

free

# Our Changing City

The Impact On Nottingham's  
People And Its Churches

**Confirmation**

What it means to me

**The Old Testament**

Is it still relevant?

**PLUS**

Details of services and events  
over the next 8 weeks



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*Together to learn, to grow, to serve*

## Philip Jarvis: “An inspiration to many”

### Christopher Harrison comments on the tragic loss of Philip Jarvis, devoted Christian and Verger at St Peter’s Church

Verger at St Peter's for several years before his tragic death in May, Philip will be deeply missed for his wide range of personal qualities which extended his role far beyond the usual responsibilities associated with the job of verger. His deep Christian faith, underpinned by a theology degree, led him to seek out and minister to many who would otherwise be ignored by much of mainstream society, and as a result he was well known to a wide range of people who struggle with homelessness, poverty, addiction etc. In this respect he played a huge part in St Peter's mission to those suffering from acute need, and his contribution to the pastoral work of the parish was considerable.

Philip was conscientious in caring for St Peter's church, both helping to keep the building in good order and playing a vital role preparing for services and dealing with the practical problems which can arise at any time. He was highly skilled at dealing with the occasional disruption to services which is a sad fact of life for many city centre churches. He had a deep spiritual life, being an inspiration to many people in the way he would seek to deepen his relationship with God through retreats and his contact with monastic communities.

Philip was a devout Catholic, but his commitment to the Church of England was so strong that his work at St Peter's became, in effect, a shining example of

ecumenical partnership. His association with the Anglican church even took him recently, through a friend, to the Anglican College in Rome, where he happened to meet with Archbishop of Canterbury - an occasion of which he was justly proud!

Our deepest condolences are offered to Philip's parents and to all his family, and also to his partner Rosaleen. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 1st June at noon at the Roman Catholic church of Our Lady with St Edward, Thorneywood. There will also be a memorial service at St Peter's Church, on Wednesday 15th June at 1.00pm.

*From the editor...*

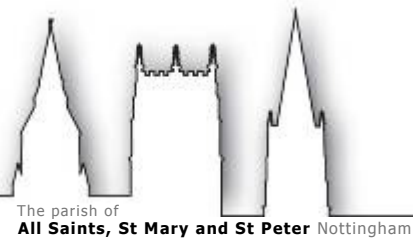
### Building on History

You may notice a nostalgic feel to this edition of **nottinghaminfaith**. Len Simmonds looks at the way that Nottingham city centre has changed, Clarence Rickards introduces an Old Testament Bible study course and our back page is devoted to 10 years of choral scholarships at St Mary's Church. However, these articles all share something in common—they focus on the past in order to reflect on the future. Our city is changing but it presents many opportunities; another group of choral scholars leave the church as they finish their university courses, but the music-

making goes on; and the Old Testament continues to get older, yet we can perhaps learn more from it today than we have ever done in the past.

Christianity calls us to ponder upon Jesus' life, two thousand years ago, in order that we can make a difference to our lives and the lives of those around us today. What history really tells us is that Jesus' message of living a life centred on love for others really can make a difference to our world.

*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

"Nottingham Old and New" Created by Ed Mills with photos supplied by Mike Leuty. Send your photos of parish life, our churches or anything in Nottingham to [office@nottinghamchurches.org](mailto:office@nottinghamchurches.org)

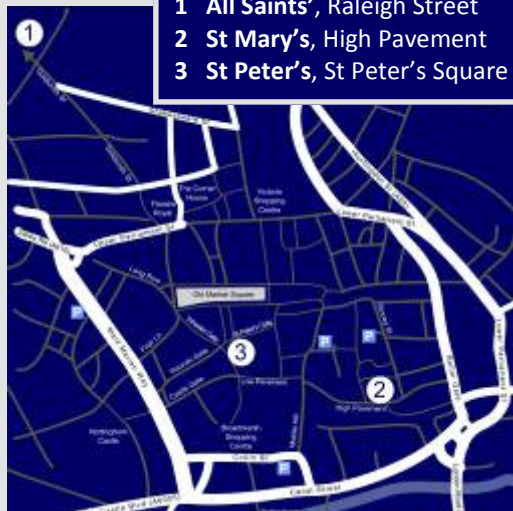
Getting in touch

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](mailto:office@nottinghamchurches.org)  
T: 0115 948 3658  
[www.nottinghamchurches.org](http://www.nottinghamchurches.org)

## Clergy

**Vicar:** 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 Charter  
**Finance Assistant:** Sarah Hopkin

## Contributions

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

# News from the Churches

## Maundy Thursday foot washing - with a twist

On Maundy Thursday, the Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, joined by the Bishop of Sherwood, brought the message of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples to the streets of Nottingham. However, in a modern twist, the bishops offered passers by a shoe shining service outside St Peter's Church, instead of the conventional foot washing. Bishop Paul explained the reasoning behind this unusual take on the Maundy Thursday story:

"Foot washing in Jesus' day was done by the lowest servant of all. Jesus challenged his disciples then, and all of us today, to treat each other with such love and respect. We wanted to explain this and the message of Easter while we offered a practical service to people in the city."

Maundy Thursday concluded in the parish with Eucharist Services at all three churches, including the traditional foot washing at St Peter's.



## St Peter's Choir tours Paris

On Saturday 30th April & Sunday 1st May, the choir of St Peter's enjoyed an exciting weekend of singing at two of the most beautiful and iconic churches in Paris. On Saturday, the choir gave an informal concert at Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris, to an audience of several hundred, followed by evening mass. The concert took the form of an English evensong - a tradition unknown to the majority of those in the audience. On Sunday, the day on which Pope Jean-Paul II was beatified in Rome, the choir sang Mass at Saint-Sulpice (photo: Mike Leuty). The visit concluded with another concert - the choir was privileged to be joined for this by the world famous organist, Daniel Roth, who provided stirring organ music between the choral items.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

Isobel Partridge	- 3rd April	- St Mary's
Izie Onobhamiukor	- 17th April	- St Mary's
Jack Atkinson	- 25th April	- St Mary's
Ethan Bolt	- 8th May	- St Peter's
Alice Knight	- 15th May	- St Mary's

### Weddings

Kevin Wilding & Louise Watson	- 1st May	- St Mary's
Andrew Harrison & Shabnam Bekr	- 22nd May	- St Mary's
Peter Siepmann & Adele Charter	- 28th May	- St Peter's

### Funerals

Winnifred Jeffs	- 25th May	- St Peter's
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## Barista Bishop

On Monday 9th May, the St Peter's Coffee Room welcomed the bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, Paul Butler, to work as a 'barista'. Members of the public were served by the bishop to highlight Christian Aid Week, which was 15th-21st May.



# Forthcoming events

## Coffee Break Concerts at St Peter's

### Saturday 4th June, 11am

Sarah Simmonds, soprano with Anthony Clare, piano & Sarah Watts, clarinet.

### Saturday 11th June, 11am

The Marian Ensemble plays Debussy's piano trio and Faure's first piano quartet.

### Saturday 18th June, 11am

Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir.

### Saturday 25th June, 11am

Masterpieces by JS Bach.

### Saturday 30th July, 11am

#### Celebrity Coffee Break Concert

David Briggs, organ.

*Suggested donation: £10*

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



## Prayers for June & July

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

On 2nd June the Church moves very swiftly from celebrating the Ascension and glorification of our Lord into Heaven, where he continually intercedes for us, through Pentecost (12th) where we are reminded of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and on the whole Church into Trinity (19th) where we celebrate all that God has done in creating, redeeming and restoring us in his image. We pray that our hearts, minds, conversations and behaviour will all be more fully transformed and equipped for every aspect of His mission in the world.

As the new Lord Mayor and Sheriff take up office on the 5th June, we pray for all those involved in the governance of the City being thankful for the commitments made and asking for wisdom and sensitivity in finding solutions to very difficult problems.

We pray for the Workplace Chaplaincy, for Rev Rachel Shock and her team of lay chaplains, for the chaplaincy council and for the PCC which meets on 1st June to hear progress on decisions being made about taking the work forward.

We thank God for the service of our musicians through the year, praying that those who are moving on will continue to find their vocation in enhancing the worship of God; also for the administration staff and volunteers in the office as well as members of our site and fabric committees in their battles against bad weather and the decay and theft of materials.

We pray for those who are getting married in our churches, for families bringing babies for baptism, for other, sadder occasions of funerals and memorials, that in every case congregations will feel the loving hand of God on their lives and know His peace which passes human understanding.

As the summer term ends, we pray for all those completing and awaiting the outcome of exams (and those who mark them) and are concerned for their futures hanging on the results.

As we pray for refreshment, safe travelling, parties and fun together, we also remember farmers in this country and elsewhere, that there will be good weather for growing and reaping necessary crops.

Every blessing,

Stephen Morris

## Dates for the diary...

### Tuesday 7th June, 7.00pm @ St Peter's

Concert - Works by Robert Digweed (local composer and recent graduate). Free entry.

### Saturday 11 June 2011 7.30pm at St Mary's

Mozart's *Serenade for 13 Instruments* and *Double piano concerto K365 in Eb*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

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

### Thursday 16th June, 1.15pm @ St Peter's

Organ Recital - Peter Siepmann. Free entry.

### Saturday 25th June, 12.30pm @ St Peter's

Book Launch - 'God's Biologist'. An autobiography of Sir Alister Hardy by Dr David Hay.

### Sunday 26th June, 12.30pm @ St Peter's

#### St Peter's Patronal Festival

The parish barbecue will take place after the Patronal Festival at St Peter's. Tickets are available from Overseas Committee representatives.

### Saturday 2nd July, 7.30pm @ St Mary's

Nottingham Bach Choir Concert.

### Sunday 17th July, 2.00pm @ St Peter's

Songs of Praise service for the whole parish

### Thursday 21st July, 1.15pm @ St Peter's

Organ Recital. Free entry.

### Saturday 30th July, 7.30pm @ St Mary's

Nottingham Youth Orchestra Concert.

# One of the most important days of my life

## William, aged 10, describes his recent confirmation

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April was one of the most important days of my life so far, my confirmation.

With my parents, and godparents we all arrived at Southwell Minster for the start of the service at 7.00 pm. We first walked through a stone archway where everyone was gathering outside the church. I was wearing a rich gold coloured waistcoat with a matching tie and beige trousers with a swan white shirt.

We continued to walk through the graveyard under the setting sun. We had a couple of photos taken on the way, until we walked through the black, metal gates of the giant Southwell Minster. At that second I immediately departed to the Pilgrims Chapel. I was given a book and guide to the ceremony, and had only just sat down with the others, when suddenly we were told to leave to the church department. Christopher joined us as we prepared for our group photograph, we had about 4 taken.

Suddenly, we were called into the main hall, where all the crowds were gathered together in twos, and led ourselves into the service. We immediately joined in with a hymn they were in the middle of. It was lovely.

We eventually stopped and sat down to listen to the sermon for half an hour. They talked about how to be a Christian. I couldn't wait for my confirmation to begin!

The time had now come for us to go over to the font with Bishop Tony and Bishop Paul. They both said a few words and Bishop Paul then started to spray us with water to remind us of our baptism.

By now the brisk lashes of sunlight had floated away from the window and all was dark! I felt very happy and happy for the others to be confirmed. We then returned to our seats and sang another song. Two readings from the bible were read out by 4 people. It was then time, time for the interviews. It was interesting to listen to what others thought about confirmation.

After 4 interviews, the interviews then stopped and I could feel nervous shivers down my back. We said the words of God's rules for a while. The words just slipped out of my mouth without me needing to look at the paper. We then stopped to face the bishops and the confirmation began.

We arranged ourselves into a semi-circle to be confirmed. I stood in the middle to see who would get to me first. It was Sherwood, no Southwell, no Sherwood. Eventually it became obvious to me that it would be the Bishop of Southwell who reached me first and it was. As he placed his hands on my head I felt vibrant senses of warmth and enjoyment flowing through

my body, it was incredible and I was amazed!

We then voyaged out to shake hands in peace with others. I found my family and shook hands with them, and around 5 minutes later I shook with another child and elderly gentleman. Around 10 minutes later I shook hands with Christopher (the Vicar) I then rushed back to my seat for the next hymn.

I was lead out of my seat to collect a candle and sing a hymn. I was really nervous holding the candle as I could have set fire to something! We headed for the passway and blew out the "flaming" candles.

Once this had happened galleons of smoke drifted across the church and I ran to my family to see what they had to say. They were so proud of me. We walked down to the coffee place

where I picked up two biscuits and a lolly pop! After a bit of struggle to get in the queue we got our photographs taken with the bishops. All my family was chatting with Ann and Helen, who without them I could not have been confirmed. We all had coffee chatted with Christopher and took photos. It was around 8.00 pm, and I was getting hungry, so we left for home.

My baptism and confirmation will remain in my head forever! The candle, however, will remind me of God and Jesus! It was just like he had spoken to me.

***"As he placed his hands on my head I felt vibrant senses of warmth and enjoyment flowing through my body, it was incredible and I was amazed!"***

## One of our other young confirmation candidates was full of praise for the confirmation classes:

After attending classes at St.Peter's, hosted by Anne and Helen, in preparation for my confirmation, I would like to tell you about what we did in our classes.

We read and were told Bible stories which were always either accompanied with a fun activity or the challenge of finding the story in the big Bible.

When reading 'Blind Bartimaeus' we were blindfolded and had to walk down a wiggly line from memory.

When studying the time just before and after Jesus' death we made a time line marking all the significant events.

We also made things like:

- A plait made out of three pieces of straw to show that God is three in one
- A cross-stitch bookmark
- A bracelet with five beads on representing P.A.S.T.A (Praise, Ask, Sorry, Thanks, Amen)

I enjoyed my confirmation classes with Anne and Helen and hope that they will become more popular amongst the youths of our congregation.

**If you or your child is interested in confirmation or taking the next step in developing faith, please speak to one of the clergy or contact the parish office.**

# Milestones

**Christopher Harrison** remarks on the achievements of a few of our parishioners and finds that mutual love and understanding are crucial to the church community



**Rev'd Christopher Harrison**  
Vicar of the Parish

Alongside the deep sadness shared by so many people as we grieve for Philip Jarvis, we must not lose sight of some other milestones in our parish life. Rowena Edlin-White will be ordained deacon in Southwell Minster on Sunday 3rd July, and our prayers and warm wishes go with her as she takes up her new post as curate at Lowdham. Sonia Barron, who was on placement with us recently, will be ordained at the same service, and will be curate at Chilwell. A number of significant birthdays fall at this time, notably those of

Arthur Bennett and Rex Howieson (80), Daphne Pentecost, whose 90th birthday serendipitously falls close to Pentecost Sunday, and June Baines' mother who celebrated her 100th birthday recently. Adele Charter and Peter Siepmann were married on May 28th, and Richard Ward and Jennifer Barrow will be married on 23rd July - St Peter's choir is gaining quite a reputation in more ways than one.

A church community which is rooted in love and mutual care grows all the stronger through marking such events as these together. As St Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, "If one part of the body of Christ (the Church) suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it". The grief of those who mourn cannot be wiped away easily, but it can be eased by the love and care of those who know how to strike the right balance between being alongside the

one in pain and leaving them the personal space which they also need. Those who reach particular moments of rejoicing in their lives can, in a caring Church, realise on such occasions just how much they matter to those around them.

A newcomer to one of our churches has recently told me how he has been made to feel so wonderfully welcome. Someone else has also commented favourably on the evident care shown towards individuals in our churches. That being said, there is no doubt always more that we could do in caring for one another. Let us not neglect to look out for the newcomer and visitor, and to follow up those whose needs may not be openly expressed. For, as Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

## 10 Mile Pilgrims

**Rachel Farrand** recalls a successful Easter pilgrimage to Southwell



The sun shone from beginning to end on Easter Saturday for the parish's traditional Easter pilgrimage from Nottingham to Southwell Minster. The pilgrims' route started at Spring Lane, Mapperley, then wandered through some of Nottinghamshire's prettiest countryside until the 'peppercots' of Southwell Minster finally came into view. A series of prayers

and readings had been compiled [by John] and these were read at intervals during the day; the prayers at the beginning of the walk were said under a canopy of spring blossom and the final prayers made in the Minster's Pilgrims' Chapel. A visit to the refectory for a refreshing cup of tea and delicious cake completed the day.

# Services and Events in June and July

SUNDAY 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> June	TUESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> June	WEDNESDAY 8 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Lord Mayor's Service 1830 Sung Eucharist* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins* 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion 1900 Concert – Works by Rob Digweed	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> June	FRIDAY 10 <sup>th</sup> June	SATURDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> June
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Mary's</b> 1930 Summer Concert – Choir of St Mary's with the Orchestra of the Restoration <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Coffee Break Concert – The Marian Ensemble

SUNDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	MONDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> June	TUESDAY 14 <sup>th</sup> June	WEDNESDAY 15 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist * 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong*	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 16 <sup>th</sup> June	FRIDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> June	SATURDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> June
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Said Eucharist for Nottingham High School 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital – Peter Siepmann	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Mary's</b> 1100 Nottingham High School Founder's Day Service 1700 Evensong celebrating St Mary's Choral Scholarships <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Coffee Break Concert – Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir

SUNDAY 19 <sup>th</sup> June	MONDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> June	TUESDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> June	WEDNESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Morning Worship <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Taize Service	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion 1930 Bible Study <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	FRIDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> June	SATURDAY 25 <sup>th</sup> June
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion 1930 Sung Eucharist for Corpus Christi <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Coffee Break Concert – Music by JS Bach 1230 Book Launch – "God's Biologist"

SUNDAY 26 <sup>th</sup> June	MONDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> June	TUESDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> June	WEDNESDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Patronal Festival Eucharist* 1230 Parish Barbecue 1830 Compline*	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	THURSDAY 30 <sup>th</sup> June	FRIDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> July	SATURDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> July
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Mary's</b> 1930 Nottingham Bach Choir Concert

<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 The Obbit Service* 1215 The Friends of St Mary's Annual Meeting 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Matins* 1830 Holy Communion with prayers for healing		<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion 1930 Bible Study <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	<b>THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Historical Talk - The Black Death 1348-50; the most catastrophic event in English history
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist* <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Evensong*	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Historical Talk - The his- tory of Saint George and the English
<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Morning Worship <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1400 Songs of Praise 1830 Taize Service	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion 1930 Bible Study <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion 1815 Evensong*
	<b>THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion 1315 Organ Recital	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Evensong* <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist* 1830 Compline*	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion
	<b>THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> July</b>
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Mary's</b> 1930 Nottingham Youth Or- chestra Concert <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Celebrity Coffee Break Concert – David Briggs, Organ
<b>SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>
<b>All Saints'</b> 1030 Sung Eucharist <b>St Mary's</b> 1045 Sung Eucharist 1830 Joint Evensong <b>St Peter's</b> 0815 Holy Communion 1045 Sung Eucharist*	<b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Meditation	<b>All Saints'</b> 1000 Holy Communion 1930 Bible Study <b>St Peter's</b> 1315 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 0800 Holy Communion
	<b>THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>
	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer <b>St Mary's</b> 1315 Holy Communion <b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Holy Communion	<b>All Saints'</b> 0900 Morning Prayer	<b>St Peter's</b> 1100 Historical Talk - Bede: England's 8th century historian

# The future is not what it used to be

## Len Simmonds, secretary of the PCC, considers how Nottingham city centre is changing and the implications for city centre churches

It is a truism that the future is not as predictable as it used to be and there are many fast moving trends and developments that shape, on a daily basis, the way we live, work, play and pray. This is no more so than what is happening in the centre of Nottingham where we are seeing a great deal of change in a relatively short space of time.

A city centre changes in response to economic, social and technical developments. It is because of this that we are seeing the implications in many, many areas. Change is seen through demographics, wealth, the way people live, the world of business and work, the workplace itself, education and even the geography of the city centre. We also continue to see the implications of competition and it is my belief that, in the future, a city will be in competition for people - people that wish to work, live and play in the city.

### The Heart of the City

City centres were at one time the true heart of the city where families lived in high-density housing. People crowded into houses that were very close to their workplaces. The city centre was the epicentre of trade, manufacturing and mass production. The population was working class and there were lots of churches embedded into the bustling jumble.

### Decline and Rebirth

City centres then moved into a second phase of change and development. The place of work was separated from the place of living and employment was no longer centralised. Suburban living became the thing and workplace and shopping centres grew on the edge of city centres. City centres were de-

populated and manufacturing started to disappear. It was during this phase that the city centre came to terms with the motor car and it was opened up to non-residents through car parks, access roads, public transport and inner ring roads. Retail developed in city centres and service type businesses replaced those involved in manufacturing.

### The Modern Age

Technology and globalisation has helped cities to move away from being 'manufacturing centres' to being 'idea centres' and many have ambitions to be 'knowledge capitals'. Money has become the primary, virtual commodity. We have moved from production to consumption and retail is vital to the prosperity of the city centre. Any future for production is about high tech, high quality production. If there is any future for services in the city centre it will be about the development of personal service industries - from health to tourism.

Business does not need space any more - many businesses are information generating units connecting different functions to disparate spaces assigned to each task to be performed. City centres are about process and exportation, are consumer driven in a 24x7 economy and are about education centres of excellence.

So now we have a city centre that is heavily occupied by businesses, education establishments, leisure orientated organisations, major retailers and government agencies. During the day the city centre is alive with students, shoppers, tourists and people going about their day-to-day business.

### Recent Progress

During the last 5 years or so Nottingham city centre has undergone a dramatic revival. Near-derelict warehouses and textile factories have been renovated, turning the area into a 'village' of city 'loft living.' More than 4000 high quality apartments will have been created and the resident population is some 12,000 people. The apartments have attracted young people seeking short experiences of city centre life, the so-called "successful agers", and those who seek a lifestyle change to accommodate a 'single' lifestyle.

Within the city centre itself there is a very vibrant nightlife generated by a large increase in bars, restaurants and clubs, sitting side by side with some of the best theatres and cinema complexes in the country. A typical weekend night sees up to 60,000 young people participating in what has become known as the 'night-time economy.' Nottingham Contemporary in the Lace Market attracts 500,000 visitors a year and compliments the well-established cultural diversity of the city.

### Shopping

Unusually Nottingham has two major shopping centres right bang in the centre of the city. There are streets in the city centre that have some of the highest pedestrian flows in the country. Clumber Street and Listergate are the busiest. Business, commerce, retailing and leisure attract people into the city centre on an almost '24 X 7' basis and this in turn presents many opportunities.

### Who is Left Out?

Parts of the edge of the city centre incorporate some of the most deprived parts of the city with higher than average



*"It seems that our best vision of a city centre today is that of entertainment space, a place to visit, a place to work, a place to live."*

unemployment and below average household incomes. Many of the people that live on the edge of the city centre could argue that they are excluded from benefiting from much of the 'wealth development' that is taking place in the city centre. They may lack the qualifications to work within the new economy and may find that the shopping and leisure facilities in the city centre are prohibitively expensive. They may see the developments as '*not being for us but for others*'. When walking around the city centre one can't help notice that there is little you can engage with without money.

### Regeneration and Investment

Regeneration and major developments have driven the city centre's success. By far the most significant public realm improvement for over 75 years was the £7m transformation of the Old Market Square.

Within the eastern part of the city centre is the 'BioCity' – a healthcare and bioscience cluster attracting technology companies. A number of re-development schemes have been launched and the recent economy has not helped them progress. When they happen each will have impact on the life of the city centre.

The **Riverside Masterplan** plans to develop 250 acres between the city centre and the riverside. The £900m **Eastside Masterplan** covers the development of 139 acres. Tesco have submitted plans for this site. If built, the 120,000 sq ft store, costing up to £40 million, will be their largest in the East Midlands and includes a multi-storey car park.

The regeneration of **Southside** is planned and we shall see a £40m expansion of the Midland Railway Station that will make it the city's major transport interchange.

Progress has also been made towards developing a **Business Improvement District** with the city centre specifically identified. New offices for Eon costing £30m are being built in **Burton Street**.

More than £1.3bn could be spent on major capital schemes in the city centre over the next four years. The Broad Marsh Shopping Centre plans almost triple the size of the shopping centre from 400,000 sq ft to 1.1m sq ft and create around 5,000 permanent jobs. Work is expected to start next year and be completed by 2015. The redevelopment will divide the Broadmarsh into a series of blocks with open-air pedestrian routes between them.

A £240 MILLION extension is planned to the **Victoria Centre** taking it from 985,000 sq ft to 1.4m sq ft. It would also involve the demolition of **York House in Mansfield Road**. A new bus station will be centred on **York Street and Union Street** east of the existing York House and Rose of England pub. When open, the expanded centre will add 2,000 permanent jobs to the current 3,000. The centre currently attracts 23 million shopping visits a year. The extension would be completed in time for Christmas trading in 2015.

A comprehensive plan has been devised for the edge of the city centre between London Road and Manvers Street. This is known as **The Island** and once it gets going will be one of the largest regeneration schemes in the country – 270,000sqm of floor space. It will be new mixed use space extending the city centre to the southeast and comprise of offices, flats, shops and cafés. The City Centre Masterplan says: '*It (The Island) will help create a bigger, more dynamic city centre, generating vitality and furthering our reputation as a leading European City*'. The City Centre Masterplan is intended to promote inward investment and add to the nearly 60,000 jobs already based in the city centre.

### What an exciting city to be a part of...

*The future is not what it used to be* and the above outlines the fact that the city centre is a place of continual change and transformation.

### The Challenge for Churches

There are many deep-rooted churches in Nottingham's city centre. People come into the city centre to pray but, like other city centre churches, congregations are now made up mainly of people who actually reside in the suburbs.

Churches must engage with all of the many changing facets of the city centre. We are on a journey where we have to understand new issues, the drivers of a developing city centre and the consequences of the changes the planners are making. We have to appreciate the dynamics and impact of the physical changes of the city centre.

The challenge for the city centre churches is, of course, to examine the churches' presence, to identify opportunities both for collaboration with each other, and with other churches of the city centre, and to develop a common vision for mission in the city centre.

As well as developing city congregations and church life, the Church at the centre of the city has to find ways of engaging with the different developing and growing communities. These include shoppers, visitors, businesses, residents, the marginalized, those engaged in education and the so-called night time economy. Because the *Church at the Centre of the City* can be an influencer on issues to do with social impact we need to find ways of engaging more fully with civic and political partnerships – presumably we believe we have a special contribution to make to the well being of the city and we are a voice worth hearing!

Professor Paul Ballard, who has done a lot of work on community in the centre of the city, reminds us that;

*"the city centre is the place where the stranger comes, whether in strength or weakness. It is here that we have to learn how to live creatively with the differences in race, religion, status, skills and history and to collaborate, with integrity and truth, in working for the common good."*



*live in theme park. It is safe and orderly. It does not age. It is consumed and replaced. It is any time any place'*

Thomas Bender

# From the old, something new

## Clarence Rickards, Licensed Reader at All Saints', introduces a series of Summer Bible Study sessions focusing on the Old Testament

One of the greatest problems in discussing or studying the Old Testament at parish level is the name Christians have given to this part of the Bible. We prefer the new to the old, easily assuming that the one has superseded the other. However, we should bear in mind that when the New Testament writers talk of the *scriptures* they mean, give or take a book or two, what we today call the Old Testament; for Jesus, St Paul and the earliest Church, this was "the Bible". The Church of England view is that the two testaments are complementary; in both of them "everlasting life is offered to mankind" (Church of England's 39 Articles, Article VII).

This year's summer Bible study meetings will look at five short books of the Old Testament: Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Esther. Before we come to these books, however, we should first look at the structure of the Hebrew Bible as a whole. Although our Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew text, our order reflects that of the Greek translation. The order in the Hebrew Bible is rather different.

First comes the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), also called the Pentateuch (five books) or Books of Moses. This is the core group of books for Jews, and the other books are, in a sense, a commentary on it. The usual translation of Torah as "Law" is a mistake; only Leviticus and Deuteronomy are wholly about regulation, all the rest are overwhelmingly narrative stories, about matters such as the Creation, the Fall, Noah, Abraham, Moses and the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. A better translation of Torah might be "instruction" through story.

The second division of Old Testament books, the Prophets, is divided into the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings) and the Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve – the "minor prophets" considered as one book). We can notice that the "historical" books are valued not so much for their historical information, as for their prophetic qualities which help us to understand the

present and future from the past, good or bad.

The last, and most diverse, division of the Hebrew Bible is the Writings. Here we find everything else that is familiar from our Christian Old Testament - Psalms, Chronicles, Job, Daniel and the rest, including the five books which we will be studying. Since the Writings, apart from the Psalms, do not regularly figure in Jewish worship, we could conclude that these books are unimportant; this is not so, however.

Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and Esther, which in the Hebrew Bible follow each other, are called the five scrolls (*megilloth*), each being read at a Jewish Festival. Song of Songs is read at Passover, probably because of the references to the Spring; Ruth at Shabuoth (the feast of Weeks, or Pentecost) because of the association with grain harvests; Lamentations on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Ab (a Jewish month falling in July/August), a fast commemorating the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians and later by the Romans; Ecclesiastes at Sukkoth (Tabernacles or Booths, the final harvest festival celebrating the fruit harvest and the vintage). Ecclesiastes 3.13 recommends enjoyment but the rest of the book puts celebration into perspective. Finally, Esther explains the Feast of Purim which falls in Acker (February/March), the last month of the Jewish year. This is the only book still read from an actual scroll.

In spite of these associations, our five books caused controversy and debate at various times through aspects that are still relevant to us today.

All the books are, more or less, Godless. God is either not mentioned at all or is only marginal. Women's lives and concerns feature in many of the five books; their difficult place in society alone (Ruth), their emotions and sexual feelings (Song of Songs), how women can use influence without actual power (Esther). Ecclesiastes brings a radical scepticism to bear upon a world in which cheats prosper as well as honest people, and life seems much the same with God as without him. Lamentations considers faith in a situation of absolute disaster with no silver linings. Esther raises questions about meeting the threat of genocide with guile, politics of violence.

Let us take a glance at each of the books.

**Ruth** is very difficult to date. It seems unlikely that the traditional Jewish view that it was

written by Samuel can be correct, but a late date, perhaps fourth or fifth century B.C.E., has little to support it either. It is a well crafted short story with folk tale elements, but what its purpose was or even if Ruth is the central character is not clear.

**Song of Songs** appears to be a collection of love lyrics of an overtly sexual nature drawn together around a rough narrative thread. Although often called Song of Solomon in English Bibles, it probably dated from the third century B.C.E., though the original folk poetry may be much older.

**Ecclesiastes** is an example of sceptical Hebrew wisdom. On linguistic grounds it dates from the third century B.C.E., and may consist of reminiscences by pupils of a master's teaching rather than the work of the sage himself. Opinions differ on whether the prevailing mood is optimistic, pessimistic or just realistic.

**Lamentations** is a series of poems, of which four are acrostic - making use of successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet – and all are concerned with the role of faith in the destruction of Jerusalem. They display and explore a range of emotions and reactions; sorrow, anger, guilt, despair, hope, compassion, forgiveness, uncertainty held in tension with faith without easy conclusions.

**Esther**, which may date from the early second century B.C.E., has the characteristics of a well resourced historical novel. The Persian background seems accurate but the details are difficult to verify, this does not mean they are total fiction. The book was possibly written to justify the innovation of a new Jewish festival, Purim, which may have had Persian origins.

**The summer Bible study will take place fortnightly on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the chapel at All Saints' church, Raleigh Street, beginning on Tuesday 21st June.** We hope to see you there; please make sure that you read the whole of the book of *Ruth* before the first meeting.



# A website for Mental Health Service Users in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Notts Peer to Peer Network is a website of help for mental health service users to find information we may need. It is also a resource for others wanting information about mental health services and other health related sites. It has links to many sites, with overlapping topics, such as debt and money management, and other support and advocacy sites.

## Our Origins

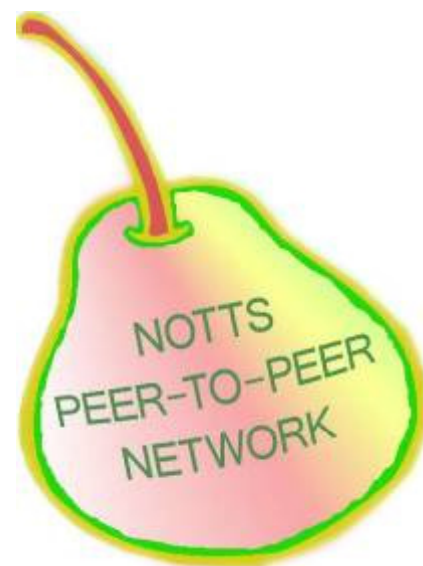
The site was started, and is maintained, by service users who believed there was a need to collect together information for ourselves and others. We grew out of the closure of one of our centres (SPAN) in March 2011. There is a small steering group, who meet to decide the direction in which the website goes.

## A Forum

The website has a forum for members, which is free to join, to share news, views and to vote in polls. The topics can be created by members, as can the polls. We are anonymous and pseudonyms can be used, but a person can decide to reveal their identity, by giving a first name. Stigma around mental illness still exists and we believe it is important to respect that anonymity.

We are not connected to any other organisation. We do not receive or make any money, and are guided by non-paid people in our steering committee. We hope that Notts Peer to Peer Network will be of use to all service users and others in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The site is regularly being updated and we welcome suggestions for inclusion on the site, especially related to mental health, support, services, and training. There is a page called the 'chill-out' page, where links to help you relax, be it music, art, poetry, or interesting places to visit.

Many users have had years of mental ill health. Depression, anxiety, self-harm, psychotic episodes, personality disorders, addictions, and many more conditions have been and are still present. There is hope and a 'recovery' page on the website gives information about how people can have hope and Notts is an area that is implementing Recovery principles. The pace of change has been rapid and some service users have felt ill because of this. Personal 'wellness recovery action plans' (WRAPS) can be created by individuals, with help and guidance from their support workers. More information is available on the website.



There is a page about 'training' which gives information about courses in Notts. A 'news' page helps to keep service users updated on things of interest.

We are assembling a website of information to point people in directions of help, support and hope. Please support us in our quest to develop this much needed resource for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. We also have a newsletter that members can download.

Hopefully, this article will help spread the news about the help available in the County.

## Find Out More

Email: [mail@nottspeertopeernetwork.com](mailto:mail@nottspeertopeernetwork.com)

Website: [www.nottspeertopeernetwork.com](http://www.nottspeertopeernetwork.com)

## Notts Peer to Peer Network



# Christian Classics: C. S. Lewis and the Inklings

## Norman Todd, continues his series looking at some of the Christian literary classics

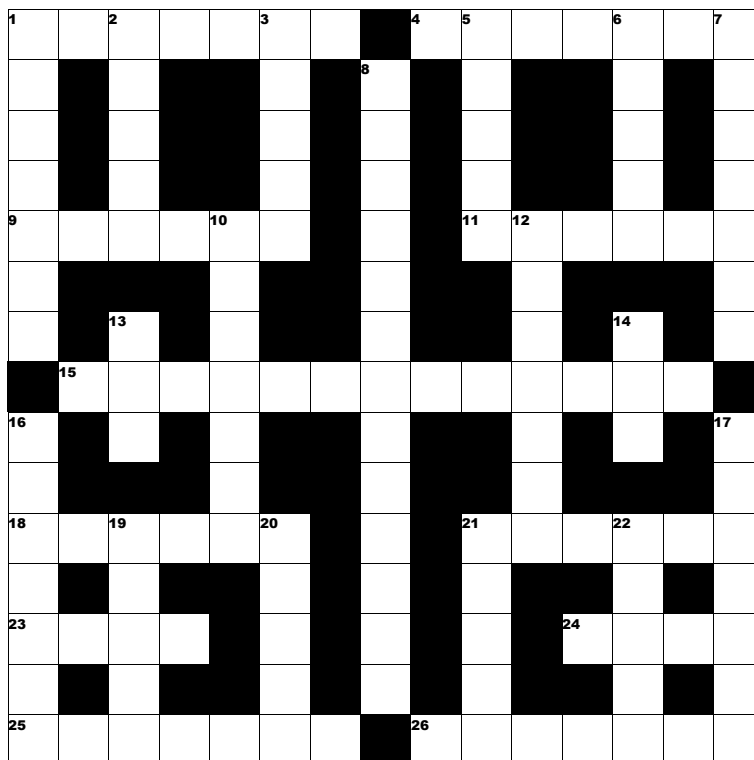
Most of us who have been helped by the ideas of C. S. Lewis have our favourite book by him. It might be the Narnia series, or his three spiritual 'space' travels, or his Christian apologetics such as *The Screwtape Letters* or *Mere Christianity*; his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, or his struggle to come to terms with the death of his wife, *A Grief Observed*. My favourite is *The Great Divorce*, a way of imagining life after death with the ever-open invitation to accept the free gift of salvation, but also freedom to dwell in a dreary limbo much like life in a modern earthly city. There are some memorable moments as several of the shades decide whether to return by bus to their dreary limbo or ride up into the foothills of heaven.

Lewis was one of the Inklings, a group of Christian intellectuals who met regularly in Oxford to discuss how the Christian Faith could be explained in ways more acceptable to ordinary people's imagination. The best known, after Lewis, is J.R.R. Tolkien with his mythical apocalypse (i.e. the revelation of the battle between good and evil hidden within ordinary life) *The Lord of the Rings*, now the famous three part film. I think another of the Inklings, Charles Williams, has yet to be properly valued. He wrote seven novels, all in a kind of 'mystical realism' of the parallels between ordinary life and its spiritual significance. My favourite is *Descent into Hell* revealing the spiritual realities of a life of increasingly selfish isolation and personal self-delusion and pointing to its ultimate culmination.

Perhaps the oddest of the Inklings was Owen Barfield, solicitor whom Lewis referred to as the 'wisest and best of my unofficial teachers'. His most important book, *Saving the Appearances*, published in 1963, is still in print. A reviewer in the *Church Times* wrote; 'This is a book of very high distinction. It is basic, profound, original, and difficult. Time may seal it as a masterpiece...It contains an entirely original approach to Christian perplexities, and it refounds Christian hope on a new and sound base. It is a great book, and it takes one into new worlds of opportunity.'

I endorse the opinion of that reviewer especially that it is difficult. It needs reading more than once.

## Crossword By Hubert Gale Grid set by Dennis Lord



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

### ACROSS

1. Shamefaced Fido (1)
4. Area of a town frequented by drinkers and vagrants (4,3)
9. Christian name of Gulliver the traveller (6)
11. Interment (6)
15. Living space, or compromise (13)
18. Queasiness, or revulsion (6)
21. Concurs (6)
23. Fifth N. T. book (4)
24. Verve, or panache (4)
25. Encourage (7)
26. Walked like a duck (7)

### DOWN

1. What you did, to get that bargain in the bazaar (7)
2. Minor prophet (5)
3. Poetic blackbird (5)
5. Meat on a skewer (5)
6. Jewish teacher and pastor (5)
7. Songbird – a showy singer? (7)
8. The last one of these is his stag night (8,5)
10. Marry a person, support a cause (7)
12. Joining up or combining (7)
13. Outstanding performer - or unplayable ball (3)
14. Where the baby sleeps (3)
16. Under (spatially) - or inferior (morally) (7)
17. To go AWOL (7)
19. Prefix, meaning 'extreme' (5)
20. Dwelling place (5)
21. Cub Scout pack leader (5)
22. Sign on (5)

### Solution to April's crossword:



Apologies if you noticed the missing clue in the April's crossword. The clue to 22 Down was *Found in plenty in 11 Down (4)*

## Waking the Past

Historian Paul Wiltshire will be presenting a series of historical talks at St Peter's Church from 9th July

The locally based historian Paul Wiltshire has taken English history and culture back to the City of Nottingham.

Paul normally reaches out over the airwaves of BBC Radio but his enthusiasm

and passion for the subject has drawn him into Nottingham's oldest building, where he talks directly to people who have been enthused by his unique style.

By reading to his audience from ancient manuscripts and by projecting wonderful images for them, Paul not only brings Anglo-Saxon, medieval and Tudor history alive but also offers explanations for its relevance today.

Paul has already completed two presentations in St. Peter's Church and both were attended by more than 60 members of the public.

Between 9th July and 17th September 2011, Paul's series will continue with five more Saturday morning talks in St Peter's

Church. He will start in explosive style with an account of The Black Death, which devastated England in the 14th century. The series ends with a glorious account of the Anglo-Saxon tale 'Beowulf'

**Saturday 9th July, 11am @ St Peter's**  
History Talk by Paul Wiltshire - The Black Death 1348-50; the most catastrophic event in English history. Free entry.

**Saturday 16th July, 11am @ St Peter's**  
History Talk by Paul Wiltshire - The history of Saint George and the English. Entrance fee is £2.

## God's Biologist

David Hay, will launch a new book on science and religion at St Peter's Church on 25th June

"Have you ever been aware of or influenced by a presence or a power, whether you call it God or not, which is different from your everyday self?"

If you have, then you are like the majority of British people. In the last national survey of reports of this kind of spiritual or religious experience in Britain, carried out by the BBC in 2000, 76% of the sample said 'Yes', and that the experience was of great importance to them. Yet most were very shy about it. Many said that before responding to the survey they had never shared their experience with anyone else. They worried that they would be thought odd or eccentric, even mentally disturbed.

They need not have worried. The figures show that people who report this kind of experience are typically in a better state of psychological wellbeing than others, more concerned with matters of social justice and the care of the community, and on the whole better educated than those who don't claim such experience. The paradoxical indications are that while regular churchgoing is declining at a great rate in Britain and across most of Western Europe (in Britain, for example, there was approximately a 20% drop in regular Sunday church attendance between 1990 and 2000, and only 7 – 10% of the population are regular churchgoers) reports of religious or spiritual experience have been increasing even more rapidly. The outcome is that now, most people who report such experience no longer attend church.

On 25th June at St Peter's Church, author, David Hay, will launch his new book discussing this phenomenon and asking if religion is biologically built into us.

Entitled *God's Biologist*, David Hay's latest book investigates the relationship between science and religion through an exploration of the extraordinary life-story of Sir Alister Hardy. Hardy was born in Nottingham in 1896 and was Professor of Zoology at Oxford University from 1946-1961. One of his pupils was the noted religious sceptic, Richard Dawkins. In contrast to his student, Hardy had a strongly positive view of religion as biologically built into all human beings. He founded the Religious Experience Research Unit in Oxford to study this idea, and in 1985 Dr Hay became Director of the Unit.

There will be a launch of David's book between 12.30-3pm on Saturday 25th June at St Peter's Church in the centre of Nottingham. A light lunch will be available. All are warmly invited to come along free of charge.

## Your Voice on the PCC

The Parochial Church Council, the team that approves decisions made in the parish, welcomes a number of new members

At the Parish Annual General Meeting on 12th April, the following people were elected to the Parochial Church Council:

### PCC Representatives:

John Barber, Hilary Evans, Rachel Farrand, Hubert Gale, Yvonne Harris, Philip Hobson, Alastair Macintosh, Ed Mills, Tony Mitchell, Christopher Smedley, Lorraine Smedley, Len Simmonds, David Towers, Richard Ward, Andrew Wallis

The PCC representatives are there to represent the views of all congregation members. If you have any issues to raise regarding the leadership or direction of the parish, speak to a member of the PCC.

The Churchwardens are in charge of the day-to-day running of the churches.

### Churchwardens:

All Saints': Julia Atkins & Maureen Black

St Mary's: Julia Barrow & Peter Bartlett

St Peter's: Keith Mountford & Peter Hoare

The parish's **Deanery Synod** representatives are Laurie Crawford, Keith Charter and Martyn Jewers

# Celebrating 10 years of Choral Scholarships

Over forty choral scholars have passed through St Mary's since the scheme began in 2001, and many will be returning in June for a celebratory Evensong

The choir of St Mary's owes a good part of its quality and reputation to the group of students who join the regular members during university term time. This dedicated crew of young musicians are the choral scholars of St Mary's and they are a crucial part of the continuing success of the choir.

### From Humble Beginnings

Although we might now take the choral scholars for granted, the scholarship scheme has only been around for a decade.

Established in 2001 in an attempt to provide an incentive to talented young singers to sing challenging choral music to a high standard, the scheme has gradually matured into a thriving programme for students from both Nottingham universities.

Since its inception, over 40 students have been supported by the choral scholarships scheme.

### Developing Talent

In addition to providing the scholars with a termly stipend to support them through their university careers, an emphasis is put on nurturing voices both individually and within the choir. The scheme offers subsidised singing lessons and master-classes with renowned choral directors to develop vocal technique and musicality.

It is a privilege to see young students develop and emerge as confident singers and individuals.

### Developing Community

The choral scholarships' primary concern is to build on St Mary's' choral heritage. But it also builds upon the church's community. A significant proportion of scholars stay in Nottingham after their studies due, in large

part, to the choir. Many former scholars also return on a regular basis for services and concerts due to the special relationship they have built with the choir and congregation.

### The Future of the Scheme

The growing reputation of the St Mary's choral scholarship scheme is happily leading to an increase in the quantity and quality of applications. The choral scholarships are funded largely by the generosity of congregation members, the resident choir and through significant contributions from the Vaulkard Trust. In order to continue awarding scholarships to Nottingham's most promising musical talent, continued funding is needed and any donations are gratefully received. Please contact [scholarships@stmaryschoirnottingham.com](mailto:scholarships@stmaryschoirnottingham.com) for more details of how to support the scheme or speak to John Keys (Director of Music) or Jonathan Stork (Chair of the Trustees).

### A Celebration of Scholarships

On Saturday 18th June at 5.00pm, current and past choral scholars will reunite for a Festival Evensong in celebration and thanksgiving for the continued success of the choral scholarship scheme. The service will be followed by tea, to which the congregation is warmly invited. To help with catering, please email [curdtart@hotmail.com](mailto:curdtart@hotmail.com) or speak to Emlyn Jones if you plan to attend.

### Find Out More

Visit [www.stmaryschoirnottingham.com](http://www.stmaryschoirnottingham.com) for more information about the choir and the choral scholarship scheme.



Nuremberg, Germany (2005)



Nuremberg, Germany (2007)



St Pauls, London (2009)



Assisi, Italy (2008)



Perugia, Italy (2008)



Scholars' Concert, St Mary's (2008)



St Mary's, Nottingham (2010)