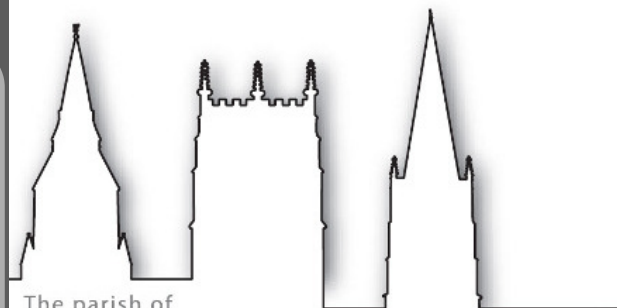


MISSION STATEMENT

- To live and proclaim the Gospel for the 21st century in our modern, challenging and fast-developing city.
- To develop our 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.
- To speak out together, wherever possible, on matters of justice and injustice, of inclusion and exclusion, of rights and responsibilities, of integrity and transparency.

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The parish of
All Saints, St Mary and St Peter Nottingham

Parish Newsletter

AUGUST 2009

From Christopher

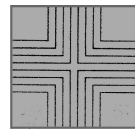
It remains hard to know what to make of the swine flu epidemic. Most of those who have caught the virus have suffered only mild symptoms, but in some - thankfully, quite rare - cases severe complications and even death have been the end result. As the virus spreads, we should all look out for any people within our own congregations or communities who are in special need of care or support, either through catching the virus themselves or because it has affected members of their family.

In the months before the outbreak, the term 'viral' had come to describe the way in which certain internet items - video clips etc - spread around the world at incredible speeds. It had also for some time been the word used for internet-based computer infections, often malicious. There is some irony, then, in the fact that we now have the global experience of a new real virus, which can sometimes kill, and carries with it a certain randomness about its victims. Although most of us are taking the swine flu virus in our stride, it is a salutary reminder of how fragile human life is, and how tiny biological mutations on a microscopic level can threaten the well being of whole societies. The power of viruses to wipe out whole nations has not been lost on film makers, and there has been at least one film in recent years which shows the cataclysmic effects on populations wiped out by an unstoppable virus.

Perhaps, then, in a roundabout way this virus reminds us not just of the preciousness of human life but also of its amazing complexity and of humanity's fundamental vulnerability. Preciousness, complexity and vulnerability are words which should also make us think of the origins and purpose of life; and this brings us swiftly to what we, as Christians, believe to be the divine source and meaning of all that is - namely God.

We encounter God in a particularly heightened way in the Eucharist, or service of Holy Communion. During the swine flu outbreak, we will be following national and diocesan recommendations to minimise the risk of passing on the virus by ceasing to receive the communion wine from the common cup. Instead, a small quantity of wine will be placed on each wafer before the service, and these will be consecrated and distributed in the normal way. Please do not think that you are in any way being short changed by this! Needless to say, it is not the quantity of wine we receive which matters, but the actual act of receiving communion, and the prayerfulness with which we approach it. As we re-enact, in the Eucharist, the self-giving of Christ for the world, this can renew us in body, mind and spirit, and the consecrated bread and wine are the means whereby this becomes real for us.

In spite of the unusual arrangements for receiving communion with which we will have to live for a while, let us truly open our hearts to the transforming power of God's word and sacrament each time we take part in the Eucharist. May the Eucharist, as ever, give us new strength and hope, and a redoubled commitment to seeing and serving Christ in those around us.



Services during August

Please note that the evening service arrangements at St Mary's and St Peter's will be slightly different during August. A service of Evening Prayer will take place every week, at 6.30pm, but at alternating churches;

- 2nd August— St Mary's
- 9th August—St Peter's
- 16th August—St Mary's
- 23rd August—St Peter's
- 30th August—St Mary's

Please also note that there is no Wednesday Evensong at St Mary's until 17th September.

Choir Developments

The musical life of St Peter's Church continues to make splendid progress with the announcement on 26th July of the engagement of Peter Siepmann and Adele Charter. Many congratulations to them both, and all good wishes for the future.

Parish Barbecue

Very many thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the barbecue on July 5th at St. Mary's church, especially all those from the Overseas Committee who co-ordinated it. It was a splendid event supported by considerable numbers of people, which has enabled £500 to be sent to a church in Assam, in North East India. This church is led by the only woman priest in the diocese, Jyoti Kawah, and is situated in a remote and poor rural area near to the Brahmaputra river. The money will pay a year's wages for a caretaker/gardener for the church.



Many thanks to all those who contributed to the latest series of Coffee Break Concerts and Coffee Room openings. Thanks especially to all those who gave their time and cake baking skills in the coffee room and to those who worked during the concerts themselves, as well as all the performers and members of the audiences of course! This series has raised more than £2,500—a very healthy sum, which is being put towards the St Peter's Organ Appeal. The next series begins on 26th September, and details of these concerts and other special events will be made available nearer the time.

Circle of Life

On Sunday 2nd August, **Thomas Atkinson** will be baptised at St Mary's, followed by **Elsie Mae Elliott** on Sunday 16th August.

Rachel Bagnall & William Bolt will be baptised at St Peter's on Sunday 30th August.

Rebecca Smedley & Guy Pritchard will be married at St Mary's on Saturday 8th August.

Experiences in Romania March-June 2009

I was lucky enough to spend 3 months in Brasov, Romania from March to June this year as part of my gap year. I spent my time volunteering in the Children's hospital, a 'family home' and an orphanage for severely disabled children.

When working at the hospital I helped a play therapist on the digestive ward with children of all ages. The role I played depended on the children that were on the ward at the time; sometimes I would be playing board games, building Lego towers, playing with toy cars, or feeding, changing or playing with the babies on the ward. It was great to see the children grow in confidence and stay to enjoy playing more.

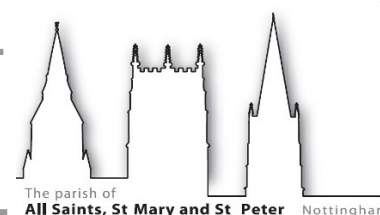
I also worked in a 'Family Home' for children with mental disabilities, a small home for 10 or 11 children designed to provide a family environment for the children who have been abandoned. The children were amazing, and I got to know them all really well. I enjoyed spending afternoons playing in the garden with them, doing crafts and playing games. The highlight for me was taking the children for a party at McDonalds; the children had a great time especially in the ball pool and with the face paints!

I found my placement at an orphanage for 30 severely disabled children most challenging. The children all responded to very different things, with some enjoying going out side, others liking the ball pool in the 'therapy' room and some just enjoying someone holding their hand and talking or singing to them. I often came across resistance from the carers who did not want volunteers to pick up the children and babies and spent little time with the children themselves. It was distressing to see the children with conditions that would be treated in the UK, knowing their quality of life could be greatly improved but the doctors would not take responsibility. Although the situation in the orphanage is bad, there is hope for the future. If volunteers continue to work there the children will get the attention they need. Also, while in Romania we got in touch with a charity called F.R.O.D.O kids who help organise operations for children with treatable conditions and programs for institutionalised children.

I enjoyed my time in Romania—it was a life changing experience. I learnt so much, got to know the children so well and can't wait to go back as soon as possible. I would like to thank everyone at church and in the choir for their help and support.

Alison Smith

Many thanks to John Machin for the design of the new parish logo, which has now been approved by the PCC.



Many thanks to all of those who have contributed to and produced the monthly parish newsletter over the last couple of years. The first issue of the new parish magazine, **nottinghaminfaith**, will be out in September.

Both of our choirs will be enjoying some time away this summer. Members of St Peter's Choir will be singing the services at Bath Abbey on 15th & 16th August, followed by Llandaff Cathedral on 17th & 18th. As always, friends and supporters are very welcome in the congregation—please see Keith Charter for information.

The St Mary's Choir is heading to London, where they will be singing Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on 17th-19th August at 5pm each day. Supporters are more than welcome.



In August, we pray especially:

- for our local hospitals, doctors' surgeries and NHS helplines at this time of worry about swine flu; we pray for those involved in medical research, especially into the production of vaccines for this and many other diseases.
- we give thanks for the possibility of relaxation, rest and change in the summer holiday period.
- for families under pressure because of children being off school and perhaps not able to take a holiday. We pray for all who run and staff holiday clubs.
- for all who serve in the armed forces, remembering especially those in Afghanistan. We pray for forces' chaplains and counsellors; and all who seek to help those wounded in body, mind and spirit.
- for all awaiting exam results, especially those who are extremely anxious about their future career or university place. We pray for those who will advise them and help steer them to the right course or placement.
- for all who have lost their jobs in the last few months and those in debt or worried about the security of their homes in this financial climate.
- we give thanks for all who support us, comfort us, laugh with us, encourage us; for friends, family, work colleagues, good neighbours, and all who are there when we need them.

Dates for your diary...

- There will be a congregational meeting at All Saints church after the morning service on Sunday 9th August. Updates will be given on progress in the churchyard and on developments relating to John Perkins House, and related matters.
- On Sunday September 13th at 6.00 pm in St Mary's church the annual Racial Justice Sunday service for Nottinghamshire will take place.
- On Sunday 19th September, at 7.30pm, St Peter's Choir will be performing a concert with 'Essentially Brass' at St Peter's Church, Parwich.
- On Sunday October 4th at 6.30 pm there will be a Harvest Songs of Praise and social evening at All Saints' church, for all members of the parish.

Parish contact details

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