prayerful attentiveness to God.

A variety of styles

The full range of Sunday evening services at St Peter's should also be appreciated by more people, for each has its distinctive role in the diversity of our worship. At the Eucharist with prayers for healing, on the first Sunday evening of each month, you are invited to come forward and ask God to bless you and any people for whom you may be praying. Choral Evensong on the second Sunday is traditional in nature, as is Choral Compline on the fourth Sunday; far too few churches today offer this service of what is sometimes known as 'Night Prayer'. Between these two choral services, on the third Sunday, prayers and chants from the Taizé community in France create a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere which evokes something of the mystery and transcendence of God, along with the love of Christ for this broken and suffering world.

Do, therefore, try some of these services from time to time, not forgetting the occasional special services, such as the Choral Eucharist for Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) on Thursday June 3rd at 7.30 pm at St Mary's. St Paul urged the first Christians to 'pray at all times'; even if we don't manage to do this as well as we might, we can still endeavour to come slightly closer to his ideal.



Nick Gurney gets ready to play another tune

Raleigh Street, St Mary's in the Lace Market, and St Peter's in St Peter's Square offer.

From Russell Crowe to a Curate, the Hollywood Blockbuster Robin Hood has inspired me. Amidst the superficial action adventure of the new film is a story infused with our cultural heritage, and a man who longs for justice for the everyday people. As I train towards my church Curacy I'm driven in much the same way by wanting a similar change, and I believe one man can, and does, and has made a difference. I'll leave you with the words that could have been from the

script of Robin Hood, however, they are the words found at the beginning of a mission from the greatest story ever told, as the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was unrolled:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the captives and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed..." Jesus then said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled".

Planting the seeds of success

Following the official opening of the All Saints' Peace Garden, John S Ferris considers its role in the parish and the local community

The Opening Ceremony

On Easter Sunday the 4th April nine months hard work by a team of volunteers was warmly and gratefully acknowledged by Cllr. Eunice Campbell of Nottingham City Council and Reverend Christopher Harrison. About thirty people attended mainly from Rethink and the congregation of All Saints'. An Easter egg hunt was accompanied by colourful prayer flags, balloons, decorated hanging eggs and a wonderful display of daffodils brightening the garden. Refreshments were generously provided by volunteers from Rethink and members of All Saints'. Altogether, a very appropriate party for a quiet peace garden. The volunteers who had worked hard on the garden were gratified by the generous compliments given to them by the speakers and those who attended this 'official' opening ceremony.

The Quiet Garden Movement

The colourful display of spring flowers gave the sense that the long cold winter of 2010 was nearly over and that Spring had arrived. Already it was becoming clear that All Saints' was renewing itself as a sacred place in the heart of Radford, one of the poorest and most ethnically diverse communities of inner city Nottingham. Affiliated to the world-wide Christian Quiet Garden Trust¹ since November 2009 the All Saints' Garden is a quiet garden. It is also a trail blazing experiment seeking to become a multi-faith initiative. The aim is to create a still place of contemplation and tranquillity for all people seeking peaceful sanctuary. It is premised on the recognition of fundamental human rights

irrespective of faith orientation, ethnic and racial origins, social class, gender orientation, mental health or mental capacity, disability and age². At Eastertide 2009 the newsletter of the Quiet Garden movement, *Quiet Places*, announced it is now time to move on,

"our new location is in a more urban setting; maybe this reflects our sense that there is a real need for Quiet Gardens in these areas as well".

All Saints' Church and the complex of buildings around it designed by T.C Hine, the great Nottingham architect, together make up a very special urban place in Nottingham. They are rightly recognized as having great value with their grade II listing. Not only the buildings, but also the fine trees, within and around the site, are protected. Here we have a garden encircled by some of the finest 19th century buildings and trees in the city of Nottingham. A very special place indeed!

Renewing Radford

It is important for the charities and religious organisations in Nottingham to co-operate with government, local authorities, and other statutory bodies like the NHS to help resolve conflicts and meet the needs of the local population. The partnership formed in 2009 to steer the Peace Garden is a great example of cooperative working in the community with a range of organisations getting involved, including the parish, Rethink, Nottinghamshire YMCA, the Jericho Road Project and Rally.

A Growing Legacy

As the Peace Garden evolves it should encourage a variety of activities in the various buildings on the site or possibly the neighbourhood. Recreational activity might include gardening and outdoor exercise with the advice and help of the YMCA. Meditation groups have already been started in the YMCA Well Being Centre and John Perkins House, 14 All Saints' Street. This programme will be extended in the autumn.

However, the immediate focus is work on the garden as there is still much to do. The garden has been entered into 'Nottingham in Bloom - It's Your Neighbourhood' 2010. New volunteers are always welcome to join the existing working group, which meets every Tuesday (and the first Saturday of every month from June 2010) from 10.30 – 12.30 approx. We do not have a rigid blueprint as to how the Peace Garden might develop and it will evolve over time by remaining sensitive to what is happening in and around All Saints' Church. This should be a modest contribution to the renewal process at All Saints' Church and, we hope, the neighbourhood.

Find out more:

¹The Quiet Garden Trust:

www.quietgarden.co.uk

²Rethink: www.rethink.org



Photos: Rachel Elite



A New Vision for Nottingham

Jane Todd, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council, explains how the council plans to make Nottingham “safe, clean, ambitious and proud”

Nottingham is a city with a lot going for it; it is the seventh richest city in the country (in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA)) and one of eight core cities considered to be the powerhouses of the UK economy. However until recently there was a feeling that although Nottingham was successful in many ways it lacked a strong vision for the future.

2030 Vision for Nottingham

With lots of involvement and consultation with a wide range of residents, businesses, community and voluntary and faith groups and public agencies across Nottingham, we have developed the Nottingham plan, our vision of what we aspire as a city to be.

That vision is:

“Go-ahead Nottingham: Safe, clean ambitious and proud.”

Alongside the vision is a ten year strategy which sets out the detail of how we can make that vision become a reality. As well as talking to the citizens of Nottingham, we have worked together with the other public sector agencies and partners in the city, and they have all signed up to the Vision with the support of One Nottingham. One Nottingham brings together all the people involved in leading the city, and has a crucial part to play in acting as an umbrella for all the City’s key agencies. We are fortunate to have the Archdeacon for Nottingham, Canon Peter Hill as a representative for faith communities as a Board member. We all have a common leadership role in ensuring that the aims set out in the plan are given momentum and that shared goals can be achieved for the benefit of all Nottingham’s citizens.

The Nottingham Plan

Our biggest priority for the next 10 years is to break the cycle of poverty in this city. We want the city’s children to grow up with ambitions for the future and for the city’s wealth to benefit local people.

Sitting under the vision are six priorities

that we are focussing on:

- Developing Nottingham’s international standing for science and innovation, sports and culture – we have been named one of only six ‘Science Cities’ in the County, and there is lots of opportunity to develop our sporting reputation with venues like Trent Bridge and being a Host City in England’s World Cup bid.
- Transforming Nottingham’s neighbourhoods – we want people to have a say in the way their communities look and feel, making sure every neighbourhood is a great place to live, where people feel safe and are proud of their surroundings.
- Ensuring that all children and young people thrive and achieve – we have seen fantastic improvements in GCSE results in recent years, and we are working hard to improve them further. Nottingham is also an Early Intervention city, meaning that we aim to support vulnerable children and their families early, to help give them the best start in life.
- Tackling poverty and deprivation by getting more local people into good jobs – we have all been hit by the recession and now more than ever the Council and its partners are doing their best to help people into work, including apprenticeships, internships and job placements.
- Reducing crime, the fear of crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour – the Respect for Nottingham scheme has helped reduce crime by almost a third since 2007, and we are continuing to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Improve health and wellbeing – people do well when they feel good about themselves and by helping people to be healthier we hope they will feel happier and live longer.

Council Plan

The Council’s own plan is now completely lined up with the Nottingham Plan and as well as focussing on the six key priorities we share three themes which underline everything we do and are extremely important in ensuring that we achieve priorities in the right way. They are:

A Green Nottingham, a city moving towards a more sustainable economy and way of life.

Fairer Nottingham, a city where everyone has the same opportunities no matter who they are or where they live

Aspiring Nottingham, a city of aspiration where children and adults have high expectations of themselves and their

future and have the motivation and abilities to follow their ambitions.

Policies into Practice

It is important for our citizens to know how the plans will affect them. Neighbourhood working has been a major focus for the Council; we now have two Joint Service Centres (Mary Potter and the Clifton Cornerstone), which allow easy access to essential services for local people and a more joined up approach from the key agencies. We are also hoping to build two more: one in Bulwell and one in St Ann’s.

It is often said that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand and we will be working with communities and voluntary sector because good neighbourhoods are about more than new houses. We want to continue to work with others and we can gain a lot from joining up with faith communities to rebuild civic pride and promote strong communities.

Leadership in challenging circumstances

The Council has been affected by the economic downturn too, and we are constantly looking at what we do and how we do it, to deliver the best services we can with less and less money. We need to seize opportunities to use our resources more effectively through new ways of working and improved joint working.

Strong and decisive leadership is needed to deliver the long term vision and realise Nottingham’s ambitions and potential, and we will only achieve this by adhering to our values and working closely together with our citizens, councillors, colleagues, and partners.

JOIN THE DEBATE

Jane Todd is the guest speaker at the City Debate at St Peter’s Church from 6pm on Thursday 17th June (See page 4 for more details).



Photo: Nottingham City Council

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