



free

Fresh Hope

How Easter reminds us
that hope prevails

Holy Week

A summary of the services
and what they mean

Cleaning Up

Why cleaning a church isn't
as boring as some think

PLUS

Details of services and events
over the next 8 weeks

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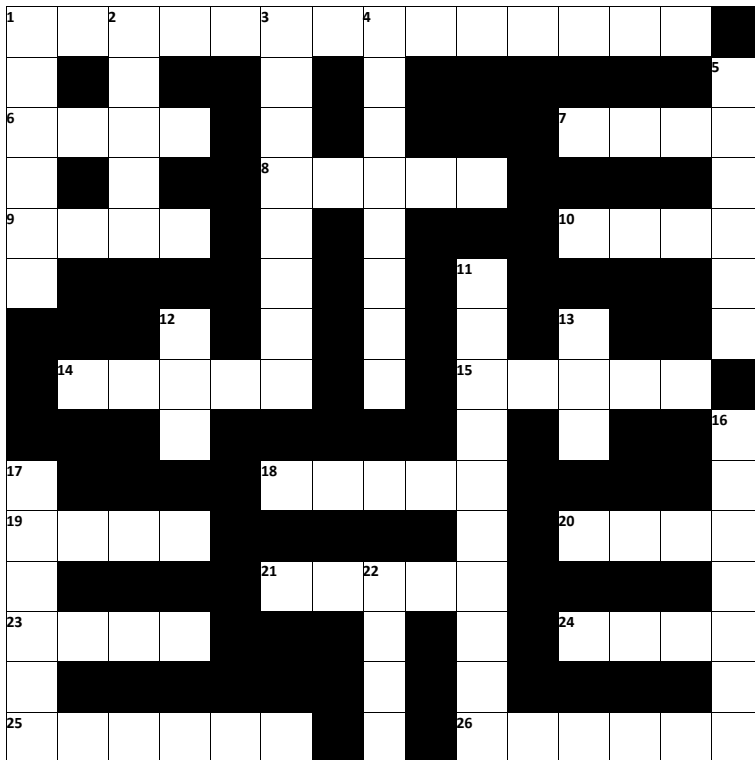
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Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Crossword By Hubert Gale Grid set by Dennis Lord



The solution will be printed in June's edition of NottinghamInFaith

ACROSS

1. Preacher, prophet, forerunner (4, 3, 7)
6. Unusual – but common in cookery (4)
7. German man's name – e.g. Bismarck's (4)
8. Happening (5)
9. Important person's assistant (4)
10. Waist fastening (4)
14. Chide (5)
15. Non-clerics (5)
18. Sign of peace, and source of oil (5)
19. Corporate symbol (4)
20. Group of nations (4)
21. Stone-worker (5)
23. Scottish dance (4)
24. Burden or responsibility (4)
25. Most notable man seeking the ministry of 1 Ac. (6)
26. Soothes, heals (6)

DOWN

1. River in which 1 Ac. officiated (6)
2. The king who ordered the death of 1 Ac. (5)
- 3 (and 16). Food that 1 Ac. consumed in 11 Down (5,3,7)
4. How 1 Ac. was put to death (8)
5. Straw hat (6)
11. An uncultivated, barren region (10)
12. Auctioneer's sale item (3)
16. See 3 Down.
17. Minister of religion (6)

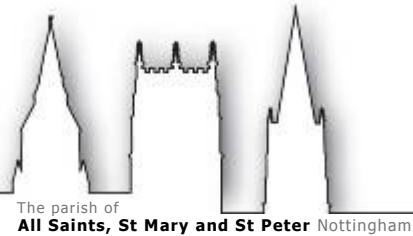
From the editor...

Rebirth and re-evaluation

Easter this year will be a sad occasion for many people across the world. Whether they be rebuilding their lives after the natural disasters in Japan and New Zealand, struggling for democracy in Libya, suffering from disease and famine in other parts of the world, or worrying about redundancies and pay cuts in our own country, the struggle of humankind is ever present. Yet, as Rev'd Christopher Harrison explains in this edition, Easter reminds us that there is hope amidst the grief and torment. And that hope is strong, plentiful and everlasting.

Holy Week presents a rollercoaster of emotion as we remember the passion of Christ. We follow Jesus' painful persecution and crucifixion to be rewarded by his resurrection. The Easter message emerges from a period of pain and suffering to astonishing glory and wonderment. By holding on to this hope in the face of trouble, we can all be strong, no matter what the world throws at us. So let us all hold on to that Easter hope and pray particularly that those who are suffering or in despair may find some of it too.

Ed Mills



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

St Mary's Church on a March morning.
Photo 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

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Clergy

Priest-in-charge: Reverend Christopher Harrison
Lecturer: Reverend Stephen Morris
Associate Priest: Reverend Chrissie Little
Associate Priest: Reverend Dr Richard Davey
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



Light Night Shines



The parish played an important role in Nottingham Light Night in February again this year. Over 1,300 visited St Mary's to enjoy an outdoor light sculpture by Adam Spinos, the candlelit church accompanied by the choir and two projection art installations. The choir also performed at Peter's, as well as Nottingham Youth Theatre. Refreshments were served by volunteers at both churches, offering visitors a welcome rest from the cold outside!

Photos: Dave Cavill

Organ Gala

The February series of Coffee Break Concerts was dedicated to the magnificent new organ at St Peter's, and was one of the most well-attended to date. The gala included a recital by Paul Hale (Organist & Rector Chori of Southwell Minster), a concert by the choir and organists of St Peter's, a silent film with improvised accompaniment by Donald McKenzie (The Odeon, Leicester Square) and Poulenc Organ Concerto performed by Philip Collin with SaraBande. Many thanks to all those who organised the series, and to those who supported it.

Hamlet

Shakespeare's Hamlet was vividly performed at St Mary's from 1st to the 5th March by the Television Workshop theatre group based on High Pavement. Audiences averaging about 200 were welcomed outside before Hamlet's father's ghost appeared on the transept roof. Then Hamlet's newly widowed mother to his uncle happened under the chancel screen where of our real weddings take place. (I could have saved a lot of bother by making the legal objection that no banns had been called!). The rest of the play was against the west wall of the nave where our gothic building's arches and windows provided a very authentic set. The company were very pleased with it all and we may see one or two of the players on our TV screens one day as it is a nursery training school for young talent.

St Peter's prints

Prints of a watercolour of St Peter's Church by Sydney Shorthouse are on sale now. Large prints are £50 (framed), and small ones £25 (framed). Available from the parish office.



City Breakfasts

Members of Nottingham's business community have enjoyed two 'City Breakfast' events in the last couple of months. The first, on Tuesday 1st February, welcomed Professor Peter Bartlett as guest speaker, who spoke about Mental Health Law and Public Policy. Cllr David Mellen spoke at the second event, on the role of Nottingham City Council in helping Nottingham to respond to the current difficult period of economic and political change.

It is hoped that these breakfasts will become a regular feature of the parish and business calendar, with the next planned for Tuesday 10th May.

From the Registers

Baptisms

William Jones	- 20th February	- St Peter's
Kiarah Langham	- 13th March	- St Mary's

Forthcoming events

Coffee Break Concerts at St Peter's

Saturday 2nd April, 11am

The Choir of St Peter's Church perform Duruflé's Requiem
In memoriam David Ray
All proceeds will be donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Saturday 9th April

The Picardy Consort and the Phantasy Viol Consort with Alison Wearing, soprano

Saturday 16th April

Music by Debussy, Ravel, Chausson & Wagner
SaraBande conducted by Richard Jenkinson

Annual Church Meeting

12th April 2011 in St Peter's Church at 7pm.

Please make every effort to come to this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is a highly important event in the annual life of the parish, at which the past year is reviewed, and we consider the development of the churches and parish over the months to come. There will be, as always, an opportunity for discussion and comments. Elections for the Parochial Church Council and the posts of churchwardens will also take place.

Services during Holy Week

Monday 18th April

7.30pm - Holy Communion (St Peter's)

Tuesday 19th April

7.30pm - Holy Communion (St Peter's)

Maundy Thursday - 21st April

7.30pm - Maundy Thursday Eucharist (All Saints')
7.30pm - Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion* (St Mary's)
7.30pm - Maundy Thursday Eucharist (St Peter's)*

Good Friday - 22nd April

12.00pm - The Three Hours (St Peter's) (ends 3.00pm)
1.30pm - Good Friday Service (All Saints')
5.00pm - J.S. Bach: St Matthew Passion (St Mary's)*

Easter Day - 24th April

5.30am - Dawn Eucharist (St Peter's)
8.15am - Holy Communion (St Peter's)
10.30am - Sung Eucharist (All Saints')
10.45am - Sung Eucharist* (St Mary's)
10.45am - Sung Eucharist* (St Peter's)
6.30pm - Evensong* (St Mary's)
6.30pm - Compline* (St Peter's)

*Services with a * are sung by the choir*

Prayers for April & May

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

In April and May we give thanks for longer and, we hope, brighter and warmer days. At the same time, and later than usual this year, we pray for our Lent disciplines and our parish Lent Groups. We pray for our visiting speakers on the subject of prayer, asking that we may increasingly appreciate prayer's place at the heart of our Church life together.

3rd April is **Mothering Sunday**. Let us give thanks for mothers and all those with responsibility for children's growth, maturity and welfare in body, mind and spirit. On a similar theme, we pray for those bringing children to baptism and for the families of those being married this spring - royal and home-grown!

More solemnly, may we have the grace to follow the pattern of **Passiontide** and allow the story of Christ's endurance of suffering to deepen our own souls, creating in us thankfulness for all God has given us and more loving sensitivity towards others in our troubled and fragile planet. And so may Easter be the all the more joyous in our worship and celebration. We pray for all those who will lead our worship as leaders and preachers but also in the beautifying of our buildings, the offering of music and the hospitality to visitors and strangers.

Please pray for the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** on 12th April and for the elected members and officers of the PCC as they take up or renew their responsibilities.

Worker's Memorial Day will be commemorated on 28th April in St Peter's, reminding us, tragically, to pray that health and safety at work really will be taken seriously and that cuts in budgets will not lead to temptations to take short cuts with employees' well-being.

Christian Aid Week begins on 14th May, offering us an opportunity to engage with the poor and alienated world-wide. We pray for Christian Aid and all those working in hard places. We also pray for Emmanuel House, Framework, the Salvation Army and many other organisations who are struggling with hard choices in attempts to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our own city.

Rev'd Stephen Morris

Royal Wedding

All are invited to celebrate the Royal Wedding at Southwell Minster on Friday 29th April. The service, which begins at 11am, will be broadcast live on a screen in the Minster, and will be followed by a glass of champagne. Entrance is free, and all are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the lawn after the ceremony.

Services and Events in April and May

SUNDAY 3rd April 2011	MONDAY 4th April	TUESDAY 5th April	WEDNESDAY 6th April
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins* 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's 1315 Meditation	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 7th April	FRIDAY 8th April	SATURDAY 9th April
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert – The Picardy Consort and the Phantasy Viol Consort with Alison Wearing, soprano
SUNDAY 10th April 2011	MONDAY 11th April	TUESDAY 12th April	WEDNESDAY 13th April
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist* St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist * 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Evensong*	St Peter's 1315 Meditation	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion 1900 Annual Parish Meeting	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 14th April	FRIDAY 15th April	SATURDAY 16th April
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert – Music by Debussy, Ravel, Chausson & Wagner Sara-Bande conducted by Richard Jenkinson
SUNDAY 17th April PALM SUNDAY	MONDAY 18th April	TUESDAY 19th April	WEDNESDAY 20th April
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist with procession of Palms* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist with Liturgy of Palms* 1830 Tenebrae*	St Peter's 1315 Meditation 1930 Eucharist	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion 1930 Eucharist	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion
	THURSDAY 21st April MAUNDY THURSDAY	FRIDAY 22nd April GOOD FRIDAY	SATURDAY 23rd April
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion 1930 Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion* St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1930 Maundy Thursday Eucharist*	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer 1330 Good Friday Service St Mary's 1700 J.S. Bach: St Matthew Passion* St Peter's 1200 The Three Hours—come to all or part (ends at 1500)	
SUNDAY 24th April EASTER DAY	MONDAY 25th April	TUESDAY 26th April	WEDNESDAY 27th April
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0530 Dawn Eucharist 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*			
	THURSDAY 28th April	FRIDAY 29th April	SATURDAY 30th April
	St Peter's 1300 Workers' Memorial Day Service		

SUNDAY 1st May All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	MONDAY 2nd May	TUESDAY 3rd May All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	WEDNESDAY 4th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 5th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	FRIDAY 6th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	SATURDAY 7th May
SUNDAY 8th May All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	MONDAY 9th May St Peter's 1315 Meditation	TUESDAY 10th May All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	WEDNESDAY 11th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 12th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	FRIDAY 13th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	SATURDAY 14th May
SUNDAY 15th May All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Taize Service	MONDAY 16th May St Peter's 1315 Meditation	TUESDAY 17th May All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	WEDNESDAY 18th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 19th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	FRIDAY 20th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	SATURDAY 21st May 1030 Coffee Room Opening – Christian Aid
SUNDAY 22nd May All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*	MONDAY 23rd May St Peter's 1315 Meditation	TUESDAY 24th May All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	WEDNESDAY 25th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 26th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	FRIDAY 27th May All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	SATURDAY 28th May
SUNDAY 29th May All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Joint Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist*	MONDAY 30th May	TUESDAY 31st May All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	WEDNESDAY 1st June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 2nd June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	FRIDAY 3rd June All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	SATURDAY 4th June

Blowing away cobwebs... and misconceptions

Bilborough College student, **Mark E. Hoover**, explains why cleaning the church is not such a chore after all.

What is the stereotype of Britain's youth? Perhaps it is that they are lazy, uninterested and good for nothing, or even violent, drug taking thugs.

It is thus a great surprise to see a group of students from Bilborough College clean St. Peter's Church in downtown Nottingham each holiday. Scrubbing, polishing and sweeping to make the church ready for visitors. These are not actions of violent thugs. They have done this several times already, and look forward to doing it again.

What moves these students to get up early and clean? Each of them studies the International Baccalaureate (IB) at Bilborough College instead of the traditional A-levels. The IB goes beyond the A-levels in requiring six subjects and also theory of knowledge. A 4000 word research essay is also required. But the most exciting part of the IB is CAS, short for "Creativity, Action, and Service". Each IB student must complete 50 hours or more working in each of these categories in their free time. "Creativity" means activities such as art, music, writing and cooking. "Action" means anything from football to samba. "Service" means working in one's community, both local and worldwide, to help the disadvantaged, to save the environment, or even to clean a church.

One might expect teenagers to scrub heating pipes unenthusiastically, to disrespect a church, and to be careless in their work. But once again we are surprised. Because they brave the ancient dust together, they actually have fun cleaning. When someone comes in to pray, they hush, and they even scold each other for swearing in God's house. And instead of being careless, they polish and scrub until every brass plate is clearly readable.

Even though the IB receives credit for making the students get up so early, only the attitude of the students themselves can account for their enthusiasm. If anyone thinks that today's youth is good for nothing, let them come to St. Peter's during the holidays.

Note from Rev'd Christopher Harrison:

We greatly value the considerable contribution to the church which is made by the Bilborough students. I have regularly been struck by the energy and enthusiasm which they have brought to the cleaning days, and by their cheerful and engaging attitude. Many thanks to them all - also to Dorothy Mountford, who has co-ordinated the days

Make it yours

Ed Mills, editor of **nottinghaminfaith** asks why we bother with a parish magazine and what can be done to make it better?

Communication is one of the most important and crucial elements of managing a successful business. In my marketing role for a software development company this is abundantly clear—when people communicate well, the customer is happy. When lines of communication break down, everyone gets upset. The concept of communicating with colleagues and associates is such a simple one, yet it is all too easily forgotten.

Communication is equally as important in the context of a Church of England parish, particularly in a busy parish spread over three churches and congregations. Every week new things are happening in our buildings, among our congregations and within the parish boundaries. **nottinghaminfaith** was launched with the aim of improving communication within the parish to both existing congregation members and people who do not regularly attend our

churches. By sharing information and communicating through the parish magazine, it is hoped that we can get a much broader understanding of our people, our city, our churches and our faith.

To continue to successfully communicate our diverse interests, be they secular or sacred, historic or contemporary, extraordinary or mundane, it is essential that **nottinghaminfaith** contains a breadth of articles to reflect these interests. Whatever aspect of our city or parish you are interested in, **nottinghaminfaith** wants to hear from you. Just send 400 words on your chosen topic to office@nottinghamchurches.org and your article could be featuring in the next edition.

nottinghaminfaith is what you make it—so why not make it something you're interested in?



Why does God allow so much suffering?

In light of recent events, **Christopher Harrison** attempts to answer the age-old question and finds that everyone can benefit from a little hope



Rev'd Christopher Harrison
Vicar of the Parish

Over the past two months the world has been shaken by the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East, as well as by the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan and all the devastation which these have caused. In each of these events, innocent people died in large numbers: in the former, killed for the most part by other people; in the latter, as a result of the forces of nature. People have regularly asked, 'Why does God allow suffering and untimely death?' Does the fact that death so often seems to be arbitrary and cruel mean that God does not exist – or that, if he does, he doesn't care? How can we believe in a God of love in a world where so many people do not seem to benefit from that love?

The God who always protects people from suffering, however, is not a Christian God. There are those who want everything to be always all right – and who, if it isn't, will blame God. The Christian world view, however, accepts that since we live in a world where people have freedom either to love or to hate, and to be either selfish or selfless, there will be times when the consequences of this freedom will be damaging to the well being of others. Christianity also accepts that the forces of nature which shaped our world will continue to display their destructive power from time to time, for example through earthquakes and volcanoes, and that as a result, people will suffer and die.

It was to this unpredictable and sometimes frightening world that God sent Jesus. On one level, Jesus showed – and still shows – the human race how to love our fellow human beings. This is the love which serves others rather than oneself; the love which is not reluctant to strip away all pride and pretence in order to get alongside those who are weighed down by worry, poverty or fear; the love which forgives not just seven times but seventy times seven times; and the love which was shown most perfectly in Jesus' self-giving of himself on the cross on the first Good Friday. These are examples of the divine love which, if we take it as the pattern for our lives, will enable us to play our part in defying all those aspects of the world which degrade and dehumanise people, and which bring suffering and death.

The death of Christ on the cross went much further than this, though. On the first Easter Sunday, some of the women closest to Jesus discovered that the tomb in which he had been laid was empty. What could have happened to his body? It was never found; and if it had been stolen, there were certainly those of his enemies who would have been keen to produce it as evidence that he was really dead. By contrast, however, not only the women, who were astonished to find the tomb empty, but also the disciples soon realised that something absolutely astonishing had happened – which was that Jesus, in his resurrected body, had returned.

If Jesus hadn't – in some wonderful and mysterious way – overcome death, it is highly unlikely that the lives of those who were close to him would have been so transformed, with fear and sadness being replaced by a new zeal and confidence in the power of God to bring goodness from even the most extreme violence and suffering.

They increasingly realised that Jesus' rising from the dead had also somehow shown that sin and death would not prevail forever, and that that the world had been reconciled to God in a new and wonderful way. This is what the Church has come to call 'salvation', which also encompasses the new hope of a heavenly reward for those who believe and trust in Christ, and those who follow the ways of love as shown to the world by him.

At this Easter time, then, it is important to recall that there is always scope for fresh hope, and that the principle of new life following death lies at the heart of God's purpose for the world. We see Japan rebuilding its shattered towns and villages; we see ordinary people in North Africa and the Middle East defying all that would deny human rights and crush the spirit of freedom. Neither of these are predominantly Christian areas, but, in their own way, they are also proclaiming a belief in resurrection and new life.

I want to end, however, with a recent encounter I had with three young men who were sitting near the steps at the entrance to St Mary's churchyard. I made some comment about the stone on which coffins are traditionally laid while mourners wait for a funeral to begin, and this led to a brief conversation. They said, 'Nobody takes us seriously, because of the way we dress ... but we're just ordinary people and would really just like to find a job.' They said that most people ignored them, and that it was rare that someone would take the time to chat. I had done nothing but what seemed natural and normal; but it only served to remind me that even the smallest of gestures, of the right kind, can bring new hope to those for whom hope has been all but extinguished.

A happy and blessed Easter to you all.

There's more to Holy Week than Easter

Rev'd Christopher Harrison, looks at the special services of Holy Week—the climax of the Christian year

Five and a half weeks after Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the Christian year culminates in a succession of dramatic services during which the last days of Christ on earth in his mortal body are re-enacted. On **Palm Sunday**, leaves from palm branches - symbolising victory - are distributed as we recall his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, greeted by crowds welcoming him as the Messiah who was expected to restore the fortunes of Israel. In the main morning services on Palm Sunday we hear the whole of the Passion Gospel, which tells, however, how joy and exultation turned swiftly to sorrow and mourning as Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and killed. In the evening, at 6.30 pm at St Peter's, there is the moving service of Tenebrae (Latin for 'shadows' or 'darkness'), at which candles are gradually extinguished and the church is gradually shrouded in darkness. This is a time for reflection on Jesus' last hours on earth, and the extinguished candles are sometimes said to symbolise his desertion by the disciples.

On Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, there will be said Eucharist in St Peter's church at 7.30 pm, as we focus on the impending sadness of the next few days. The following day, Wednesday, there will be a special Eucharist at Southwell Minster at which St Peter's choir will lead the singing - this is the so called 'Chrism Eucharist', at which holy oils for use in churches of the diocese are blessed, and clergy renew their ordination vows. The service will be led by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Rev'd Paul Butler, and the preacher will be Christina Baxter, Principal of St John's theological college.

Maundy Thursday begins the group of days which are sometimes known as the Easter Triduum, the climax of Holy Week. On this day we commemorate the giving of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, to the Church by Jesus, as he celebrated the Last Supper with the disciples, and told them to share bread and wine as a memorial to him, representing his broken body and blood which was shed on the cross. We also

recall his washing of the disciples' feet, an act of humility and service which symbolises the servant ministry to which all Christ's followers are called. In some churches, the feet of a small number of members of the congregation are washed during the service; over the last two years, at St Peter's church, those present have been invited to come forward - if they wish - to have their hands washed by the priest, as a modern equivalent of the action performed by Jesus. This year, on the morning of Maundy Thursday, Bishop Paul and Bishop Tony plan to spend some time in Nottingham city centre - probably near to St Peter's church - shining the shoes of passers by, again as a modern version of foot washing.

The vigil which sometimes follows the evening service on Maundy Thursday is designed to enable us to enter into the spirit of Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he wrestled with the prospect of dying a horrendous death while knowing that this was to be at the heart of his mission to humanity.

On **Good Friday**, all the services are characterised by the desolation of Christ's death. The service at St Peter's, which begins at 12 noon, lasts for three hours, symbolising the three hours during which Jesus hung on the cross. This year, we will be offering a series of reflections on the Stations of the Cross, which are stages on Jesus' road to Calvary. We will be showing depictions of the Stations by two artists, including also a series of hymns, prayers, and pieces of music. If you can not come to the whole service, do feel free to come to part of it. A shorter service for Good Friday, beginning at 1.30, will take place at All Saints. In the evening, beginning at 5.00 pm, there will be a performance in St Mary's church of J.S. Bach's monumental St Matthew Passion, with St Mary's choir, which recounts in choral form the last days of Christ leading up to his crucifixion. As in previous years, this promises to be a tremendous event which is not just a concert, but an sublime and exalted meditation on some of the most profound events in human history.

Then follows **Easter Sunday** - when darkness is turned to light, sorrow to joy, and hope is restored. The first service of the day is the dawn Eucharist at St Peter's, at 5.30 am. The new Paschal candle is lit for the first time from a fire in the churchyard, signifying the victory of light over darkness; the candle is carried into the church in darkness, and the song of praise, the 'Exultet' is intoned. After a series of readings which recount the Biblical events of Old Testament times that prepared the way for the coming of Christ, the lights are turned on and the exuberance of Easter Day begins. We will use a small amount of incense at this service, symbolising the prayers of the Church. After the service there will be breakfast in the Coffee Room. It is well worth the effort of getting up early to come to this dramatic service which marks the supreme expression of Christ's love for humanity, shown in his resurrection from the dead.

The other main Easter Sunday services will be similarly exuberant, with the churches bedecked in white and gold to mark this most holy day. At All Saints church, it is also intended to light the Easter Candle from a fire in the churchyard, in the Peace Garden. The day ends with a quiet service of compline at St Peter's at 6.30 pm, led by the choir.

The more services in Holy Week you can attend, the fuller and deeper will be your experience of the events which will be re-enacted during these days. You will glimpse something of the harrowing nature of Christ's death on the cross, connecting it, perhaps, with the sufferings of many millions around the world today. You will see something of Christ's tremendous act of self-sacrifice, offered so that humanity might be reconciled to God. You will enter into the amazement of the women followers of Jesus who were the first to realise that he had risen from the dead, and you will be shown anew Jesus' path of life, which is the way of love, compassion and service.

This Holy Week, may your spirit be re-invigorated; your heart exhilarated; and your life truly blessed.

A pillar of community

Chris Smedley, licensed reader in the parish, considers the importance of church buildings amidst the changing urban landscape

It's a cliché but it's true, our cities change so quickly as to be unrecognisable. This is progress - so we are told. But to many theologians rapid changes to our environments present several challenges. Kenneth Leech notes how, since the sixties, housing and industrial sites have been continually built up, bulldozed down, rebuilt, and then rebulldozed. Leech asks how, in spite of this destructive process, people are supposed to gain a feeling of community and social cohesion. Alan Norman reports that even when circumstances are deemed to have been improved, individuals can suffer from feelings of depression upon losing former homes and communities, akin to the bereavement from losing friends or family. Places hold our irreplaceable *collective memories* - that pub where my parents first met, the factory where granddad and his dad before

him worked, the house where I was born, the school we went to. When these are demolished and concreted over we lose our sense of continuity and belonging. Philip Sheldrake goes even deeper, suggesting that the idea of place goes to the very heart of people's sense of identity and being - it is where space is transformed into sacred place. Sheldrake believes that the continual demolition of people's perceived place forces us to fill the resultant void with an ideal of mobility. We are constantly on the move - restless. Sheldrake believes that modern social problems of depression, violence and anti-social behaviours are the expressed symptoms of this increasingly transient life.

Radford, an area of Nottingham close to All Saints' church is a prime example of all this. Indeed, because

of the amount of student lets and hostels a third of Radford's population changes address every year. And this is why a building like All Saints' is so important for social cohesion. It is a substantial landmark from which people can orientate themselves. Not just on a day-to-day getting around basis, but as a collective point of reference for memories to be shared, stories formed, and community born. Yet more than this, for people in a state of flux the reassuring presence of All Saints' is a symbol of solidity and continuity. That is, it instils in people an idea of lasting permanence, that there is something with a deeper and greater meaning, beyond the frantic rush of modern life. And of course, we know that this physical presence of All Saints' points towards the God's Word, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This remains true no matter how transient we make our world, but let us pray we make time and take stillness to keep our witness.



All Saints' Church from the Arboretum

Photo: E Mills

St Matthew Passion

John Keys introduces a great musical work to be performed at St Mary's on Good Friday

At 5 p.m. this Good Friday the Choir of St Mary's with the Orchestra of the Restoration begin one of the greatest works in the history of music; the St Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach. Historians argue as to whether it was first performed in 1727 or 1729. It certainly achieved its final form by a performance at Lutheran Vespers on Good Friday in 1736.

It is an incredible musical and emotional journey full of drama, reflection and mysticism. The scale of this work

is immense; two choirs and orchestras, a ripieno choir and scoring that is of infinite variety. The huge first chorus sets the mood - the affect of the key of e was described by the 18th century writer, Johann Mattheson, as "designed to make the listener very pensive, profoundly thoughtful, downcast and sad, but in such a way that he still hopes to be consoled". Join us on Good Friday at 5 p.m.. There will be an interval of about 45 minutes before Part 2 begins at 7 p.m.