



ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



December 2020
& January 2021



Parish Magazine

*This magazine is provided free of charge,
but donations are invited to help cover costs;
please use the donations boxes in the churches.*

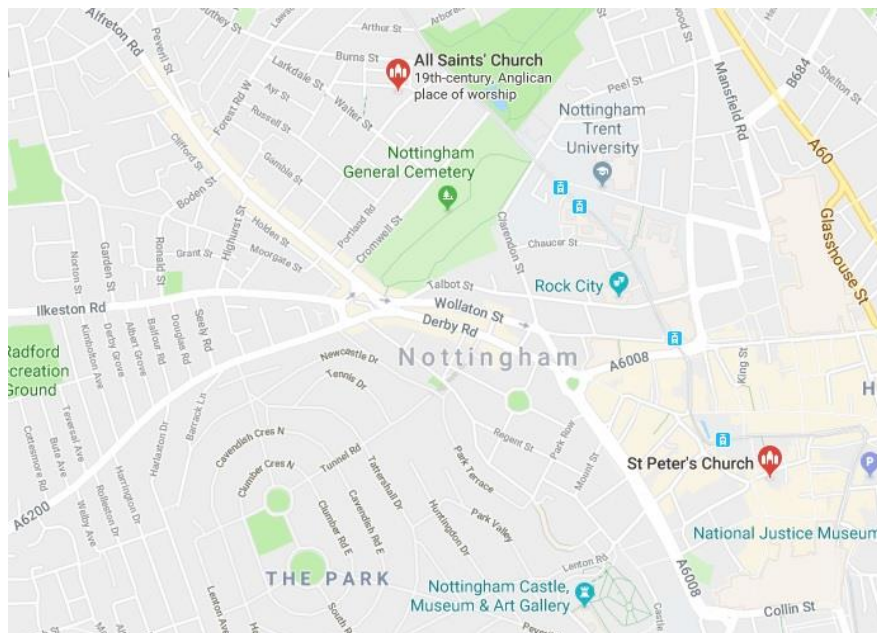
THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



PARISH CLERGY Rev. Christopher Harrison, Rector Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Associate Priest Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Associate Priest Rev. James Saxton, Associate Priest	PARISH READERS Laurie Crawforth Clarence Rickards
CHURCHWARDENS Lorraine Smedley – All Saints’ Laurie Crawforth, Brian Dunn – St Peter’s	PARISH OFFICE STAFF Adele Siepmann – Parish Administrator
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Dr Peter Siepmann	WORKPLACE CHAPLAIN Rev Jo Tatum
PARISH TREASURER Peter Moore	PCC SECRETARY Keith Charter
MINISTRY ASSISTANT Liz Marsh	HEAD VERGER Lee Chapman

CHURCHES

St Peter’s Church, St Peter’s Square, Nottingham NG1 2NW
 All Saints’ Church, Raleigh Street, Nottingham NG7 4DP



From the Rector...

The Reverend Christopher Harrison

I imagine that Christmas this year is going to be very different for almost everyone. Some months ago, I was joking that we might have to put on several carol services at St Peter's, each with reserved seats; this has now become the reality (see the services calendar for details). And who would have thought, this time last year, that we would have to ask people to book in advance if they planned to come to church, especially at Christmas time. It is also hard to imagine a carol service without congregational carols, but this again is something we have to accept in the light of the various rules which for the time being govern our worship. We are, however, planning for the carol service at All Saints' church on 20th December to take place partly or wholly in the churchyard, where there are no restrictions on congregational singing. Similarly, the 'Carols in the Churchyard' at St Peter's on Wednesday 23rd December at 5.00 will be an opportunity for all to sing carols together.



Of course all the restrictions on our worship, however broad brush and sometimes inconsistent they may seem to be, have been put in place for the greater good, and it has been splendid that they have not prevented us from maintaining our life together as a Christian community. When I greet those who have come to church on Christmas morning, I shall be very aware that there will probably be quite a lot of people who have not been able to do so, and whose worship, in their own homes, will be invisible to others. Wherever we are on Christmas Day, therefore, I urge you to remember that we remain united in prayer and worship, and that we can celebrate the coming to earth of our Lord Jesus Christ in whatever ways are possible for us. Indeed this reminds us that even in more normal times, there are always members of our church community who would love to be able to come to church, but cannot do so because of age, illness, or infirmity. We must never forget that such people are just as much part of our church family as those whom we are able to meet in church each week.

We will no doubt all be hoping and praying that the vaccines which are now about to be made available will give us new hope for 2021. We have lived since March under the shadow of Covid-19; this has been an anxious time for many, and the sufferings of those who have been affected by the virus have in some cases been acute. The full extent of the costs to the finances of individuals, families, businesses, charities, and other organisations will no doubt become more apparent in the New Year, including the increase in poverty and unemployment. Churches and other faith groups have not escaped these pressures, as we in this parish are very aware.

All this means, then, that 2021 must be a time for rebuilding and renewing, for reflecting on the past and deciding which of the lessons we have all learned in recent months will serve us particularly well in the future. There will be people in leadership around the world whose task it will be to put measures in place to try to prevent such a pandemic happening again; others will have to find ways of ensuring that those who have borne a heavy economic cost can be helped to start afresh and move forward. We will need to remember that the concerns regarding the climate and environment, which had become more and more pressing before the coronavirus outbreak, have not just gone away but in some cases have become even more acute. The Black Lives Matter campaign has also reminded us that all countries still have a long way to go in the creation of societies in which every person is truly and equally valued.

I am sure that many of us long for a time when we can relax in the knowledge that Covid-19 is under control and that we no longer need to take precautions in virtually all that we do outside our homes. It has not been easy to relinquish everyday freedoms that we normally take for granted. Maybe, however, this has reminded us that there are countries, even in today's world, where the various freedoms of thought and action which we enjoy here are never possible, and that many millions of people around the world are habitually oppressed, exploited or persecuted, sometimes on a daily basis. It is far worse for them than it has been for us in recent months.

Above all, even though this Christmas will be very different in so many ways, let us never forget that at its heart lies our confident belief that in Jesus Christ we see the very nature of God. In spite of all the suffering and distress to which so many are exposed, God's love for the world endures and always brings new hope. Pandemics will come and go, but the light of Christ, symbolised in each Christmas candle, lasts for ever.

A very happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Bid Update

December 2020

Dorothy Mountford

Our church building is now fully watertight. Plans are afoot for a blessing of the lead plaques which have been placed on the roof. The Bishop and the archdeacon, along with our Investment manager from the NLHF, are all eager to climb the spiral stairs up to the roof to take part in this historic occasion.

Goodbye Ellie Gray

The important outreach project is of course ongoing. Roshni Khunti, our first Heritage Officer, created the first draft of the text for the new interpretation panels which will be sited at the back of the church. Ellie Grey picked up the baton magnificently and progressed the plans for the guidebook and virtual tour of the church. This Heritage Outreach Project Officer position is a fixed term, part time post. We were happy for Roshni that she found a full-time permanent job despite our loss.



As you know we were extremely fortunate to have Ellie on board as her replacement. However, we should not have been quite so surprised that she too was offered a full-time post, at the Palace of Westminster no less. We feel a degree of pride that Ellie worked for us first. Her new position is extremely prestigious; she is working on the Refurbishment and Renewal programme for the parliament buildings. This is the biggest and most complex renovation of a heritage building ever undertaken in the UK. We wish Ellie God Speed. I will miss her calm and competent professionalism but look forward to following her progress as she advises on the electrical fittings and furnishings in the Seat of Democracy. Ellie plans, one day, to visit Nottingham and St Peter's in person.

Hello Sarah Clemson

As our readers may remember we were overwhelmed when we went out to ad for the Heritage Project Officer Post by the number and high quality of the applications. Of the 125 applications we received, 6 were interviewed. So, when we 'lost' Ellie we knew that we hoped that it would not be too difficult to replace her. Indeed, with in 24 hours of Ellie alerting us to the fact that she would be resigning at the end of November Sarah had accepted our offer. Although she does not formally start until 1st December, Sarah has already joined Christopher our Rector in St Peter's where he was joined, through the wizardry of technology, by Ellie and David Masters, from Image Makers, who were given a virtual tour of the church. We look forward to hearing more from Sarah in the January magazine.

David Masters

David is our design mentor - a gift from the National Lottery. He will be working in an advisory capacity with Sarah, Christopher and me along with James Brearley from Heritage Interactive.

Design Meeting

A meeting to discuss the interpretation panels, the guidebook and the virtual tour of the church which will be available on the web site and through a visitor app took place on Tuesday 24th November. After this meeting Ellie handed over to Sarah.

And so as we approach our third year of involvement with the project the three interpretation panels are on their way to completion by June 2021. The three strands of the City Stories project are up and running. Jagdish Patel has planned his second round of photography tutorials to take place in the spring, we have dates in the diary for January and February for the Horrid History and Art and Architecture heritage sessions in collaboration with CityArts and the congregational written histories continue to flow in with a deadline of Easter.

Three visitor outreach projects, three sets of City Stories events and three heritage officers and three years in which to complete the first round of activity.

Thank you all, as always, for your ongoing support and prayers.

Overseas Committee

Dorothy Mountford

Silver Smarties

At the Zoom meeting on Tuesday 10th November, the committee agreed that the Silver Smarties scheme - Advent 2020 to Ascension 2021 - should go ahead. Ways to overcome the difficulties created by the restrictions of the pandemic were explored.

Many of us do not handle much cash these days, this could make filling the tubes with coins tricky. So for those who would like to take part, you could perhaps do one of the following:

- purchase their own smarties to avoid unnecessary contact.
- pay your donation by bank transfer (email Keith Mountford for details)
- Send a cheque (email Keith Mountford for details)
- In the original scheme an empty tube of Smarties holds £12 worth of 20 pence pieces

What happens to the Silver Smarties Money?

The total Silver Smarties donations from Advent 2019 to end of September 2020 is £793.70.

£500 was sent to the Shins, our CMS partners who have just had a baby girl.

£250 went to the appeal for the fire that destroyed the Moria refugee camp of the asylum seekers in Greece.

The Honourable Member

Mr Arthur Bennett, from All Saints', has been a wonderful supporter of the Overseas Committee for very many years. In recognition of his commitment to the committee it was unanimously agreed that he should be made an honorary member. Thank you Arthur for your continued encouragement and support - it means a lot to us.

Queen Esther and the NHS

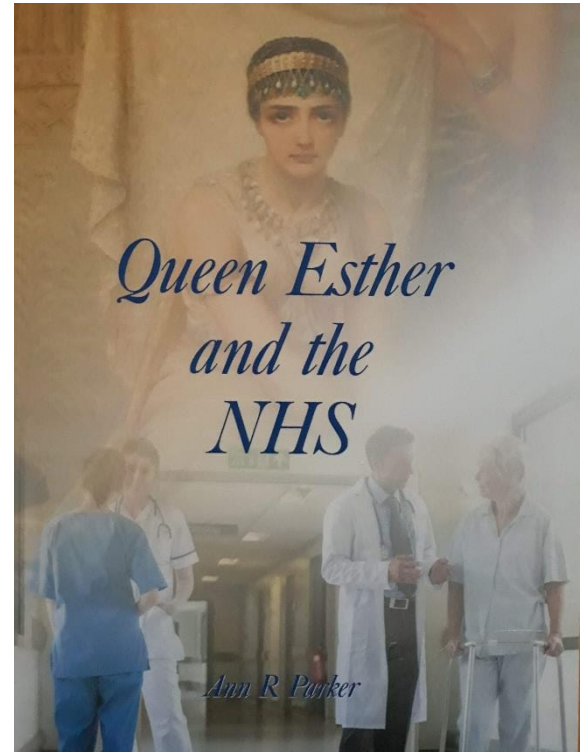
A new book by Ann Parker

Queen Esther and the NHS is an account of how the story of Esther helped me through a gynae disorder.

I will say here and now that I use very few medical words and no 'rude' ones.(well, maybe one). Nor are there any pictures. You can give a copy to your mother!

For no other reason that I can think of, other than the influence of God, one morning after a minor surgical procedure the phrase came to mind, Esther was taken to the court where she spent a year of preparation. Six month of myrrh and six months of cosmetics. I began to consider the uses of myrrh, what this would have meant in Esther's life and how its uses and influences could affect my own. Could I learn positive attitudes from her? Yes, theoretically. This story shows the difficulties of putting this into practice. It is written in a mixture of a diary, a history and a reflection on Esther; how Esther's attitude turned my mind to positive - and sometimes funny - thoughts.

The book is available from Ann or the Parish Office for £7



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 6th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's	
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'	
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's	
		Responses <i>Ayleward</i> A Song of Peace <i>Stanford</i> O thou the central orb <i>Wood</i>		
Tuesday 8th	11.00am – 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'	
Thursday 10th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's	
Sunday 13th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's	
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'	
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's	
		Missa Brevis <i>Wood</i> O radiant dawn <i>MacMillan</i>		
Tuesday 15th	11.00am – 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'	
Thursday 17th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's	
Sunday 20th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's	
	10.30am	Carol Service <i>Wholly or partly in the Churchyard</i>	All Saints'	
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's	
		Communion Service in F <i>Sumsion</i> Es ist ein Ros entsprungen <i>Praetorius</i>		
Tuesday 22nd	4.00pm	Carol Service*	St Peter's	
		O radiant dawn <i>MacMillan</i> This is the truth sent from above <i>Chilcott</i> Es ist ein Ros entsprungen <i>Praetorius</i> In dulci jubilo <i>Trad., arr. Chilcott</i> Away in a manger <i>Trad. French arr. Jacques</i> Star Carol <i>Rutter</i> In the bleak midwinter <i>Darke</i>		
	4.00pm	Family Crib Service	St Peter's	
	5.00pm	Carols in the Churchyard **	St Peter's	
	Thursday 24th Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Carol Service* <i>As above</i>	St Peter's
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass	All Saints'
11.30pm		Midnight Mass	St Peter's	
Friday 25th Christmas Day	10.00am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's	
		Resonemus laudibus <i>Willcocks</i> Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei in E-flat <i>Bairstow</i> Nativity Carol <i>Rutter</i>		
		10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
Sunday 27th	10.45am	The Eucharist	St Peter's	

* Music at these services will be led by members of the church choir

** Please bring a torch for this service, and be prepared for the churchyard to be muddy! If there is heavy rain on this evening, Carols in the Churchyard will unfortunately have to be cancelled.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Music details tbc

Sunday 3rd Kept as The Epiphany	8.15am 10.30am 10.45am	Holy Communion The Eucharist Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's
Tuesday 5th	11.00am - 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 7th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 10th	8.15am 10.30am 10.45am	Holy Communion The Eucharist Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's
Tuesday 12th	11.00am - 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 17th	8.15am 10.30am 10.45am	Holy Communion The Eucharist Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's
Tuesday 19th	11.00am - 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 21st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 24th	8.15am 10.30am 10.45am	Holy Communion The Eucharist Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's
Tuesday 26th	11.00am - 1pm	Private Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 31st	8.15am 10.30am 10.45am	Holy Communion The Eucharist Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's

Please remember that it is strongly advised that you book for services at St Peter's Church -

www.nottinghamchurches.org/booking

Booking for the Christmas Services (excluding Midnight Mass) will be open 13th - 21st December.

For those not able to attend in person, the majority of these services will be live streamed -

www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts

Magazine contributions are welcomed by **20th of the month** to Adele Siepmann:
office@nottinghamchurches.org

If you don't have access to email, handwritten pieces will be accepted!

Please note that it may not be possible to include all submissions

Green Tips for Christmas

Are you looking forward to Christmas? Before we get there, we have Advent. A time to look forward and to prepare for the future. Advent is the start of the Christian year. A time to take stock, consider where we're going and make resolutions. If Christ comes at Christmas for all life, can we use Advent to reflect on how our actions are contributing to the well-being of all life on Earth? Can we think of ways we can be more considerate in caring for God's creation?

With all this in mind I had a look for eco-friendly tips for a green Christmas. Did you know it's possible to rent a Christmas tree? It goes back afterwards and is replanted in the ground. Whether renting or buying a real tree make sure it's grown sustainably by looking for either the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Soil Association logo. Or go alternative and use a large branch of holly, or a large perennial indoor plant like a yucca or palm, and decorate it like you would a Christmas tree. If you have a fake tree already then keep on using it as long as possible. If you light up your tree with fairy lights then LEDs use up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent lights.

Food waste is a huge problem. It's so easy to over-cater at Christmas. Plan to transform left overs into new meals. Freeze what you can't eat. Or donate to a local charity feeding those in need. And compost what is still left.

Almost everything we buy has a carbon footprint and much of it is packaged in un-recyclable plastic. Put simply - by buying less we can reduce the rate at which natural resources are used up and the earth is polluted. Let's rejoice and take delight in God's free gift to us - God incarnate, a baby born in a manger.

Barbara Echlin - Green Christian
greenchristian.org.uk

Goodbye to Parish Manager, Alan Franks

Dear all,

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for the very generous leaving gift you have sent me on the occasion of my retirement.

My first thoughts are that I will put it towards my music, which, as you probably know, is such an important part of my life, and will become increasingly so during my retirement, when I am hoping to improve my piano playing (I have recently had to buy a new piano as my old one of 30+ years had developed expensive faults), resurrect my organ playing, and even do some more composition, particularly for St Peter's Choir. I will continue to contribute to the music of the parish whilst ever I am able, and I look forward to when the choir can get back to some sort of normality after this year's pandemic causing such disruption and misery.

I would like to thank you all for your support during my tenure as Parish Manager.

With kindest regards.

Alan Franks

Poem

Ann Parker

This covid autumn
in an age of cancellations,
Remembrance Day has been
reduced to isolated units.
One lone image of The Queen
laying a wreath in Westminster Abbey
on the tomb of the Unknown Warrior,
a hundred years after her grandfather
Inaugurated it; a much needed
focus for national grief.

Today it seemed almost forgotten.
But the Trumpeter played those
familiar notes in the Square
and I stood outside to watch and wait.
It was cold. The memorial ceremony
this year had two soldiers, a few
council members, a woman in
a pink coat and a stopped 15 bus ,
whose driver got out and stood
in front of it for
those two minutes.

Meanwhile, up the hill, a whistle
blew in the school playground.
A teacher's voice carried on the wind
as the children were led back indoors.

APCM

Following the Meetings for the Election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, both held on 20th October 2020, the PCC is now composed of the following:

RECTOR: Revd Christopher Harrison

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Revd Dr Richard Davey

ELECTED CHURCHWARDENS – to serve until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Parishioners

St Peter's: Laurie Crawforth and Brian Dunn

All Saints': Lorraine Smedley (one vacancy) (Assistant Churchwarden – Lisa Howman)

ELECTED PARISH DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE – to serve to 30 June 2023

Keith Charter (two vacancies)

APPOINTED DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN – to serve until the 2021 APCM

St Peter's: Dorothy Mountford

ELECTED to the PCC as LAY REPRESENTATIVES – to serve until the 2023 APCM

St Peter's: Resil Jarrett [plus, continuing to serve having been elected in 2019: Rob Edlin-White, Anne Hardy, Dorothy Mountford and Cathryn Vindelis]

All Saints': David Towers [plus, continuing to serve having been elected in 2019: Deena Caunt, Diane Caunt, Amy Fines and David Fines]

CO-OPTED MEMBER: Peter Moore as PCC Treasurer, Patricia Coy

Prayers for December & January

God of light and hope,
In this Advent season of waiting,
May we know your presence with us;
May we not lose sight of the life ahead.
As we prepare to celebrate your coming at Christmas,
Help us to be thankful for all the ways that you have blessed us
Even as we mourn the Christmas celebrations that we might have had.
Keep us safe from harm, Lord God
Let us turn to you and one another in the midst of difficulty,
And grant us the peace and hope that only you can give.
Amen.

Liz Marsh

Advent and Christmas – a time of waiting and a time of arrival. Rowan Williams in his poem ‘Advent Calendar’, says:

‘He [Christ] will come like last leaf’s fall, One night when the November wind has flayed the trees to bone...’,

Elizabeth Jennings notes with great beauty, that throughout November and December, there is an almost religious countdown to Christmas –

‘And this is Winter brought in by All Saints,
Fast followed by All Souls to keep us in touch with chill and death.
Each re-acquaints us with the year’s end.
Yet we now begin a life of realism, watching out for a red sunset.
Tall shadows step and strut
Facing the big wind daily coming on
Faster. This is the season of right doubt
While that elected child waits to be born.’

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate walking with thee, every day of our lives.

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare. May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemed and Judge, reveal to us the path from darkness to light. May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

We pray for those who find waiting difficult, whose lives are shadowed by humanity’s inhumanity, human carelessness and forgetfulness. Especially we pray at that time for those in debt, those whose lives are dependent on universal credit, and food banks, those who feel especially forlorn, and lonely at this time.

O Lord our God, as we celebrate again the festival of Christmas, we ask for the humility of Christ, the love of Christ, who did not come to be served but to serve. In his name, may we devote ourselves to the care and service of all those in need, whatever their disposition.

The Reverend James Saxton

BOOK OF THE MONTH

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

Frequencies of God- Walking through Advent with RS Thomas

by Carys Walsh

Along with the first strains of 'O Come O come Emmanuel' and the sublime words of the collect for Advent Sunday, for me the first of Thomas's poems in Carys Walsh's collection conjurors up the sense that the time of preparation is at hand.

The Coming

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, A river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime. On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. Many People
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.



Photo: Jo Copestake

In this poem RS Thomas gives us, not our human perspective of the coming of Christ, but that of God himself. The father asks the son to 'look' at the small globe he holds in his hands; there is no compunction to go. Thomas's simple but powerful depiction of human need and the divine compassion shown by the son sets us off on our Advent journey.

The 35 poems which mark the daily walk through Advent are mile stoned week by week.

Walsh takes us from 'Waiting' in week 1 through 'Accepting' to the mid-point of 'Journeying'. Each step takes us closer to the final stages of our journey: to 'Birthing' in the penultimate week of Advent and finally to 'Seeing'. Here at the end we arrive not, as we might expect with the shepherds at the manger, but with the Epiphany Kings. In 'A Slow Dawning' after describing the arrival of the each of the three kings Thomas asks: 'Where was the god-child?'. The answer: 'In the manger with the beasts all looking the other way where fourth was a slow dawning because wisdom must come on foot'

Rev Dr Carys Walsh is a curate at All saints Kettering. Previously she was a tutor in Christian Spirituality at St Mellitus College, London

Regular Activities in our Churches

For regular services, see the calendar pages in this magazine

All Saints'

- Community Coffee Morning (part of the Places of Welcome network):
Tuesdays from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Women of Faith activities and lunch, first Thursday of every month from 11.00 am – 1.30 pm
- Mothers' Union: Third Saturday of every month, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
- The All Saints' Drama Club meets from time to time to prepare and present short dramatic items
- Series of 'Saturday Matinee' film showings take place at 2.00 pm from time to time
- The Nottingham University Society of Change Ringers (Bell Ringers):
Tuesdays in term time, 7.00 – 8.30 pm
- The Nottingham Enlightening Word Church (Chinese) meets in All Saints' Church on Sundays from 2.00 - 4.00 pm and on Friday evenings from 7.30 pm.
- The Bridge Community Gospel Choir usually meets for rehearsals on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month from 5.00-6.30pm.

St Peter's:

- Rough Sleepers' Drop-in: Mondays (women only) from 10.30am – 12noon;
Wednesdays from 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Gateway Drop-in for anyone with particular mental health needs:
Wednesdays from 1.30 – 3.30 pm
- The Thursday communion service at 11.00 is followed by coffee and fellowship
- Bible Study group: Thursdays from 12.15 – 1.00 pm
- St Peter's Bell Ringers: Thursdays 7.00 – 9.00 pm

The Parish Overseas Committee meets every other month; the Caring for our Common Home working group also meets on a regular basis. Please contact the Rector if you would like to know more about these. Our churches also support the work of the Mount Zion foodbank at Bobbers Mill; collection boxes for gifts of food are available in the churches.

PARISH OFFICE

ST PETER'S CENTRE

ST PETER'S SQUARE

NOTTINGHAM

NG1 2NW

0115 948 3658

office@nottinghamchurches.org

www.nottinghamchurches.org

Charity Number: 1130298