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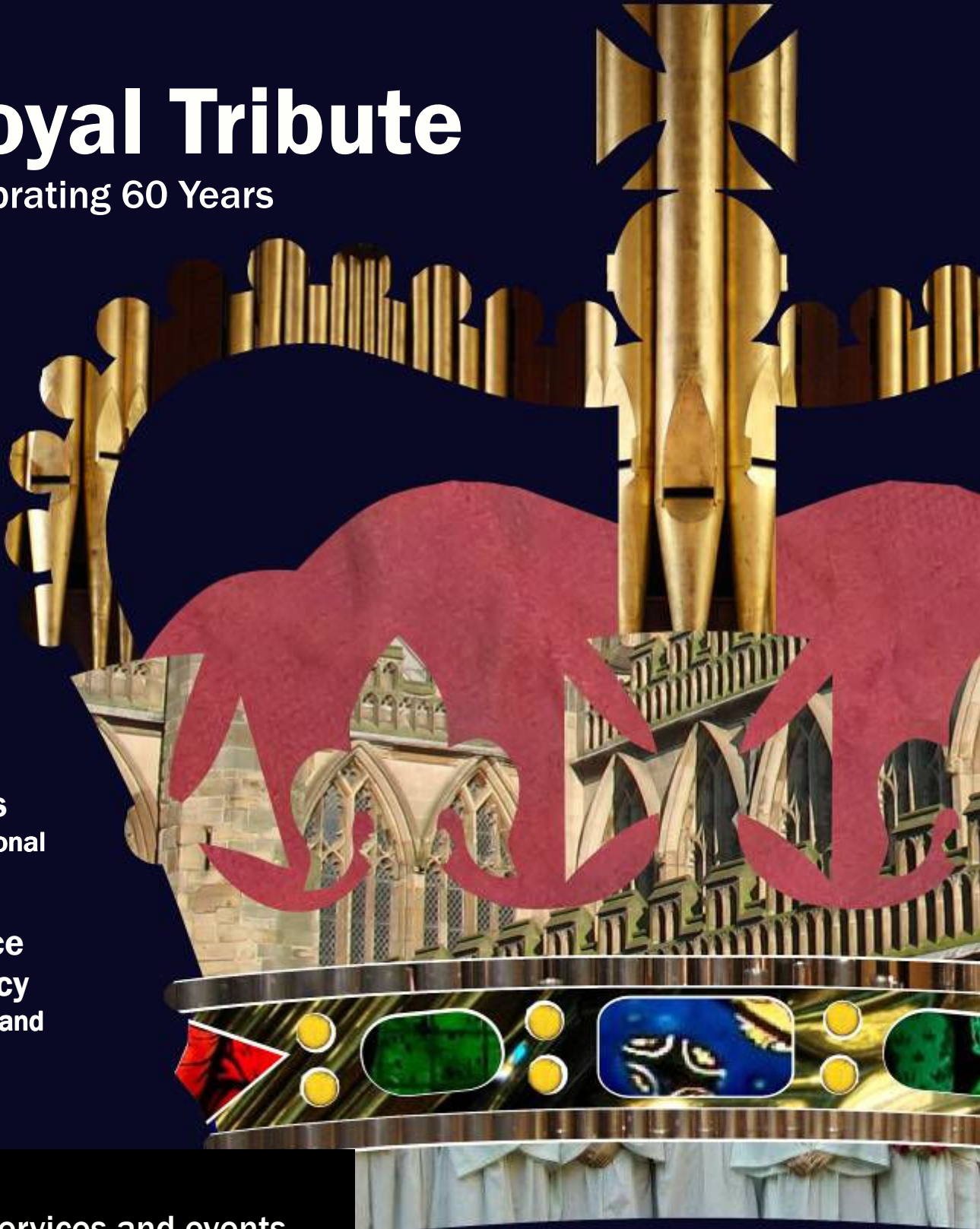
Royal Tribute

Celebrating 60 Years

**Dream of
Gerontius**
Elgar's National
Monument

**Workplace
Chaplaincy**
Connecting and
Supporting

PLUS
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over the next 8 weeks



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Choral Evensong at St Mary's and St Peter's

The churches of St Mary's and St Peter's both offer Choral Evensong, accompanied by choir.

Weekday Evensong typically lasts for 40 minutes while Sunday Evensong lasts a little longer because it includes a sermon.

Services usually occur every week during term time but you can check in this magazine or on the parish website www.nottinghamchurches.org

Everyone is welcome.

Choral Evensong in our churches:

St Mary's

Sunday - 6.30pm
Wednesday - 6.15pm

St Peter's

Sunday - 6.30pm

Lighten Up With Evensong

Ed Mills explains why Evensong may be our parish's best kept secret

Long, cold nights, credit card bills from Christmas shopping, feelings of anxiety about what the next twelve months will bring... It's no wonder that the third Monday of January has been branded "Blue Monday" - the most depressing day of the year.

We all have low points at times and many of us have found ways of dealing with them. One of the most uplifting and comforting experiences that I turn to is Choral Evensong.

Running like clockwork in churches and cathedrals around the country, Evensong, for me and many others, is a special opportunity to step aside from the business of daily life for a moment. As the sung prayers ascend into the rafters one's worries seem to lighten. As the words of the Magnificat ring out "My soul doth magnify the Lord", one is reminded of Mary's steadfast love for God and one's own heart is stirred. As candles flicker in the darkness, times of quiet give us a chance to pause and reflect on the day's events.

The concept of attending a church service

where many of the words are always the same can seem odd to some people. But the regularity of the service, the subtle differences found in the music and readings and the fact that many elements of the service are derived from the earliest ages of the Christian Church give a sense of permanence and reliability that is so often lacking in today's money-driven, technology obsessed, rapidly changing society.

Evensong has everything you need to uplift you spiritually. Readings and psalms from the Bible, prayers for those around us who are in need, and an opportunity to affirm our faith through the Creed.

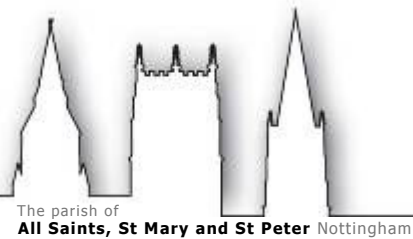
Whether it has been a particularly stressful day at work, you are missing someone you love, or you just feel a bit lost, Evensong really can bring a little light into all of our lives.

"Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night"

*Evening collect for Aid
against all Perils
The Book of Common
Prayer*



Above: The choir singing evensong at St Mary's



Welcome

Whether you have been worshipping in our parish for years, have recently 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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Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy

Cover image

Crown Jewels. Using images of the parish taken by Mike Leuty and William Burn. Send your photos of parish life, our churches or anything in Nottingham to office@nottinghamchurches.org

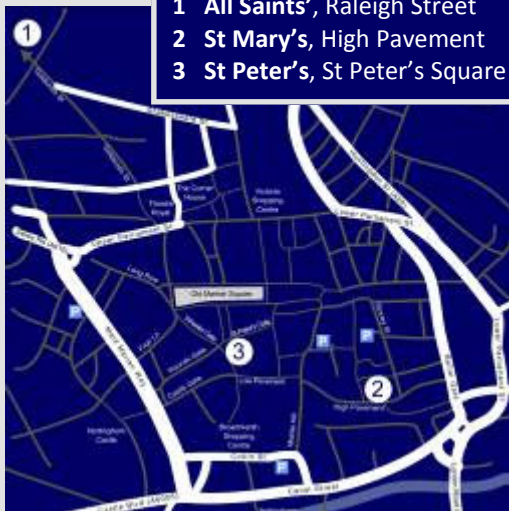
Getting in touch

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

St Peter's Choir Sings at Durham Cathedral

The choir of St Peter's enjoyed another successful residency at the beginning of January, this time at the magnificent Durham Cathedral.

The visit started with a bang on Friday 6th with a Festal Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany. Blair in b minor turned out to be the Dean's favourite setting of the canticles, and hearing Rutter's stirring 'Arise, shine' was a new experience for many.

The weekend continued with Evensong on Saturday, followed by an excellent meal at St Chad's College (where a number of our party were staying). We were joined by James Randle, Director of Music at St Chad's, and former St Peter's chorister; along with his wife Katie, the cathedral's music administrator. As always, the support of our friends and families was greatly appreciated during this trip, and it was particularly good to see the Reverend Leslie Morley (Rector at St Peter's, 1985-99) at several of the services. The choir also greatly enjoyed being verged into Evensong each day by our very own Michael Scott!

An exhausting yet hugely fulfilling Sunday singing Matins, Eucharist and Evensong completed our stay. The Dean of Durham, the Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove was most complimentary about the choir's singing, and it was a great privilege to be able to contribute to the worship at this greatest of Norman cathedrals.



Photo: GM Leuty

Christmas 2011

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the Christmas services and celebrations across the parish such a success. Particular thanks go to the musicians, flower arrangers, bell ringers, stewards and church cleaners. All three churches enjoyed good numbers in the congregation, especially on Christmas Eve, and we hope that this is something which can be built on throughout the year.

St Peter's Coffee Room

Thanks to Saturday openings during October, November and December, the St Peter's Coffee Room has raised a large amount of money for good causes, including the St Mary's and St Peter's Music Funds, and Parish Overseas Committee. We are very pleased, therefore, that the Coffee Room will now be open every Saturday, 10am-2pm, raising money for the parish, as well as other charities and good causes.

From the Registers

Weddings

Tinashe Murembeni - 28th January - St Peter's
& Amanda Mudavanhu

Funerals

Joan Marchant - 9th December - All Saints'
Dorothy Driver - 3rd January - St Mary's
The funerals of Col William Oldfield and Raymond Hill took place at Wilford Hill

Magazine advertising

Nottinghaminfaith is now into its third year of publication, and is as popular as ever. However, to maintain the original idea that the magazine would be free to all, it is essential that new advertisers are sought. If you know anyone, or any local businesses, who you think might be interested, please contact Adele Siepmann in the parish office.

Forthcoming events

Dates for the diary...

Coffee Break Concerts at St Peter's

Saturday 4th February, 11am
Nottingham Baroque Soloists

Saturday 11th February, 11am
Martin Jacoby, piano

Saturday 18th February, 11am
Keats String Quartet

Saturday 25th February, 11am
Mirabilé Ladies Ensemble



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

Organ Recitals at St Peter's

Thursday 16th February - Lee Rooke (St Peter's, Nottingham)

Thursday 15th March - Andrew Teague (formerly Bradford Cathedral & St Peter's, Nottingham)

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.

The Dream of Gerontius *Elgar*

Saturday 25th February
7.30pm at St Mary's

Keith Halliday *tenor*
Elizabeth Meister *soprano*
William Burn and Matthew Jordan *bass-baritone*
The Choirs of St Barnabas Cathedral and St Mary's
The Orchestra of the Restoration
Tickets: £15, £12, £5 (Concessions available).
Student Standby £3 at the door. Unreserved seating.
Box Office: Classical CD, 10 Goose Gate,
Nottingham, NG1 1FF
Tel. 0115 9483832

St John Passion BWV 244 *J.S. Bach*

Friday 6th April
7.00pm at St Mary's

Nicholas Drew *Evangelist*
Paul Suter *Christus*
The Choir of St Mary's
Paradiso
Free Entry

Quiet Day

The Creative Arts Retreat Movement will be hosting a Quiet Day at All Saints' Church on Friday 27th April, 10am-4pm. The day will be led by Veronica Boorman and Ann Parker, and will follow the pattern of a typical day at a retreat. There will be time to take part in meditation sessions, led by Reverend Dr Richard Davey, be creative through painting or writing, enjoy a bring and share lunch, and pray. The cost of the day is £10, and it would be very useful if participants could help by bringing their own art materials.

Places can be booked by sending payment to 99 Denison Street, Beeston, NG9 1DQ. Alternatively, contact annrparker@ntlworld.com/0115 8498030.

Prayers for February and March

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

As we will soon begin our journey through Lent we pray for our churches to be places of reflection, forgiveness, and hospitality.

We pray that God will create in us clean hearts and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

In this time of economic uncertainty, we pray for **all who have been made redundant** recently, for all who face financial crisis. We pray for the workplaces of this city, and our Workplace Chaplain, Rachel Shock. We pray that she, along with her team of chaplains, are able to bring support and comfort to those in need at work.

In March we celebrate **Mothering Sunday**. We pray for children in the care system—**children in foster care** and those waiting for adoption. We pray for the Family Care agency and all their work with children, and for the city and county adoption service.

We give thanks for all who have nurtured us and those who, because of their care, are positive role models in our lives.

*Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.*

Rev'd Chrissie Little

Ash Wednesday - 22nd February

Ash Wednesday will be observed with sung Eucharist services at St Mary's and St Peter's, both at 7.30pm.



Services and Events in February and March

SUNDAY 5th February 2012	MONDAY 6th February	TUESDAY 7th February	WEDNESDAY 8th February
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* for the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II	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*
St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins* 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	THURSDAY 9th February	FRIDAY 10th February	SATURDAY 11th February
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1300 Loughborough Girls' High School Concert	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1930-2200 Light Night St Peter's 1930-2200 Light Night	St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert – Martin Jacoby, piano
SUNDAY 12th February	MONDAY 13th February	TUESDAY 14th February	WEDNESDAY 15th February
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	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*
St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	THURSDAY 16th February	FRIDAY 17th February	SATURDAY 18th February
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital – Lee Rooke	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert
SUNDAY 19th February	MONDAY 20th February	TUESDAY 21st February	WEDNESDAY 22nd February
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist* St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	St Peter's 1315 Meditation	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion Parish pancake evening (venue and time TBC)	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1930 Sung Eucharist with imposition of ashes St Peter's 1930 Sung Eucharist with imposition of ashes
St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Taize Service	THURSDAY 23rd February	FRIDAY 24th February	SATURDAY 25th February
	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 St Mary's Orchestra of the Restoration Concert – Dream of Gerontius (Elgar) St Peter's 1100 Coffee Break Concert - Mirabilé Ladies Ensemble
SUNDAY 26th February	MONDAY 27th February	TUESDAY 28th February	WEDNESDAY 29th February
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	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*
St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*	THURSDAY 1st March	FRIDAY 2nd March	SATURDAY 3rd March
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	

SUNDAY 4 th March	MONDAY 5 th March	TUESDAY 6 th March	WEDNESDAY 7 th March
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	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 8 th March	FRIDAY 9 th March	SATURDAY 10 th March
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	

SUNDAY 11 th March	MONDAY 12 th March	TUESDAY 13 th March	WEDNESDAY 14 th March
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	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 15 th March	FRIDAY 16 th March	SATURDAY 17 th March
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital – Andrew Teague	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	

SUNDAY 18 th March	MONDAY 19 th March	TUESDAY 20 th March	WEDNESDAY 21 st March
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 22 nd March	FRIDAY 23 rd March	SATURDAY 24 th March
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	

SUNDAY 25 th March	MONDAY 26 th March	TUESDAY 27 th March	WEDNESDAY 28 th March
All Saints' 1030 Sung Eucharist St Mary's 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* St Peter's 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*	St Peter's 1315 Meditation	All Saints' 1000 Holy Communion St Mary's 1930 Nottingham High School Concert St Peter's 1315 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 29 th March	FRIDAY 30 th March	SATURDAY 31 st March
	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer St Mary's 1315 Holy Communion St Peter's 1100 Holy Communion	All Saints' 0900 Morning Prayer	

* Indicates that the service is accompanied by choir

Heavenly Music

St Mary's hosts a performance of one of Elgar's greatest works on 25th February

Today, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* is a national monument. But at its first performance in Birmingham, 105 years ago, the music was thought daring and difficult, while the subject matter was viewed in some quarters with intense suspicion. The text of *The Dream of Gerontius* – by the Victorian Catholic convert, Cardinal John Henry Newman – is rich in doctrine that had been emphatically rejected by the Protestant church since the time of the Reformation. The central character, Gerontius (the name derives from the Ancient Greek *gerōn*, meaning simply 'old man'), prays for assistance to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to other saints, and after his soul-searing first sight of God, he doesn't go straight to Heaven, but is committed to Purgatory for purification. For some Protestants in Elgar's day, all this would have been pure heresy. However, one could argue that this is an essay in the transition from time to eternity viewed through the doctrine of the Roman Church.

Elgar's debt to Wagner was recognised at an early stage of the work's composition by his close friend August Jaeger (the

'Nimrod' of the 'Enigma' Variations): 'Since Parsifal nothing of this mystic, religious kind of music has appeared to my knowledge that displays the same power and beauty as yours.'

There was something else Elgar learnt from Wagner – though, as with every influence on Gerontius, he digested it so thoroughly that the listener hears only authentic Elgar. Before Wagner, operas and oratorios tended to be arranged in numbers: arias, duets, ensembles, choruses – all more or less detachable from the larger dramatic argument. In his music dramas Wagner found a way of making dramatic works evolve continuously, seamlessly, like huge symphonies. Elgar achieves something very similar in *The Dream of Gerontius*. Some sections – like the Angel's beautiful lullaby 'Softly and gently' from the end of Part 2 – can be extracted, with the help of a little surgery; but even then there are details (recollections of earlier themes, for instance) which only make sense if heard in context. And the sense of symphonic current – steadily, if at times slowly, unfolding – is essential to the work's message. Early in Part

2, Gerontius's disembodied soul describes how 'a uniform and gentle pressure tells me that I am not self-moving, but borne forward on my way'. Elgar's music registers the sense of that 'uniform and gentle pressure' with subtle power. In a good performance, we can feel that we too are 'borne forward', through the Demons' Chorus, through the angelic hymn 'Praise to the Holiest in the height', to the final, agonising yet transfiguring encounter with God.

On February 25 the Orchestra of the Restoration, the choirs of St Barnabas Cathedral and St Mary's join forces to perform this iconic work at 7.30 p.m.. Soloists are Keith Halliday (tenor), William Burn and Matthew Jordan sing the two baritone roles and Elisabeth Meister makes a welcome return having spent two years on the Jette Parker Young Artists' Scheme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and, most recently, from singing major roles in both north and South America.

Light Night 2012

St Mary's and St Peter's take part in Nottingham Light Night on Friday 10th February

Nottingham's fourth annual Light Night is to be held on Friday 10th February around Nottingham city centre. St Mary's and St Peter's will be playing a part in the celebrations hosting a number of events and artistic displays.

St Mary's will be offering another chance to soak up the atmosphere of the ancient candlelit building. The choir of St Mary's will be singing throughout the evening as well as the Harlequin singers. Refreshments will be provided by the *Friends of St Mary's*.

County Youth Arts have commissioned artists Pete Barber and Bec Smith to work with Mansfield's Old Library Media Mash up to create a series of exciting and vibrant light drawings called *Scrawl* that will be projected against the west wall of St Mary's Church.

Janet Fleming's *Through Caverns Measured*

to Man will present a series of thought provoking light installations encouraging you to think about the beauty of light.

Outside in the churchyard will be a number of colourful light sculptures made from recycled materials created by artists Jess Kemp and Rosie Hobbs and disabled young people from across Nottinghamshire. There will be a chance to interact with the light drawings and to even have a go. Finally, Carole Beavis promises an intriguing celebration of happiness transcending the human body.

St Peter's will also be playing an important part - the choir will be singing in the candlelit church and the coffee shop will be open to provide a welcome break from all the festivities.

Further details including a full programme of Light Night events can be found at www.mynottingham.gov.uk/lightnight



Above: Light Night 2010

Photo: William Burn

Glorious Accession

Rev'd Stephen Morris considers the value of the monarchy as the nation celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



AS I WRITE (mid January) there is a serious debate between London and Edinburgh about the Scottish Nationalist Party's intention to hold a referendum on the subject of independence and the future of the United Kingdom. This necessarily involves discussions about all sorts of issues including currency, defence and sovereignty including, obviously, the Sovereign.

On Sunday 5th February 2012 our churches will be commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and there will be a civic ceremony that evening in St Mary's. We are slightly premature, the actual day being the Monday 6th.

I have often thought that Accession Days must be bitter-sweet events for the Queen since they necessarily mark the death of her late, lamented father, King George VI. Elizabeth II will be only the second monarch in the country to have achieved this sixty year landmark, first achieved by Victoria in 1897.

Like most people in the U.K., I can't remember having any other head of state and even those who can will probably feel that this reign of 60 years marks the most

stable (for some even the *only* stable) fact of public life since the years of austerity and recovery following World War II. It has been a period of massive change to social, economic, technological and educational expectations; to science, travel and music; from the end of Empire to establishment of the EU; a broadening of 'Faith' to 'Faiths'; Suez and 'the bomb' to 9/11 and Afghanistan and a constant swell of anti-institutional individualism and globalisation overseen by a dozen Prime Ministers.

Neither can we remember her actually putting a foot wrong. No gaffs, no discourtesies, no signs of lack of respect; nothing, physically, verbally nor on screen. True, there were the difficult days following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, but who else would have had to allow the general public to tell them how to negotiate the trauma of violent death in the family and, with appropriate dignity, negotiate that as well?

This is not to state that the case for democratic monarchy is conclusive. However, it does demonstrate the enormous value to that case of having a monarch who has done so much so well. A monarch who has so publicly declared and kept to our faith, while managing to show a welcome degree of inclusivity

towards other faiths and cultures, deserves tribute because it would not have come easily to everyone. Indeed, as the Queen herself acknowledges, it is the fruit of a God-given grace.

We live in days of scepticism towards institutions and, particularly, privilege. It is an age in which public figures and so-called celebrities seem to be lionised merely for us to enjoy their fall. It is often easier to mock and undermine those who are leaders of nations and communities but the New Testament recommends praying for them. Her Majesty was prayed for at her enthronement in Westminster and, in one way or another, has been prayed for ever since. It seems good to continue praying for her on this Jubilee of 60 years and collectively to thank God for her devoted service. And may each one of us, too, be inspired to live up to our calling.

Children at St Mary's

A new, monthly event called 'Children at St Mary's' begins on 19th February.

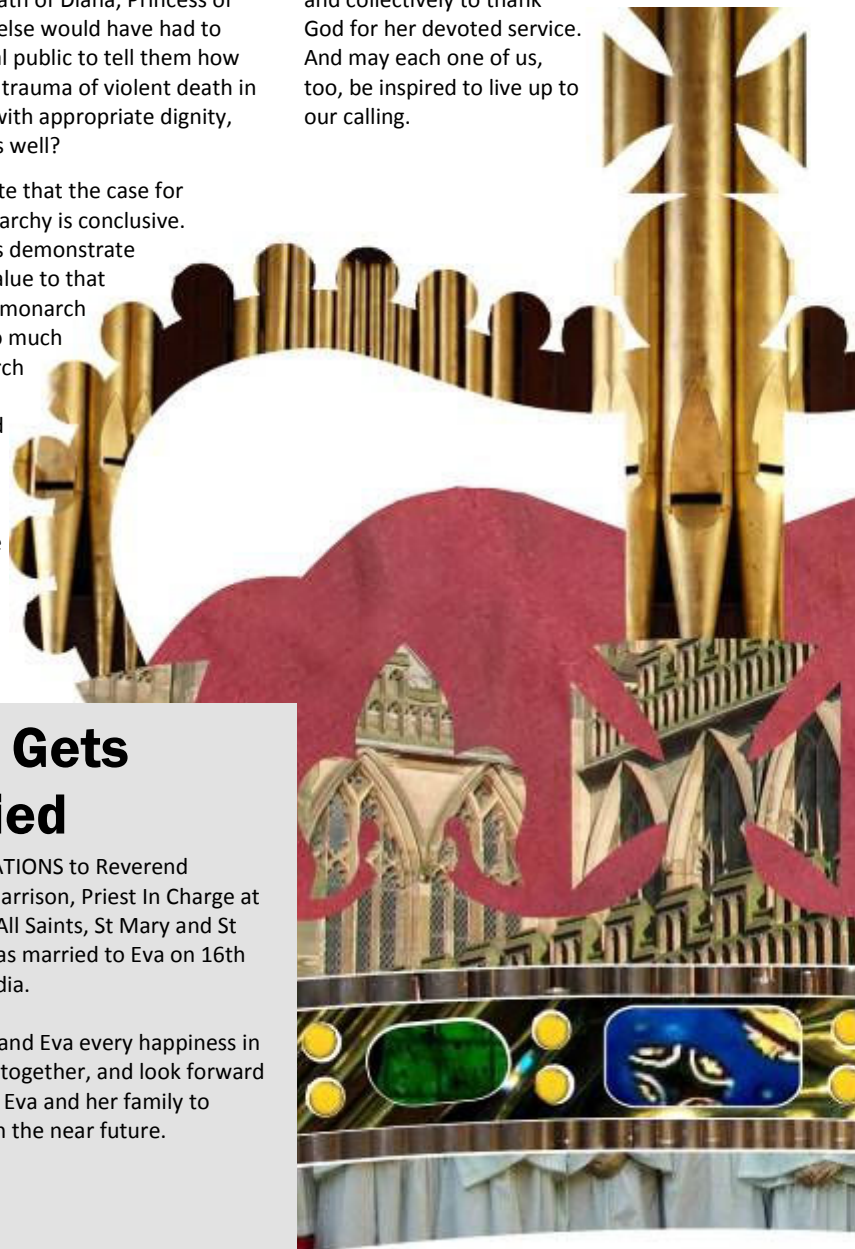
One Sunday each month, at the 10.45 a.m. service, there will be supervised provision for children of any age to spend some time together in the Chapter House having some fun and friendship, some teaching and some prayer.

The second such event will be March 18th which is also Mothering Sunday.

Vicar Gets Married

CONGRATULATIONS to Reverend Christopher Harrison, Priest In Charge at the parish of All Saints, St Mary and St Peter, who was married to Eva on 16th January, in India.

We wish him and Eva every happiness in their new life together, and look forward to welcoming Eva and her family to Nottingham in the near future.



Obituary: Dorothy Driver

Rev'd Stephen Morris recalled the Dorothy's life during her funeral in January:

There are many things about Dorothy's life that could have been considered difficult and yet I have rarely met a person who was more grateful and more willing to work hard – and in any way she could – for others. In an early conversation, Dorothy told me about her father's shop, about not being able to take advantage of all the educational possibilities that would have been possible a generation later, about enjoying her work at Boots where she had done well and about cycling. I had an image of her riding up and down Carlton Road with occasional trips to the near countryside until she said she had cycled to Norwich and back: I saw her in a new light!

She met Bernard at St Matthias's Church. After he was demobbed, they got married and moved to St Catharine's where, between them, they put in about 40 years as churchwardens. Even more significantly, by today's standards, they ran a very large Sunday School, Dorothy giving lots of hospitality at home and organising sea-side trips.

I'm sure there was a more painful side to this, especially in not having children of her own, but Dorothy's attitude to any disappointment was always to "carry on and make the best of things". Even in the last years of St Catharine's, after the redevelopment and disruption of the whole St Ann's area when familiar people were moved away and

new people with different roots often didn't find their way into parish church communities, Dorothy was still looking after the hospitality, serving in any way possible, being busy and energetic. Indeed, her biggest job when I first met her in 2000, was taking hundreds of pounds a year as a car park attendant on the former church hall site.

Following Bernard's death in 2002 it was time to build a new and enjoyable life at RWS Homes. As well as getting out and about with Tony and working in the parish office, there was some intensive knitting, particularly of dolls for the crib scenes now decorating many a home at Christmas. It was also time to close St Catharine's so Dorothy became a large part of the lives of many at St Mary's. And it has to be said that she was considered an inspiration and more admired than she was able to believe.



Photo: Martyn Jewers

Biddy Walker gives a personal account of a good friend who will be missed:

Canon Eddie Neale introduced me to Dorothy the first time Geoffrey and I went to a service in St. Mary's. Little did I know that several years later I would spend many happy Friday mornings with her in the Parish Office folding the Sunday service sheets. We chatted and laughed as we folded. We talked about family matters, holidays, books, TV, cooking – virtually anything but politics and world affairs. She told me many stories about her life in Nottingham, in particular about St. Cath's, working at Boots, the War and her schooldays. Folding with Dorothy was never a chore!

Dorothy did beautiful cross-stitch embroidery. Another of her pastimes was knitting unusual items such as nativity figures, fancy cakes and dolls, often for fund-raising. Dorothy enjoyed weekly visits from her sister Jean, and outings with Tony, especially to concerts - she particularly liked the Hallé. All the celebrations for her 90th birthday pleased her greatly.

Latterly Dorothy had increasing difficulty with stairs, her hips and knees were painful and she had to use a stick. We often joked that another step had been added to the flight in the Parish Office since the previous week. Once, Wendy came to show us which one it was!

Many months ago Dorothy told me that somebody had always added when parting, 'If the good Lord spares me' and we began to do so, albeit light-heartedly. It would be 'Goodbye, see you on Sunday/Friday if'; this eventually was shortened to 'See you, and the rest'. Strangely, neither of us said it after the service on the Sunday before she died.

Dear Dorothy, I shall miss you so much. Rest in Peace.

Christian Classics: Norman Todd continues his Christian Classics series, turning to Dante's great epic poem, *Divine Comedy*

Unless you have your own preferred translation, or can read the original Italian of Dante, buy the Penguin edition. Start with Volume 2 (Purgatory), not with Volume 1 (Hell). This will enable you to follow the cleansing from the stains of sin of those souls who have already accepted forgiveness. This cleansing (purging) has to be effected in all of us in preparation for our entry into Paradise where sin is completely forgotten. Please try it. The detailed introduction, commentary and notes will guide you as they did me – and still are.

Rather than attempt the impossible by summarising the work, I will just highlight a few of the great numinous episodes:

Canto 2. Dante and his guide, Virgil, have emerged from Hell and are on the beach of the Island of Purgatory. "I saw a light come speeding o'er the sea, / So swift, flight knows no simile therefore." Instead of sails it is propelled by the enormous wings of the "angel of the Lord", who ferries a hundred souls all singing the praises of God.

Towards the end of Canto 20, "sudden I felt the whole mount shake with shock, / Like as to fall, and chillness gripped me, even / As it grips one who's going to the block." Why then do all the souls on the mount pause to sing "Gloria in excelsis Deo!"? All is explained in the next Canto. "But when some spirit, feeling purged and sound, / Leaps up or moves to seek a

loftier station, / The whole mount quakes and the great shouts resound."

There is so much more than details of purgation, much glory as the ascent is made. Read Canto 29, the great Pageant of the Sacrament, and Canto 30 when Beatrice appears and takes over (from Virgil) as guide, eventually leading him into Paradise.

And from Paradise, Canto 2. "How must our eagerness be multiplied / To see Him in his essence, in whose being / God's nature and our own were unified!// What faith holds here shall there be known by seeing; / Not demonstrated, but self evident / Like those prime truths that brook no disagreeing."

Linking with Others

Rev'd Rachel Shock, Nottingham's Workplace Chaplain explains how the chaplaincy is aiming to connect people and provide support



Not that I want to be seen to be endorsing products, but a certain online site which encourages business people to join and link up with others, is

proving to be an intriguing concept. When this site first appeared, I thought of it as nothing more than an elaborate business card holder and I wasn't sure of its potential use. However, as far as promoting the name of the workplace chaplaincy, it has been very useful. As with most of these sites, if they are used wisely, they can be useful tools. I have had people contact me quickly and easily when quite honestly, contacts wouldn't previously have been made.

What the site shows you is just how many people we are connected to and who those people are connected to as well. As the saying goes, it really is a small world.

I had someone contact me who never thought he would see a contact in his business world that was to do with religion. He didn't see how the two could possibly be connected! He's not the only one; even if you are a Christian, it is sometimes difficult to see how what we do in the church connects with what you are doing when at work. The church certainly struggles sometimes to engage

with its parishioners working lives. It doesn't know how to help people make connections between faith and work.

I've spoken to people who don't really believe that the work they do is significant to God. For them, it's just a job to pay the bills – how can God be interested in the fact they drive a bus, fix the electrics or sort the mail? All I can tell them, is that God is interested – he's as interested in those jobs as he is in any other job. God is intimately involved in our world and part of his love for us, is his interest in what we work at – whatever that is and however ordinary we might imagine those tasks to be.

Where churches often forget to engage with work is in the simple action of praying for people. When did you last ask your minister to pray for something that was happening at work? As ministers we are often asked to pray for someone who is ill but not so much when one is facing redundancy, or a manager who has a difficult or ethical decision to make. We can underestimate the power of prayer and don't do it enough, possibly because we are worried that we might not have the right words. God isn't interested in right words; he is interested in the intention in our hearts.

All work is significant - the Bible is full of affirmation of the work we do; "Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3

Work is significant to God because we are significant to God – he is interested in us

and what we do; he uses it as an instrument to get things done. God's wish is for the world to be made a better place, a place where his kingdom flourishes. Work is what he wants us to do and our work is a context for us to use our God-given skills and gifts.

If we were to be a little more upfront about being Christian, we would be amazed how many people we can touch with the love of God simply by them knowing you are a Christian. Letting people know allows for potential conversations. We are to act as agents for transformation in the world. In the workplace we are called to be a model of Christ to others, a mouthpiece of Christ to others whether in tough times or easy times; we are called out to be part of the transforming mission of God.

The workplace chaplaincy is working hard to make connections across the city, linking up with people offering an informal and confidential listening service; a structured visiting programme in many workplaces and providing pastoral care and support. We have also discovered that we are 'doing' church in some of the workplaces by offering memorial services on work premises. Going to where the people are rather than expecting them to come into a strange environment. All this means we are linking up with people and making connections.

May I wish you all a Happy New Year and may your connections be fruitful!



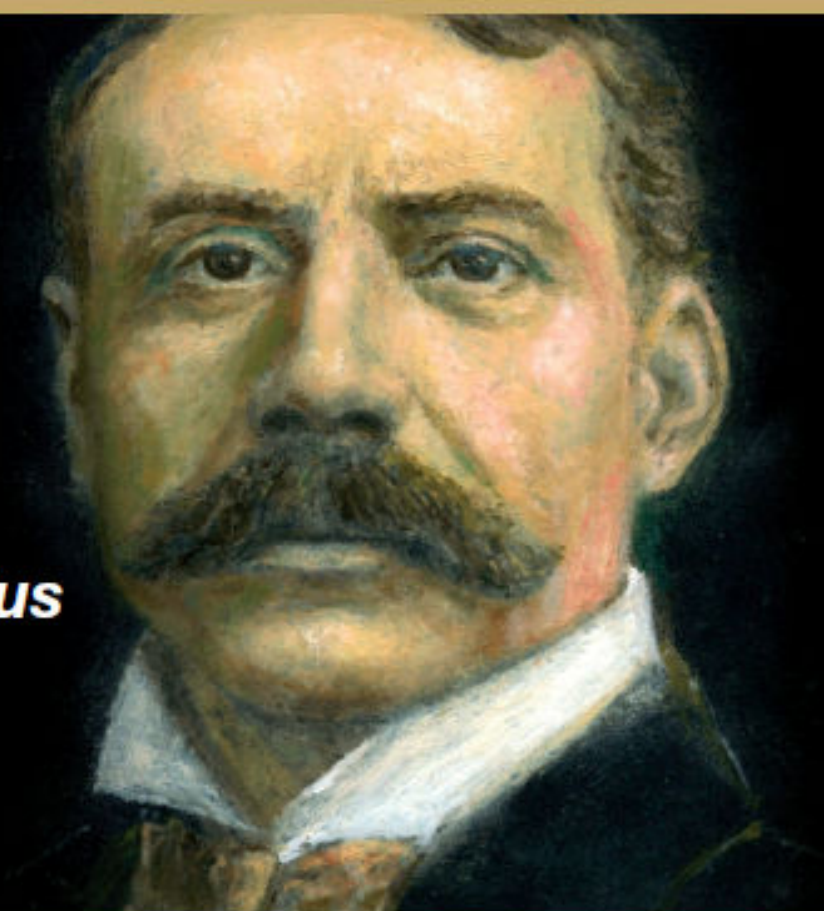
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