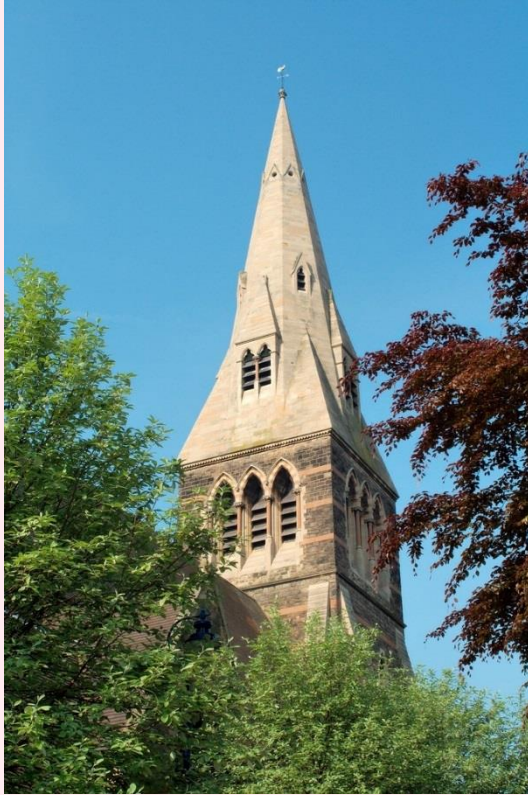


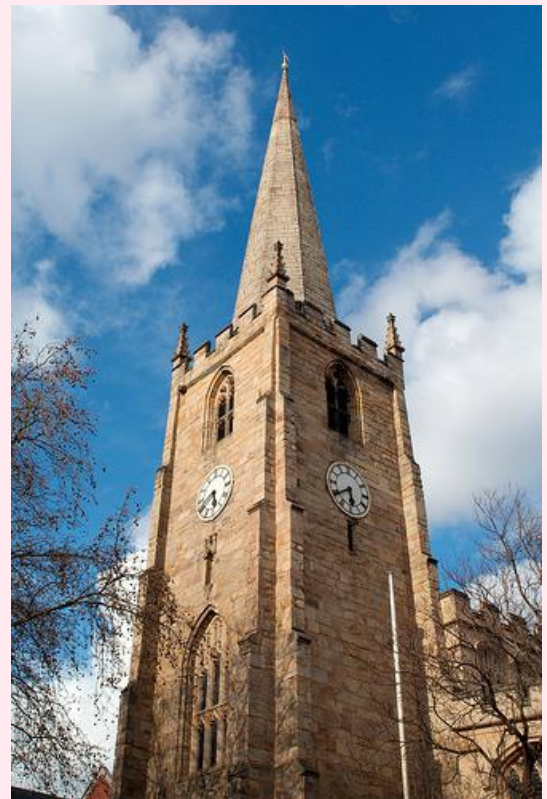


ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



February 2021

Parish Magazine



*This magazine is provided free of charge,
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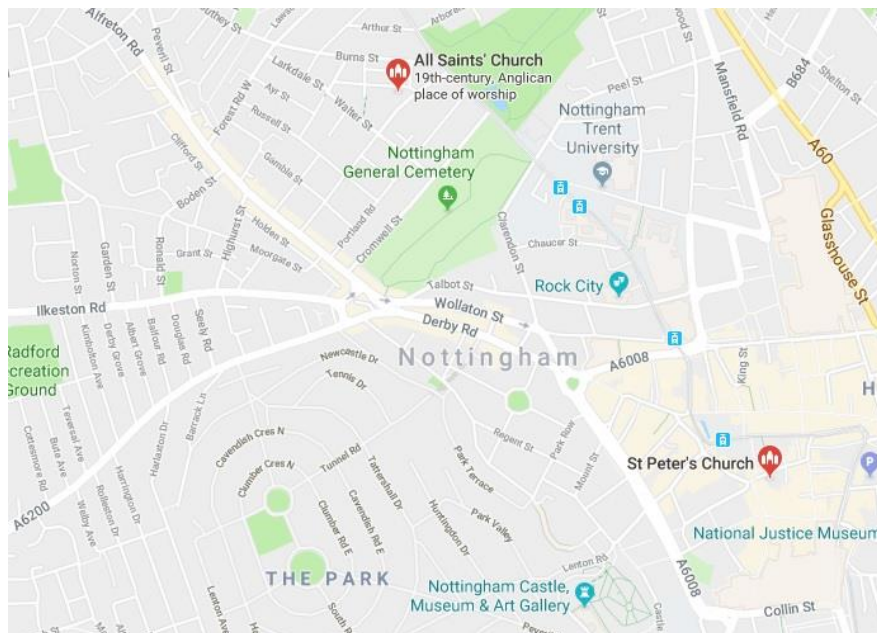
THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



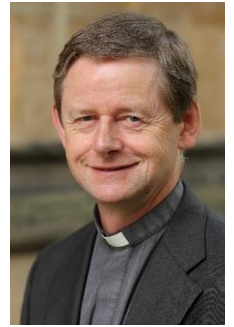
PARISH CLERGY Rev. Christopher Harrison, Rector Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Associate Priest Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Associate Priest Rev. James Saxton, Associate Priest	PARISH READERS Laurie Crawforth Clarence Rickards
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CHURCHES

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 All Saints’ Church, Raleigh Street, Nottingham NG7 4DP



This time last year, the world was beginning to become aware that a global crisis was looming, of a kind which it had not seen for many decades. A year later, and following over two million deaths worldwide said to be due to coronavirus, we are still wondering what the enduring impact of the pandemic will be. How long will it last? What will the ultimate death toll be? What will be the long term effects on the world's economies? Will we need to adjust our lifestyles permanently in case a new and similarly deadly virus emerges in the coming years?



Many people are understandably becoming tired of it all. Those who work on the front line of health care provision, and in care homes, in schools, colleges, and universities are increasingly exhausted. There is a constant flow of news items which, with a few exceptions, can easily have the effect of making the rest of us even more anxious and depressed. Of course we must take heart from the various good news stories, and seek to keep our spirits up in whatever ways we can. We need to trust that through all this God will help us to be stronger, more caring, and more aware of the suffering and sadness which can strike, anywhere at any time. We are made more humble as we remember that humanity is less able to control its destiny than we thought.

We long for the new life and fresh hope that Easter brings to us each year. Maybe, as more and more people are vaccinated, and as the weather improves, we can look forward to better times in the spring. But in the meantime, the season of Lent, soon to be upon us, promises to be even more sombre than usual as we continue to live under various forms of lockdown and limitation. On Ash Wednesday, 17th February, we will not be able to receive the imposition of ash on our foreheads, in accordance with the current restrictions on our services. The words traditionally used at this moment in the service, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return', are a poignant and perhaps unsettling reminder, this year, of the fragility of human life. The second form of words used to accompany the imposition of ashes, 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ', are particularly important in these difficult times, as they remind us of Jesus' call to show his love and compassion to those in special need, and to bring comfort to them.

You may well have asked yourselves, in recent months, where God has been in the pandemic. The Christian faith teaches us that God is always with us, to strengthen and sustain, to provide guidance and purpose, and to bless us with love and forgiveness. Although the world is passing through demanding times, God is not absent. Even in suffering and death, God is present in the care and service of those who show love and self-giving to others, as well as through the consolation of the Holy Spirit. God is our rock at times of sadness and loss, our refuge when everything seems too much to bear. He shows us how to live in ways which do not make excessive demands upon the environment, calling all nations to work in harmony with one another rather than seeking their own advantage. God works through those who have, amazingly, brought new hope through the vaccination process and all those other forms of medical care which have saved lives and brought respite to those who suffer. God is surely also showing us how to make use of modern technology to communicate in ways which unite rather than divide, which build up rather than destroy.

This year there will be two series of Lent discussion meetings for Lent. In both of these, it will be possible to explore more fully the issues mentioned in the previous paragraph. Both series will make use of Zoom and take place online; more details will follow shortly in a letter which we will send to all those on the parish email database. The first series of discussions will look at environmental issues from a world church perspective, using resources from USPG (United Society for Partnership in the Gospel). These meetings, under the title 'For such a time as this', will be on Tuesdays at 2.30 pm, beginning on 23rd February. The second series, on Thursdays at 7.30 pm, will look at 'Finding God in times of change', using as a keynote image a text from Job 39.13, 'The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully', and will begin on 25th February. Do join either or both of these series of discussions as part of your Lenten discipline.

Before we begin this penitential season, however, once again we will be holding a pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday, 16th February. Since this will also be by means of Zoom, you will have to prepare your own pancakes and eat them in your own homes. As always, this promises to be a pleasant and convivial social evening; it will again include a quiz. Login details for this event, which is being co-ordinated by the parish Overseas Committee, will also be circulated shortly.

We have much to be thankful for, in spite of all the difficulties and frustrations we continue to face. Many people continue to do a considerable amount to maintain the life and ministry of our churches, and much gratitude is due to them. Let us remain strong in faith, hope and love, never forgetting the care and mercy of God. Let us continue to walk together in the confidence that with God at our side, we need fear nothing.

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Book of the month

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this month's book review has been replaced by a selection of reading matter to help you through lockdown.

The Penguin Book Quiz

From 'The very hungry caterpillar' to 'Ulysses'!

James Walton

The Ordnance Survey puzzle tour of Britain

Year of wonder

Classical music for everyday

Clemency Burton-Hill

London Map of Days

Something everyday about events in London over 1000 years

Mychael Barratt

The enchanted hour

The miraculous power of reading aloud in the age of distraction.

Meghan Cox Gurdon

Dear Reader - the comfort and joy of books

Cathy Rentzenbrink

Michael Morpurgo - War Child to War Horse

Maggie Fergusson

Promise me, Dad

A Year of Hope, hardship and purpose

Joe Biden

Where the Crawdads sing

Delia Owens

Sweet sorrow

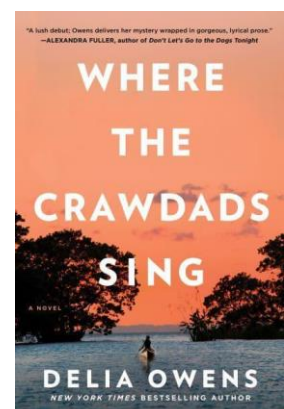
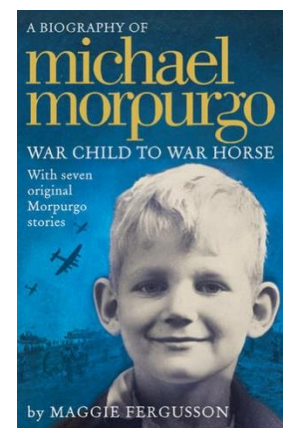
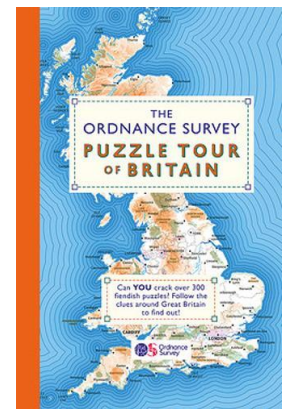
David Nicholls

My name is Leon

Kit de Waal

A song for Issy Bradley

Carys Bray



Prayers for February

The Reverend James Saxton

A series of reflections introduces the prayers for this month:

'As we contemplate the coming months, not knowing when we can breathe again, it's worth thinking about how already the foundations have been laid for whatever new opportunities God has for us on the far side of the cross'

'It's only when the vague, drifting muddle of the way we usually think about ourselves is blown away by the Spirit that we see the underlying contours - the deep needs, the ingrained resistances, the aching hopes and loves.'

(Taken from Rowan Williams 'Candles in the Dark - Faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic')

I have chosen to begin there, because we pray for all of us during the lockdown, for the lonely, the depressed, the fragile, for those who in isolation suffer abuse, those who suddenly find themselves unemployed, those who find separation from loved ones too difficult.

We pray for people who work and live in nursing and care homes, for all front line staff, the NHS.

For the Government and Members of the Opposition with all that pandemic means.

For those who have died from Covid19 and for those who grieve.

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
And soothes the frantic heart,
Bring hope and courage to all peoples, as we all wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us all equal in whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure
For your will is health and wholeness,
You are God and we need you.

We pray for all Churches during the lockdown, and for inspiration in creating new ways to worship and to communicate God to all peoples whatever their disposition.

We pray that we will all prepare for Lent in hope, and continue to journey with Christ who died and rose for us.

Hello from Sarah Clemson Heritage Outreach Project Officer

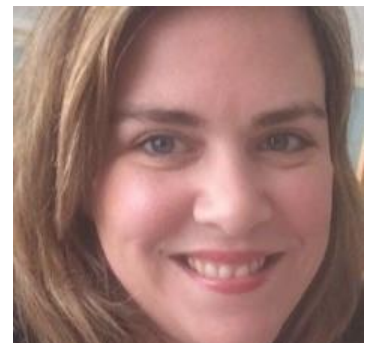
Hello, my name is Sarah Clemson, and I am the new Heritage Outreach Project Officer.

Since the last update, we have been working on planning the on-site and digital interpretation (text panels, guidebook, map, and more) and the church is being scanned ready for an online virtual tour - which is very exciting.

Covid-19 has thrown us yet another curveball and our outreach art project will no longer go ahead. However, the photography outreach project is going well.

We are working on compiling stories for our City Stories project. Please do get in touch if you would like to write a story or be interviewed. Any stories about your experience of the church or living in Nottingham are most welcomed. Please email me heritageofficer@nottinghamchurches.org if you would like to take part. Eventually, these will be made into a book, so please do consider being part of this worthwhile project.

We are also working on combining our existing school ideas with new ones and making them accessible on-line. We have also established the Black History Working Group.



Notes from The Overseas Committee

Yvonne Hariss

During these interesting times, the Overseas Committee is arranging a different sort of Shrove Tuesday Pancake party. A Zoom meeting between 6.30pm and 8.30pm will be held with a quiz between 7.30pm-8.00pm, while you eat your own pancakes! This is a fund raising event and donations may be made to St Peter and All Saints PCC, details of which are at the end of this article. Please email Liz Marsh, who will be hosting the Zoom, if you wish to join us (liz.marsh@nottinghamchurches.org).

The second event is to raise money for Mercy Ships, with an Easter Breakfast on Monday 5th April from 10am-12.00 noon on Zoom. Eat your own breakfast while joining the chat, and then there will be information given on the work of Mercy Ships with possibly a video. Donations may be made as before with details at the end of this article. Again, please contact Liz Marsh for Zoom details.



During Lent there is a USPG study course exploring ecological justice - details are on the USPG website. Liz Marsh will facilitate this six session course.

Following the Committee meeting, a donation to UNHCR of £250 was made. £500 donation to Five Talents was also approved, and also £100 to CARF.

Our other news is that Arthur Bennett has been made an Honorary member of the Overseas Committee in recognition of his invaluable support over many years. We are pleased that he is doing well and has care support.

Donations can be made either by cheque payable to "St Peters and All Saints PCC" and sent to the Parish Office. Alternatively, donations can be sent electronically:

St Peter and All Saints PCC
Sort Code: 56-00-61
Account code: 00838993
Ref: Overseas Committee

Five Talents Update

Thank you and the community at St Peter & All Saints for your recent gift to Five Talents. Your generosity is helping marginalised communities establish businesses, safely access financial services and receive training in literacy numeracy, basic money management and business skills. I'd like to introduce you to an entrepreneur I met last year, Samuel.



At 65, Samuel is the oldest member of his Five Talents Savings Group in Baringo, Kenya. Through his Group, Samuel has been learning about the benefits of saving money and developing business skills, and now he has access to a safe place to save.

In the UK, many people over the age of 65 are retired, but Samuel still needs to work – and he doesn't want to stop! He's spent his life farming and raising goats, but through his group Samuel is learning how to diversify his income.

Now, he grows millet and maize which can be ground to make flour.

Baringo, like many regions of Kenya, is often affected by long droughts. Samuel is using his knowledge of saving and lending to prepare more for the future and times of crisis. Samuel knows if he produces more crops, he can store them and they can see him through periods of drought or emergency. Without a safe place to store these crops, Samuel was vulnerable to theft. As he said himself, this is just like saving money at his Group!

Using his own savings from the Group, Samuel was able to build a secure storage hut to keep his millet and maize safe. Now Samuel can confidently grow crops, earn, and save without fear of theft. The profit Samuel earns selling his produce helps pay for his grandson's secondary school fees and equipment. The costs of attending school exclude many children from formal education in Kenya, but thanks to Samuel's savings, his grandson will be able to go so much further.

Your support is enabling entrepreneurs like Samuel to learn, earn, save and invest safely, allowing families and communities to grow and build a brighter future.

Church Mission Society Update

I want to wish you a happy New Year and thank you for your prayerful support throughout 2020. Thanks to God and your faithfulness, Church Mission Society can face the continuing challenges of 2021 with a sense of possibility and hope in our hearts.



For many, the most important possibility that 2021 offers is recovery. In many parts of the world, economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic was devastating and will be long-lasting. CMS people in mission tell me of desperate people being tempted by the relief offered by substance abuse, selling sex or joining a gang. Into this context of overwhelming need, CMS people in mission speak this biblical truth: "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40.31). Through practical care and spiritual guidance, they reveal the healing, contentment and recovery to be found living in the Way of Jesus Christ.

Our people in mission are committed to being there to protect vulnerable people from dangerous temptations. Your giving makes the following possible:

- *£10 could enable Steve Poulson to mentor children in Honduras, sheltering them from potential grooming by gangs*
- *£25 could allow David and Heather Sharland in Uganda to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to avoid the lure of drugs or selling sex for basic necessities*
- *£50 could support Anna and Chris Hembury as they reveal the Way of Jesus to young people in Hull struggling with anger and hopelessness*

Your giving and prayers are absolutely vital in keeping our people in mission going during tough times, renewing their strength and protecting them from giving up too soon. Together, let's make 2021 a year of realising the possibilities – for celebration, transformation and recovery – that God offers.

Poem

Eternal Life

After the Communion service -
but there isn't an 'after'. 'Eternal life'
cannot be afterwards, but always here.
Alongside or underneath our bumbling
human actions; ever bustling, going
somewhere; to be on time, in the right place,
always ahead, of not Letting People Down.

Including systems, principalities,
culture; all that keeps us as us,
whatever our 'us' is. As if we are
always holding over us a vast canopy
of history and magnificence
without which we will fall and die.

Does all this amount to any more than
a well organised ants' nest in the vastness
of creation and all the galaxies
Is eternal life really about just sitting there,
doing nothing,- but absorbing God?

Ann Parker

Climate Sunday

On Sunday 7th March, there will be a special service from St Peter's Church to mark Climate Sunday, led by Richard Davey and Liz Marsh. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the climate crisis and consider actions that can be taken.

Please join us at the usual time of 10.45am through the parish website – www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts

Regular Activities in our Churches

All currently suspended during the closure of our church buildings

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 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

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