

**THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
IN THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, ST MARY
AND ST PETER, NOTTINGHAM**



DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2016
AT 7PM**



ALL SAINTS, ST MARY & ST PETER, NOTTINGHAM

Helena Asare
Naomi Asare
Johnson Boye
Carlton Brown
Lucy Chande
Daniel Culbert
Jennifer Ellis
Emily Greco
Nicola Kalhori
Ben Watkins

KIMBERLEY & NUTHALL

Pam Bradley
Janet Chambers
Margaret Johnson
Elizabeth Potter

THE MINSTER SCHOOL

Jamie Bostock

ST MARY MAGDALENE, SUTTON IN ASHFIELD

Christopher Briggs
Steven Cain
James Froggatt
Clare Holland
Emma Kemp
Katherine Knight
Ross Salvesen
Simon Tansley
Mel Wardle
Kirsty Witchchurch

ST MARY'S, NEWARK

Patrick Davis
Amanda Henson
Sean Henson
Dawn Muers
Oscar Muers

WELCOME AND NOTICES

The Reverend Christopher Harrison
Vicar, All Saints', St Mary's & St Peter's

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim,
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2. Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield:
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

3. Christ is risen, we are risen!

Shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4. Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

THE GREETING

The bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There is one body and one spirit.

All There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

All one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you

All and also with you.

The bishop introduces the service, followed by

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Vicar says

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we remember his death and celebrate his resurrection, confident that we will share his victory over death and live forever in God.

The paschal candle is lit, with the words

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power through every age forever. **Amen.**

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Amen.

THE COLLECT

The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer, and then says the Easter collect:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Read by Patrick Davis*

St Paul writes about the victory of Christ over sin and death

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6.3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our victorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

GOSPEL READING *Read by Carlton Brown*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' tomb is found to be empty

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Luke 24. 1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

LITURGY OF INITIATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates stand. The bishop asks the candidates

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

The bishop addresses the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

The bishop says

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the Way. **Amen.**

The Bishop, clergy and candidates for confirmation move to the baptismal font, during which all stand to sing

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The bishop addresses the congregation (all remain standing)

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The candidates come forward to the font and sign themselves with water

The bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The bishop and the candidates return to the area before the rood screen, during which all sing

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him. In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

CONFIRMATION

*The candidates remain standing, and the congregation sit.
The bishop stands before the candidates and says*

**Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.**

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. Amen.

*The sponsoring minister introduces each candidate: X from the parish of Y
The bishop addresses each candidate by name*

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

**Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The bishop anoints each candidate with oil

The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

COMMISSION

The newly confirmed stand. The bishop addresses them

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The bishop introduces the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among the disciples and said, 'Peace be with you'. Then were they glad that they saw the risen Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All exchange a sign of peace, traditionally a handshake

OFFERTORY HYMN

During this hymn the collection is received for the Bishop's Confirmation Appeal 2016 (Bishop's Welcome Fund for refugees)

1. I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heave
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.
*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all
in the Dance, said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John -
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

3. I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

4. I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

5. They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Led by Canon Reverend Barbara Holbrook*

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Reveal your kingdom among the nations; may peace abound and justice flourish.
Especially we pray for ...

Your name be hallowed.
Your kingdom come.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit and renew your Church with power from on high.
Especially we pray for ...

Your name be hallowed.
Your kingdom come.

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak, heal and restore your creation.
Especially we pray for ...

Your name be hallowed.
Your kingdom come.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth, we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

Your name be hallowed.
Your kingdom come.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

During the hymn candles are lit and distributed to the newly confirmed.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The bishop says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.
Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

THE BLESSING

The bishop says

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God the almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church.

All are invited to refreshments after the service.