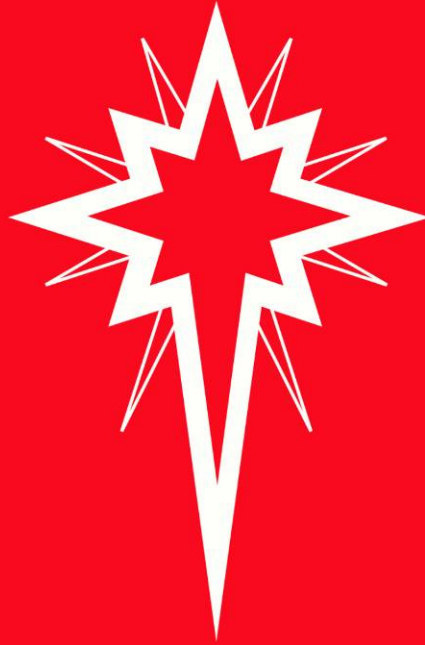


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If you are interested, please contact Diane Depadova, Clerk to the Trustees of Seely Hirst House, 62 - 68 Mapperley Road, Nottingham NG3 5AS or by e-mail on dianedepadova@btinternet.com

From the editor...

Hope Amid Economic Woes

In December 2009 I wrote that there was some reason to be optimistic for the state of the nation's economy. In 2010 I wrote that unemployment and redundancy would lead many people to have a less than joyful Christmas. In the last year, conditions have continued to worsen, unemployment is up, inflation is biting at our heels and prospects do not look good.

In difficult times such as these, many people seek something stable that they can pin their hopes on. Today, the only safe, reliable investment that we can put our time into is our faith.

If you are feeling troubled this Christmas or in the year ahead, remember that, regardless of the economy or other external conditions, services at our three churches of All Saints, St Mary and St Peter continue through the week, every week. Attending church regularly allows us to regularly escape the general concerns of our busy lives. It is a chance to communicate with God and listen for guidance. It is a time for quiet and reflection as well as a time to give thanks for the one thing in this world that will remain constant—God's enduring love for us.

Wishing you a happy Christmas.

Ed Mills

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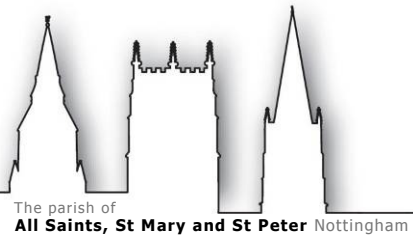
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Crossword Solution

for the Crossword
in October's edition

G	E	N	E	S	I	S		N	U	M	B	E	R	S
A							A							A
L				A	M	E	N	D	E	D				B
I				R			D			A				B
L	I	B	R	A			R			S	A	M	B	A
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I	R			S			H				A	L	L	U
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A				A	B	A	N	D	O	N				I
I							S							S
L	E	V	I	T	E	S		A	B	R	A	H	A	M



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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Meeting the Archbishop of York

Cover image

Christmas Star

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

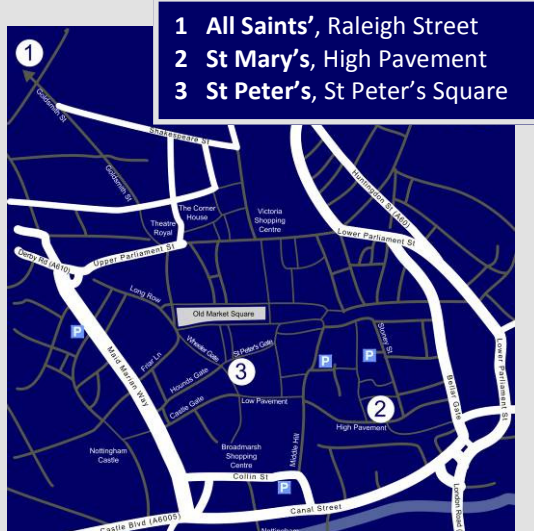
Getting in touch

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
Associate Priest: Reverend Dr Richard Davey
Workplace Chaplain: Reverend Rachel Shock
Office Staff
Parish Administrator: Wendy Pearce
Parish Secretary: Adele Siepmann

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

Comings and Goings...

We are pleased to announce that **The Reverend Rachel Shock** has been appointed Workplace Chaplain for the parish. Rachel is well known to many in the congregations, and has been covering the job since Alison Maddocks left earlier this year. We wish Rachel well, and hope that she continues to build and maintain the strong relationships with businesses and similar organisations across the city centre.



Revd Rachel Shock



Michael Scott



Sarah Hopkin

We are also pleased to welcome **Michael Scott**, as he begins his new role as Head Verger for the parish. We also welcome Michael's wife, Karen, and his two daughters who sing in the St Peter's Choir. Coming from jobs at both Manchester and Salisbury Cathedrals, we look forward to working with Michael as he settles back into life in Nottingham.

We now have a new ordinand with us on placement with us in the parish - **Bruce Rienstra**. After growing up in the USA, Bruce moved from Ohio in the 1980s to live and work in Europe. He has in recent years been based in Amsterdam, doing lay prison chaplaincy work. His wife Lauretta Bloomer is a concert pianist. Bruce is training for ordination at St John's College in Bramcote, and will be taking part in various parish activities over the coming months. Please welcome him and help him to get to know our churches and to experience parish life in all its diversity.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to **Sarah Hopkin**, financial administrator for the parish, at the end of October. Sarah had been with us since 2007, and was a much loved member of the office team. She will be missed by all who worked with her, but we thank her for all her hard work for the parish over the years, and wish her well as she begins her new job.

Cards for Good Causes

The 'Cards for Good Causes' charity Christmas card stall at St Peter's was officially opened on 9th November.



Members of the public enjoyed tea and mince pies, whilst being serenaded by members of the Browne Jacobson choir, who rehearse for their carol service in the church.



Bonfire Party

On Friday 4th November, members of the parish enjoyed a Bonfire party at All Saints' (despite the wet weather!) Thank you to all who came and supported the event, and to those who provided



Friends' Lecture

On Sunday 16th October, Dr Julia Barrow, Churchwarden at St Mary's and Reader in the Department of History at the University of Nottingham, gave the annual Friends' of St Mary's Lecture. Dr Barrow gave a fascinating talk starting with the Roman origins of church organisation, how this changed when the Anglo-Saxon Church imported ideas from Carolingian Europe, and how this has affected the modern definition of the 'parish'. Many thanks to Julia for giving her time and expertise to a very appreciative audience.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Michael Simpson	- 2nd October	- St Peter's
Taya & Tierre Brown	- 16th October	- All Saints'

Funerals

Patricia Whitt	- 21st October	- St Peter's
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Forthcoming events

Dates for the diary...

Coffee Break Concerts at St Peter's

Saturday 3rd December, 11am

The East of England Singers.

Saturday 10th December, 11am

SaraBande.

Saturday 17th December, 11am

Maria Veretenina, soprano.



All Coffee Break Concerts are free, with donations to the church music fund greatly appreciated. Coffee and biscuits are served from 10.15am.

The St Peter's Coffee Room will be open on these Saturdays, 10.30am-2pm, serving its usual selection of drinks, cakes, sandwiches and light lunches.

Organ Recitals at St Peter's

Thursday 15th December - Peter Siepmann & Mike Leuty (St Peter's)

Thursday 19th January - Hilary Punnett (Southwell Minster)

The 'Third Thursday' series of organ recitals all begin at 1.15pm and last for half an hour. Entrance is free, with donations to the church music fund gratefully received.

Christmas & New Year Services across the parish

Saturday 24th December

Family Carol Service*

Nine Lessons and Carols*

Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass*

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm St Peter's

7pm St Mary's

11.30pm All Saints'

11.30pm St Peter's



Sunday 25th December

Holy Communion

Sung Eucharist*

Sung Eucharist

Sung Eucharist*

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.15am St Peter's

10am St Peter's

10.30am All Saints'

10.45am St Mary's

Sunday 1st January

Holy Communion

Sung Eucharist

Sung Eucharist

Sung Eucharist

Evensong

Holy Communion with prayers for healing

8.15am St Peter's

10.30am All Saints'

10.45am St Mary's

10.45am St Peter's

6.30pm St Mary's

6.30pm St Peter's

Sunday 8th January

Sung Eucharist

Epiphany Procession*

EPIPHANY

10.45am St Peter's

6.30pm St Mary's

* indicates that the choir will be present

Prayers for December & January

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

Since even more varieties of groups and individuals than usual gather in our churches during Advent, let us hold regularly in our prayers the schools, universities, J.P.s, civics, charity workers, shoppers and shop workers, children and everyone seeking seasonal, spiritual sustenance. Let us remember those who attend the **World AIDS Day** service on 4th December and those whom they represent and/or mourn. We also pray for **projects for the homeless**, including the winter shelter: its workers, clients and those whose generosity makes it possible. We should also hold before God **others whom we don't see**: those who are home and alone or too mentally or physically infirm to come out.

While most of this is happening it is Advent and not Christmas and part of our spiritual preparation must be about our relationship with others. We pray for **those demonstrating** in encampments on Old Market Square and around the world regardless of our political stance or theirs. Their common call to examine the **issues of peace, poverty, justice and the integrity of creation** are universal and eternal: it is the call of the God of the cross as well as the stable.

When it comes to Christmas when most Christians metaphorically gather around the crib, let us remember especially the **Christians in Bethlehem, the Holy Land and everyone in the difficult environments of the 'Arab Spring'**. We also remember those like the shepherds and wise men; may all **travellers** be kept safe and protected along dangerous roads.

More joyfully, let us thank God for those who work so hard to make and keep our churches, liturgy and music beautiful through the dedicated use of their skills; may it be that regular attendees and strangers alike find a fresh welcome from each other and from the God who longs to welcome and embrace everyone.

Rev'd Stephen Morris

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. The parish will support the day with a service at St Peter's on Sunday 4th December, 3pm.

Services and Events in December and January

SUNDAY 4th December 2011	MONDAY 5th December	TUESDAY 6th December	WEDNESDAY 7th December
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins* 1500 World AIDS Day Service 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	All Saints' 1900 Nottingham Trent University Carol Service 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* 1930 University of Nottingham Carol Service
	THURSDAY 8th December	FRIDAY 9th December	SATURDAY 10th December
	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 1930 SANDS Service	St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room Opening – Overseas Committee 1100 Coffee Break Concert – SaraBande
SUNDAY 11th December	MONDAY 12th December	TUESDAY 13th December	WEDNESDAY 14th December
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 Mary's 1900 Hollygirt Carol Service St Peter's 1315 Meditation	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion 1415 Nottingham Girls' High School Carol Service St Mary's 1445 Grosvenor School Carol Service 1900 Civic Carol Service St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion 1830 Carols after Work	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong* 1930 Nottingham High School Carol Service St Peter's 1730 Browne Jacobson Carol Service
	THURSDAY 15th December	FRIDAY 16th December	SATURDAY 17th December
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer 1100 Nottingham Girls' High School Carol Service St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital – Peter Siepmann & Mike Leuty	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Peter's 1030 Coffee Room Opening – Overseas Committee 1100 Coffee Break Concert - Maria Veretenina, soprano 1630 Nottingham Bach Choir – Shoppers Carol Concert
SUNDAY 18th December	MONDAY 19th December	TUESDAY 20th December	WEDNESDAY 21st December
All Saints' 1030 Carol Service St Mary's 1045 Christingle* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Taize Service 2000 Ceremony of Carols* (Benjamin Britten)	St Peter's 1315 Meditation 1830 Courts Carol Service	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Mary's 1300 Lacermarket Carol Service St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 22nd December	FRIDAY 23rd December	SATURDAY 24th December
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	CHRISTMAS EVE All Saints' 2330 Midnight Mass St Mary's 1900 Nine lessons and Carols St Peter's 1600 Family Carol Service 2330 Midnight Mass
SUNDAY 25th December	MONDAY 26th December	TUESDAY 27th December	WEDNESDAY 28th December
CHRISTMAS DAY All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1000 Sung Eucharist*	<i>Churches closed this week</i>	<i>Churches closed this week</i>	<i>Churches closed this week</i>
	THURSDAY 29th December	FRIDAY 30th December	SATURDAY 31st December
	<i>Churches closed this week</i>	<i>Churches closed this week</i>	<i>Churches closed this week</i>

SUNDAY 1st January 2012	MONDAY 2nd January	TUESDAY 3rd January	WEDNESDAY 4th January
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Evensong St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	<i>Churches closed</i>	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion
	THURSDAY 5th January	FRIDAY 6th January	SATURDAY 7th January
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	
SUNDAY 8th January	MONDAY 9th January	TUESDAY 10th January	WEDNESDAY 11th January
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Epiphany Procession* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist for Epiphany 1830 Evening Prayer <i>St Peter's Choir sings services at Durham Cathedral this weekend</i>	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 12th January	FRIDAY 13th January	SATURDAY 14th January
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Mary's 1930 Concert – Music for Everyone
SUNDAY 15th January	MONDAY 16th January	TUESDAY 17th January	WEDNESDAY 18th January
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Taizé Service	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 19th January	FRIDAY 20th January	SATURDAY 21st January
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital – Hilary Punnett	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	
SUNDAY 22nd January	MONDAY 23rd January	TUESDAY 24th January	WEDNESDAY 25th January
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Legal Service* 1830 Sung Eucharist* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*	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 26th January	FRIDAY 27th January	SATURDAY 28th January
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	
SUNDAY 29th January	MONDAY 30th January	TUESDAY 31st January	WEDNESDAY 1st February
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Parish Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist*	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 2nd February	FRIDAY 3rd February	SATURDAY 4th February
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion 1930 Candlemas* St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert – Nottingham Baroque Soloists

A Commission To Be Remembered

Peter Siepmann explains why composer Howard Skempton is to write a piece in remembrance of the late David Ray

David Ray was a Professor of Neurotoxicology at the University of Nottingham Medical School and a member of the Choir of St Peter's Church, Nottingham. He died on Remembrance Sunday 2010 after a long and courageous fight with lung cancer. Following his funeral, the idea emerged of commissioning a piece of choral music in his memory. In a unique and fruitful collaboration between the Medical School and St Peter's, and following discussions led by David's widow, the Reverend Joanna Ray, Rob Edlin-White and Peter Siepmann of St Peter's Choir, and Dr Lopa Leach of the university's School of Biomedical Sciences, we are delighted to announce that the British composer Howard Skempton has now been commissioned to write a piece of choral music in memory of David.

Howard Skempton is a well-known composer of both choral and instrumental works. His style is accessible, appealing and effective, often characterized by a concentration on the quality of sound and an economy of compositional means, and with a strong emphasis on melody. BBC Music Magazine has said:

"Howard's music is elegant, British, civilised, with a touch of anarchy. I see him as a gentleman in a bowler hat, a briefcase - and sandals."

It is intended that the first performance will be given by The Choir of St Peter's in the University Medical School on Remembrance Sunday 2012.

The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them. And he hath given men skill, that he might be honoured in his marvellous works. My son, in thy sickness be not negligent: but pray unto the Lord, and he will make thee whole. Leave off from sin, and order thine hands aright, and cleanse thy heart

from all wickedness. Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him: let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him.

We hope that these words from Ecclesiasticus 38 will form the basis of the text of the piece, possibly interspersed with words from two of David's scientific inspirations, the Spanish neuroscientist Cajal (who won the Nobel Prize in 1906) and the 15th century physician and polymath, Paracelsus. There are very few pieces of sacred choral music about medicine and physicians, so we hope that this exciting new work may find a niche wider than our commission.

Donations from members of the congregation towards the cost of this project (which totals £3000) would be very gratefully received. Please enclose any donations in one of the parish Gift Aid envelopes, with the front panel completed, and clearly marked 'David Ray Music'.

Brian Dunn recalls the life of Malcolm Goldsmith (1939-2011), Rector of St Peter's Church from 1979 to 1985

Born and educated in Doncaster, Malcolm read Sociology at Birmingham University before attending Ripon Hall theological college. He returned to Birmingham to work in an inner city parish before becoming chaplain at Aston University but was soon spotted by Denis Wakeling, then Bishop of Southwell, who recruited him to the diocese as his adviser on industrial society.

Malcolm was instituted as rector at St Peter's in November 1979. It provided an excellent field for Malcolm, who coupled his tremendous energy and faith with a real care and concern for people, so that he was able to introduce many new ideas and activities, without upsetting the parishioners. He was already chairman of the diocesan Board of Social Responsibility, and he worked closely with Eric Forshaw, who succeeded him as the bishop's adviser on industrial society, and later with John Dunning and Gillian Deave.

His love of classical music continued to the end of his life, and St Peter's hosted a number of concerts by the Allegri string quartet, which led to the construction of the dais in front of the screen. Among many new initiatives, he started the lunch-



time programme of services and activities and organised a summer school for younger people in the school holidays for several years, in which his own children, Tom and Katie, took part.

In Easter 1985 we sadly said goodbye to him Malcolm, when he passed the baton over to Leslie Morley. Some years later his marriage to Jane ended but in 1993 a new

chapter of Malcolm's life began when he moved to St John's Princes Street, Edinburgh. He met and married Marion and was appointed rector of St Cuthbert's Colinton, an Edinburgh suburb, whilst also working on dementia, publishing books and lecturing, and acquiring a wide reputation. After eight years at Colinton heart problems forced him to retire at 63, but he went on to found "Faith in Older People", a small national charity with its headquarters in Edinburgh.

The many things he achieved in his life showed his vision – he was a thinker, but he also had the ability to communicate with, motivate and encourage people, and Jesus really was his example. He was also good to be with, and as a friend will be sorely missed.

Creative Arts Retreat

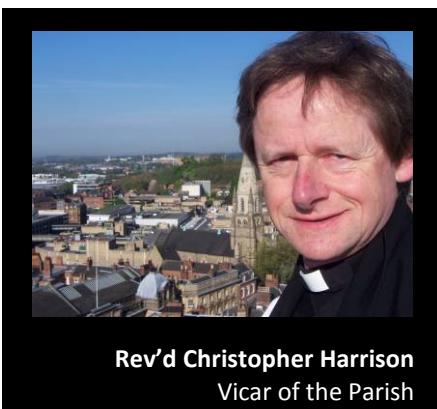
The Creative Arts Retreat Movement (CARM) exists to allow people to use their creativity to connect with God. The organization began about 30 years ago as Painting and Prayer, but has since grown to include other art forms including writing, fabric art and photography. CARM retreats are held in very nice retreat houses and last from 3 – 7 days. However, these are becoming too expensive or time consuming for many people, so some of the CARM leaders have been running day events in their localities. This means people can see if they like them before spending money on a longer time, or are able to join in briefly if a residential retreat is not possible.

CARM retreats include times of silence as well as times to paint, sew or write, etc. There are also times to enjoy the gardens - and retreat house meals are excellent. A day event will mean a packed lunch! We are wondering about having an exhibition and /or CARM event in the Nottingham churches. We think it might be a good idea to have a half-day event as a starter to see if there is any interest. So would any who would like to join in please contact me. The subjects would be writing and /or painting.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Ann R Parker 0115 8498030

Lighting Up The Darkness This Christmas

Christopher Harrison considers how we can experience the spirit of Christ during the Christmas season



Rev'd Christopher Harrison
Vicar of the Parish

It was deeply saddening to read recently that thieves had stolen Derby City Council's Christmas lights, worth around £20,000, just before they were due to be put up in the streets. How, one asks, can anyone be so cynical as to commit such a crime? One wonders, moreover, how the thieves expected to be able to realise the value of the proceeds from their nefarious crime – who would want to buy a lorry load of Christmas decorations?

One can all too easily, however, allow such events to overshadow the value and importance of Christmas. It is, of course, the time when we celebrate the coming into the world of Jesus Christ, the Son of

God, born into an outlying province of the Roman Empire some two thousand years ago. However preoccupied we become with preparing for Christmas Day itself, with all its traditions and customs, this high point of the Christian year should always bring us back to God's wonderful gift of Jesus to the world. It is a time of light in darkness, hope amidst gloom, new beginnings and a new birth.

For some, however, Christmas can be a time of stress and pressure. There will be many this year who find that they cannot afford to do all that they would wish to do, maybe feeling that they are letting their families down by not being as generous as they would like. Those who are likely to be on their own may be especially vulnerable, as well as those for whom the images of happy families celebrating around the Christmas tree leave them feeling disconsolate and left out.

So how can the spirit of Christ truly dwell in our hearts this Christmas time? Maybe by reminding us to look out for those who are not especially excited by the prospect of Christmas, because they feel that they have nothing which they can look forward to. Perhaps Christmas can encourage us to

give some time to those whom others tend to ignore. Or, possibly, we might see Christmas as a time for rebuilding bridges within our families and communities, trying to forgive and forget when this would help relationships to grow strong again, and looking for a fresh start when aspects of our lives need renewal.

At the centre of Christmas lies a birth – not just any birth, of course, but the birth of a child who was to embody total love and compassion, wisdom, understanding, and forgiveness. Jesus brought all these aspects of God to the world in a new way, and, through his Holy Spirit, bequeathed them to all who wish to follow in his footsteps. Of course we often fail to live according to these principles, but the Christmas message reminds us that even if we have strayed far from God, the love of God has reached out to all people in such a way as to offer everyone a route back to God.

May this Christmas time be truly blessed for you all,

Christopher Harrison

Christian Classics

Norman Todd continues his Christian Classics series, turning to Vanstone's 1977 book *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*

This book was hailed as 'a masterpiece and will become a classic', a claim that was repeated in the New Edition thirty years later (in 2007). So, still in print, it is on track to fulfilling the prediction. The author, W H (Bill) Vanstone, was expected to have a brilliant academic career but after returning from a scholarship in the USA he chose to go to a needy parish in Northern England, one very like that in which he had grown up with his father as Vicar. Then he was sent to initiate the work of the Church in a new area where a church was being built. In the best Christian tradition he wore his learning lightly but used it for reflecting on his pastoral ministry and what the Church was there for. In fact he spent the next twenty years doing this and the book was the result.

Bill slowly came, with a sense of terror, to

the realisation that the Church as it had been ministering to the social and psychological needs of people was no longer really needed in the developing welfare state. Yet the Church still held him in a deeper way that he felt compelled to explore. He describes the change with profound insight in beautiful English. A eureka insight led him to decide 'I must seek for a better description of the love of God – a description that might explain that conviction which, though unexplained and not yet unravelled, was still with me and still beyond doubt or question – the conviction of the importance of that small and simple fragment of material reality which is the Church'.

I cannot summarise what follows. There is a copy of the first edition in the parish library in St. Peter's but you must buy

and study the book yourself. I hope that like me you will decide that it will become a Christian Classic and that you will attempt to put it into practice.

From the book's final paragraph. 'The Church lives at the point where the love of God is exposed to its final possibility of triumph or tragedy – the triumph of being recognised as love, the tragedy of so passing unrecognised that the final gift, the gift of which all other gifts are symbols, the gift of love itself, is never known. The Church cannot endure that this tragedy should be: for it recognises – and this accounts for its existence – what the love of God is.'

Buy The Book

W H Vanstone (1977) *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*. Published by Darton, Longman and Todd.

Continuing A Legacy Established in 1524

Len Simmonds, explains the background to a charity that can trace its history back to the reign of King Henry VIII.

In 1524, a year after Henry VIII visited the town Nottingham, one of the town's alderman, a Mr John Willoughby, died. The wealthy Willoughby, who was buried in St Mary's Church's Lady Chapel, declared in his will that every priest at his burial should be given 6d whilst every stranger should receive 4d. Aside from using his wealth to guarantee a well attended funeral, Willoughby left a number of properties and income to St Mary's Church to benefit the church and the town's poor.

In 1975, the charity established by John Willoughby was amalgamated into the St Mary's Relief in Need Charity along with 25 other charities founded by local people between 1524 and 1956. Today, St Mary's Charity continues to help the poorest people in Nottingham. During the 3 years to 31 May 2011, 168 grants worth £19,473 were made to individuals in addition to grants to charitable organizations including St. Peter's Centre for Rough-Sleepers, Radford Care Group, Framework Night Shelter, Emmanuel House.

Applications for grants to individuals have to be endorsed and submitted by their support worker. As a smaller organization, the trustees of St Mary's Charity are able to process applications for support very quickly, providing a vital source of urgent funds. At present most grants to individuals are for a single item costing between £100 and £150. Most recipients

are single mothers, often victims of domestic violence; they, and ex-offenders often have to be re-housed, and require items such as a washing machine, cooker or refrigerator, not generally available from charities which supply second-hand furniture and other household items. Mothers of young children often ask for a cot, bed or buggy.

St. Mary's Charity incorporates St. Mary's Discretionary Fund, from which grants are made annually to the priests in charge of the Nottingham Churches of St. Mary, St. Ann, St. Saviour and St. John/George, from which they make discretionary payments to persons in need encountered during the course of their parish ministry.

St. Mary's Charity desperately wants to do more to help Nottingham's most vulnerable people. In order to do this, more funds are needed. The trustees appeal to residents of Nottingham, particularly those who worship in the churches of the Parish of All Saints, St. Mary and St. Peter, to consider making a legacy to St. Mary's Charity, to increase its capital and thereby enable it to help more needy individuals in the City.

Contact one of the Trustees for more details: John Henson (Chairman), Councillor Eunice Campbell, Leonard Simmonds, The Reverend James Stapleton and Geoffrey Walker. Alternatively contact the Parish Office (details on Page 3).

Singing For Justice

St Mary's Church recently hosted a fund raising concert for ground breaking charity African Prisons Project as Catherine Parker explains



Photo: Kev Night

Above: Miracle (London based artist) performs at the concert

The recent fund-raising event 'Freedom Vibes', held by the African Prisons Project (APP), a UK-registered charity based in London and Kampala, Uganda, took place in St Mary's Church, Lace Market, Nottingham.

The evening's line up was hosted by singer **Michael Shand** and included rapper **Wariyah**; soul singers **Miracle** and **Christine Asamoah**; acoustics players/singers Lincolnshire's **Abi Moore** and **JonPaul Palombo** and Nottingham poet **Nicki Agalamanyi**. APP's display stand proved a particular attraction and the amazing '**Freedom Cry**' CD by **Condemned Choirs of Luzira Prison**, Uganda, was available to purchase. Nottingham photographer, **Kevin Night**, offered his professional services free of charge. A few of the concert's striking photos can be found at www.kevnight.com.

About APP: APP was founded in 2007 by Alexander McLean, its Director General and a graduate of the University of Nottingham. In 2004, while studying law, Alexander raised money for books and spent his holidays working in a youth prison in Sierra Leone for which he received funding from the University of Nottingham Association Fund

Award. APP works to bring dignity and hope to men, women and children in prison through healthcare, education, access to justice and community reintegration.

APP's vision is that time spent in prison is a period of positive transformation that allows inmates to gain the skills and attitude to a crime free life on release and contribute positively to society and that each of its staff and volunteers become ambassadors of hope and care for the poor, and advocates for penal reform. APP strives to give prison staff a reason to be proud of their work and to stimulate debate about imprisonment, often by gaining positive media coverage of prisons.

APP works closely with prison administrators, prison staff and prisoners themselves to identify their needs and help them to respond to them.

To date APP has touched the lives of over 25,000 prison inmates and staff in Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Find out more at: www.africanprisons.org

Archbishop of York Sheds Light on Christianity

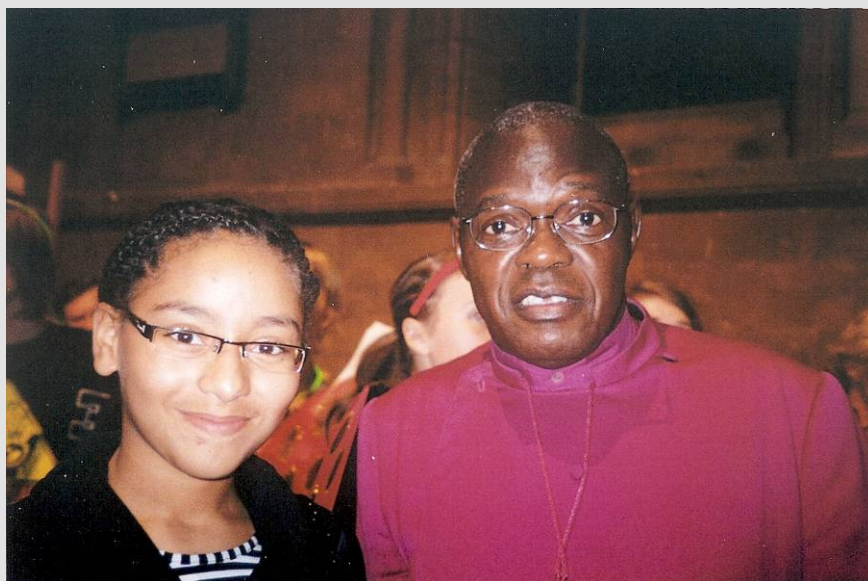
Anne Hardy reflects on an inspiring visit by the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu

How fortunate we are in Nottingham! In the space of a few years, we have had the opportunity to meet, and to hear, the leaders of the Anglican Church. In 2005 the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, and at a later date, his predecessor, the Right Reverend Lord Carey of Clifton visited St Mary's. Recently, on 31st October, the current Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu was in action at Southwell Minster to figure-head a festival of light.

I was there with two of our young church members and their families. From the following accounts, you will find we have taken away many special memories of the occasion. I found it wonderful to see the Minster crowded with happy, busy children and their families. I also felt the Son et Lumiere experience deeply moving. Firstly a single voice intoned, "And God said, 'Let there be Light'". A lone drum beat was heard as a flickering light shone on the pillars. This drum was joined by others, raising to a crescendo as the intensity of light increased to fill the Minster.

But let the young people tell you in their own words what they thought and experienced...

Léoncia tells how bubbles filled Southwell Minster



Above: Léoncia Léonce-Martin after she had spoken to the Archbishop

There were loads of interesting and fun activities for people of all ages, something for everyone - we were given a map showing where all 25 of them were held around the Minster. I had a go at making a wax candle - there was a man sat at a table with about eight other chairs then once it was your turn you sat on one of the chairs and he talked you through it step by step. I took my candle home, but have not yet lit it.

In the 'crossing' of the church bubbles came at you as there were kids, adults and machines producing them. My mum and I also had a go - we noticed that the

bubble bottles had been set out in the shape of a cross - it seemed such a shame to spoil the pattern. The bubbles were everywhere, a truly magical scene.

An inspiring service was held by the Archbishop of York, who I had seen whilst on my way to one of the activities earlier when I had my photo taken with him. During the service we sang two of my favourite hymns, said prayers, were blessed and were given glow sticks which everybody waved high in the air. Students of the Minster school did a performance and drums were played during the service.

William recalls a thought provoking service... and a very long queue for soup

As we walked through the grounds of Southwell Minster, night was falling and I remembered the stone towers, gargoyles and lit walls that I had passed on my Confirmation in April. It was amazing to be back there again, and it hadn't changed! As we walked into the Minster a flood of people nearly swept over us and every part of the Minster had a station in it with something to do - all sorts of crafts.

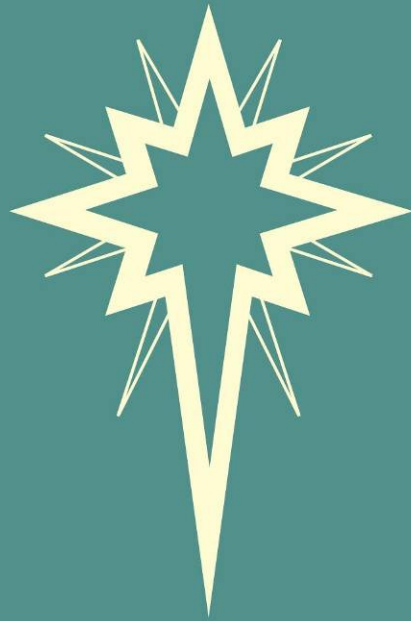
Our first task was to find Anne and Léoncia. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack as there were so many people, but I saw Léoncia's head by the bubbles and puzzles. She was already blowing lots of bubbles, so I joined in too. Then we wandered into the main body of the church. We found some stalls, and I made 2 Christmas decorations which looked really pretty in the light. Léoncia and her Mum made a candle, whilst Dad

was stuck in a very long non-moving queue for soup!

It was then we went to see some inflatable globes and some Narnian decorations which adorned the church from half-term activities. The winter forest was spectacular. There was also a little scene of Mr Tumnus' House from the Chronicles of Narnia. We reunited ourselves with Léoncia and her mother and then we were called down to the centre of the Minster where the Archbishop of York was about to speak. First of all the lights went out (which was a little scary) and then a choir came up and sang some songs which I really liked, even though I couldn't see the words - it was "Ain't no Mountain High Enough". After that, we were all given glow sticks and Dad turned up with some soup and bread from the long queue as drums played loudly and lights were flashed on

the dimly lit walls of the Minster. As the songs played we waved the glow sticks around. It had a lovely feeling, but then it was time for the Archbishop to speak.

He welcomed us and invited a girl up to the stage. He told her to shine a torch he was holding into the Bishop of Southwell's eyes, but it wouldn't work! He then opened up the torch and found a £5 note inside and some cloth. He said "these are the sorts of things in our life, that stop us from shining". It was really interesting and made me think how things like that do stop us from shining. He also said that Christianity was infectious and it was up to us to "infect" people. Now his talk was finished so we said our goodbyes and went home. It felt really nice to be back at the Minster again and was an unforgettable evening.



KEEP CALM AND REJOICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm - Family Carol Service at St Peter's

7.00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's

11.30pm - Midnight Mass at St Peter's

11.30pm - Midnight Mass at All Saints'

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.15am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

10.00am - Sung Eucharist at St Peter's

10.30am - Sung Eucharist at All Saints'

10.45am - Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

WWW.NOTTINGHAMCHURCHES.ORG