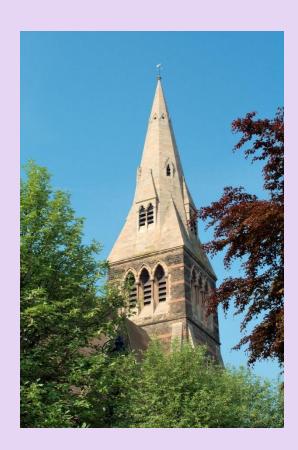
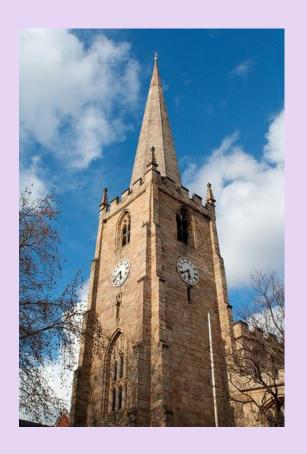


ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM





Parish Magazine March 2021



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



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CHURCHES

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



It is almost exactly a year since this country first went into lockdown and church services in church were abruptly suspended. At last, however, there now seem to be some genuine signs of hope as the vaccination process continues to move swiftly forward and the number of Covid-19 cases falls considerably, at least in the UK. I am sure, however, that we are all very aware of the heavy costs which have been borne by many people both here and around the world, as we look back on a period which we will be etched in our memories for many years to come.

At St Peter's, we can now look forward to the resumption of services with a congregation in church, beginning on Easter Day. There will be a dawn Eucharist, as well services at 8.15 and

10.45. How good it will be to celebrate Easter in a way which brings together the new hope brought to the world by the resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of better times for us all in the months to come. Sadly, we will not be able to sing hymns in church for some time yet, and we are awaiting official guidance as to when it will be possible for choirs to sing in church once again. We will also need to keep congregational numbers within limits, at least for now, which will mean continuing with the booking system. All the same, it does mean that at St Peter's we will be able to see one another once again without having to use a computer or smartphone in order to do so. There may be some who will still prefer to worship at home for the time being; this is of course absolutely fine, and we will continue to live stream the 10.45 service from St Peter's in the same way as at present.

At All Saints' church, services in church have continued over recent weeks. There were times when it was bitterly cold, as we have kept the doors open for ventilation purposes. However, the number of those attending has held up well, even though some people have continued to stay at home on health grounds. I'm sure we all appreciate everything that has been done by All Saints' church members to keep services going and to ensure that the church and churchyard are welcoming, tidy, and cared for in a manner which is appropriate for the House of God.

As we continue to move through Lent during the month of March, our Lent discussion groups encourage us to reflect upon how God can be found in the world around us, whether in the environment on which we all depend, or in the connections and relationships which bring us together with one another. The frustration of not being able to lead a 'normal' life is taking its toll on the lives of many of us, and those who have worked in situations made more stressful by Covid-19 long for some respite. More and more of us know of people who have had Covid-19, sometimes quite seriously. All the same, we can surely see God at work in the way in which many people have responded with great care to the plight of those whose lives and livelihoods have been rendered increasingly fragile over the past year. God also gives us all new strength and hope if we regularly to remember to renew our faith in his purposes and in his infinite compassion for the world. God may not always take away our pain and suffering, but he does show us how to bear these more courageously and how to help to carry the burdens of those around us.

It is often within families and amongst small groups of friends that the responsibilities and rewards of mutual love and support are most clearly expressed. On March 14th, Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for our mothers and for the work of mothers around the world, as they seek to show their love for their families as fully as possible. During this time when many children have been at home rather than at school, mothers have played a vital role in helping children to cope with the frustration of not being able to meet their friends or do their lessons in the classroom. At All Saints' this year we will be reading out the names of those of our mothers who have died and remembering them in our prayers, as a way of showing our gratitude for all that they have done for us.

It is still too early to say how soon the life of our churches, and indeed our lives in general, will return to normal, whatever that may mean. It will be splendid when we can make plans for the future with a greater degree of certainty, and when we don't have to keep thinking about all the various regulations which currently restrict what we can do. In the meantime, let's do our best to remain strong, confident in God's loving purposes for us all, remembering that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given new hope to the world which will always prevail over despair, sadness and loss.

'Spring: An anthology for the changing seasons' *Edited by Melissa Harrison*

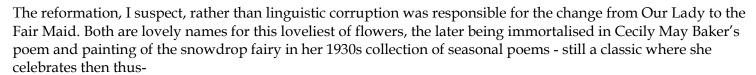
'Nothing is as beautiful as spring' wrote Gerard Manley Hopkins in 1877, and he was right.

In her anthology of the season, Melissa Harrison takes us from February through to May, courtesy of poetry and prose ancient and modern, from Chaucer to Larkin, 'Jane Eyre' to 'At Hawthorne Time' (The author's own second novel).

In her introduction, Harrison describes Spring as 'the moment of quickening of rebirth - a signal of the earth turning its ancient face back to the sun'. She says that for her it's snowdrops that tell her that spring has arrived and selects an extract from the Pocket encyclopedia of natural phenomena by Thomas Furly Forster published in 1827.

'Snowdrops are well known little white flowers, which indicate the first return of spring. The early Catholics in monastery gardens, who first named most of our

plants, called them Our Lady of February, from their first opening about the feast of the Purification or Candlemas Day. This became more corrupted to the Fair Maid of February. They continue to blow till March.'



"Deep sleeps the winter cold wet and grey Surely all the world is dead Spring is far away But no the world shall waken it is not dead for lo the Fair Maids of February stand I the snow."

In marked contrast to this delicate image of early spring Harrison treats us to an extract form the writings of George Orwell:

"Before the swallows, before the daffodil and not much, which is to enrage from a hole in the ground, where he has lain buried since the previous autumn, and crawl as rapidly as possible towards the nearest suitable parch of water h later than the snowdrop, the common toad salutes the coming of spring after his own fashion.... At this period after his long fast, the toad has a very spiritual look, like a strict Anglo- Catholic towards the end of Lent. His movement are languid but purposeful, his body is shrunken, and by contrast his eyes look abnormally large. This allows one to notice.... that a toad has about the most beautiful eye of any living creature. It is like gold, or more exactly it is like the golden-coloured semi-precious stimechrysoberyl."

The flora and fauna of Spring play a major part in this anthology reminding us of the turn of the seasons: cowslips picked in a long ago Derbyshire spring in the extract from Alison' Uttley's 'A County Child', the daffodils described first by Dorothy Wordsworth in her Grasmere Journals of 1897 before brother William immortalised what was her observation, D. H Lawrence and Richard Jeffery's Blackbirds.

Perhaps the most powerful evocations of spring and renewal, life and resurrection is Philip Larkin's poem of 1967 'The Trees'-

The trees are coming into leaf Like something almost being said; The recent buds relax and spread, Their greenness is a kind of grief.



Is it that they are born again And we grow old? No, they die too. Their yearly trick of looking new Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh In fullgrown thickness every May. Last year is dead, they seem to say, Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

This is a book for life - or to give as a gift - to get us through the last grey days of winter. Within its enchanting covers we can meet old friends and make new ones with whom to share the journey through the season to Easter and beyond.

Outreach Update

Dorothy Mountford

By the time this article goes to press it will a year since we received the news from the National Lottery Heritage Fund of our successful bid - and what a year it was.

- Our beautiful church has been made watertight thanks to the craftsmanship and hard work of Midland Stonemasonry
- Every aspect of the outreach project which was a major factor in securing the grant has been compromised by Covid-19
- Plans have been re-written not once but twice or even three time every time with a new and exciting outcome
- We have seen two Heritage Officers come with wonderful skills sets and go onto full-time highpowered posts, to be replaced by Sarah Clemson
- Sarah, who has now been with us for 3 months, works tirelessly, professionally and creatively giving much more than her two days a week to the project
- The Heritage Steering group have met on a monthly basis

What a year 2021 has been already!

- Sarah and James from Heritage interactive have designed the interpretation panels which will tell the story of our church
- Sarah and Keith Mountford gave the inside of St Peter's a magnificent decluttering in preparation for the camera man who came in early February to scan the church, creating a wonderful Virtual Tour which will be soon available to all
- Wonderful 'City Stories' continue to be created by members of our congregation and Sarah has contacted all authors about permissions and publication
- Jagdish Patel's original plans for photography tutorials with our rough sleepers were severely impacted by Coronavirus, but his calm creative 'can do' approach has
 - resulted in a new project with 14 members of the recovery college which is now in its third week
- Members of the Gateway Group are in regular contact with us and have contributed to our City Stories too
- The five school visits two of which we piloted prior to receiving our grant all had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of the amazing group of volunteers who enjoyed the Horrid History Day and the Art and Architecture Day as much as the year 5 and year 6 children from Victoria School did. The second plan was to rewrite these visit plans for an exciting scheme with CityArts for Older People. Lockdown 2 put paid to that.



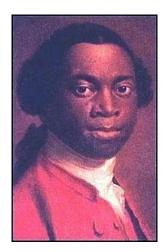


- Third time lucky and thanks to Sarah's proactivity we are now working with Rosslyn and Mellors schools as well as Victoria school. This story is told below.
- This year only two months old has been one of making new links and creating new ideas. Despite seeming disappointments and inevitable delays good and better things are growing

The Transatlantic Slave Economy

This is something of which we are all becoming more and more aware. Our City Story, like almost every city, has aspects of it in its history. The freed slave George Africanus, who became a successful Nottingham Businessman and is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, was married in St Peter's Church and his children baptised in our font. One of many people of colour who have contributed to our church and city. The 19th century Slave Owners of the town and the dependence of the lace trade on cotton thread produced in the plantations of the Caribbean still cast their long shadow.

The Heritage Officer and the Project Lead met with Dr Susanne Seymour and Dr Jack Dawkins from the Humanities department of Nottingham University to talk about telling this story. They offered to create a support hub for the many institutions in the city who are discovering an erstwhile unknown story linked with the Transatlantic Slave Economy. They suggested that our church might lead on an annual memorial service to commemorate those who suffered.



George Africanus

Another link we were given was with Dr Helen Bates, the Community Engagement Coordinator for the National Lottery Heritage Leaves of Southwell initiative at the Minster, and also the research Project Lead for Bright Ideas - a community-based business that is passionate about working with local people to effect change and improvement in their communities. Helen is keen to work with is a several levels from training volunteers to advising on historical research

Memories of Nature



As part of the community involvement with the Leaves of Southwell project, Helen plans to collect and collate the memories of nature from older people to be used as part of the celebration of the completion of the work on the Chapter House in the Autumn. Helen would very much like us to contribute to this and even for some of us to attend the celebration to read our work .

In order to progress this, Helen suggested a Zoom meeting with interested parties. If you are an interested party please contact the office and leave your name with Adele and I will get in touch. If you are not a 'Zoomer', perhaps consider asking a member of your support bubble who can do the technical things to help you join a meeting .

Schools' Outreach

This is the offer that Sarah has devised and which we have sent out to schools along with the Heritage Days plans which we hope will be able to start up again in the next academic year, Covid permitting.

'We are currently looking at ways we can help schools in the area with resources related to Black history, diversity, and hidden stories.

We have recently found out that one of the vicars at St Peter's (Reverend Robert White Almond) owned three slave plantations in Jamaica. He was well known locally for helping Nottingham's poor (helping to set up Bromley House Library and Bluecoat School) but he obviously has a whole other story that has never been told. He also received compensation after slavery was abolished. All this has gone without comment until recently. Now, as part of the project, we want to tell that story and also memorialise the people in those slave plantation as well.

As part of this, we have some funding to create digital and physical resources for schools. The idea is to offer building blocks of content rather than whole lesson plans. We would be happy to do this, or remote/physical delivery if this is of interest. In my other life, I work at the National Justice Museum delivering education workshops - so I am used to delivering to classes but obviously, it is what works best for you.

Our initial ideas around the subject are to create some mix and match resources. Scalable for both key stage 1 and 2 - but any ideas around this are very much appreciated.

Clay statue session - Learning objective - Learn to appreciate diversity and everyone's uniqueness. Learn to look and think about the world around us in a critical way. Discuss people, statues, monuments, and plaques, and why we have them. Make your own statue/memorial to someone or something you care about.

What is slavery and how does it impact our lives today - Learning objective - looking at the history of slavery through the story of St Peter's Church. Listening to the modern-day perspective on the impact of slavery. Understanding abolition. Creating banners.

Evil or Genius? debate - Learning objective - Learn to look at historical and modern figures from a balanced position/debating skills. This session will take resources and materials from our research and present the case for and against Robert White Almond.

Stained glass storytelling - Learning objective - Learn to appreciate diversity and everyone's uniqueness. Talk about stained glass and how the church uses it to tell the story of famous people. Use stained glass as a medium to tell your story, as a modern-day graphic novel/story window. '

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Obituary: Barbara Davis

Dick Davis

The funeral of Barbara Davis was held at St Mary's in the Lacemarket on February 15th. She had suffered a fall in the summer of 2020, and needed care in the hospital, and then at a care home until her death in December.

Barbara was brought up in a large family of seven sisters and one brother. Her father was a country vicar, and obviously did his best to increase the size of his congregation!

After she married Dick, they lived in London and Toronto, Canada, before coming to live in the Park in Nottingham in 1974. Her father had been a colleague of Canon Inglis, the rector of St Peter's, so she naturally joined the St Peter's congregation. After the parish was expanded to include St Mary's they spent more time at St Mary's, though Barbara continued to go to the early morning communion service at St Peters, and both were involved in joint parish events.

One of her interests was music, and she sang in a number of Nottingham choirs including the Harmonic, the Bach and the University Choirs. She and Dick were keen supporters of the excellent St Peter's Saturday morning concerts.

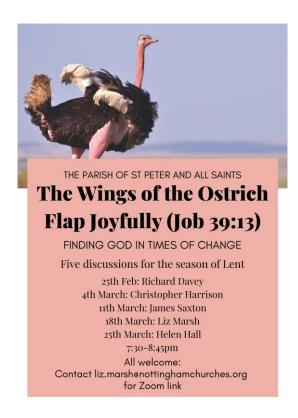


She started a social club for people in the Park, with numbers reaching up to 50 members. There were regular meetings, events and visits which brought pleasure and companionship to many.

When her three sons left home, Barbara was one of the first to take in theatrical lodgers. Looking through her guest book, you can pick out the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Gruffalo, Caliban, King Henry V and many others. Her favourite was an exotic Russian male ballet dancer from Northern Ballet who played Dracula, swirling his red cloak with great panache.

She was a keen gardener, and opened her garden at 3 Tattershall Drive for the very first and for most subsequent Park Garden Trails. Many visitors were pleased to enjoy a peaceful cup of tea or ice cream on the lawn before continuing round the rest of the gardens.

You could not help but warm to her wonderful smile and welcoming personality. She and Dick were married for 60 years. She will be missed.





Church Opening Times

At present, All Saints' services are taking place in church every Sunday at 10.30 am; the St Peter's service is being live streamed behind closed doors (available live each Sunday at 10.45am at nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts, or to watch again from the following day). Sunday morning services at St Peter's with a congregation present will resume on Easter Day, when there will be a dawn Eucharist, an 8.15 service, and the main Sunday Eucharist at 10.45 am. Other services for Holy Week will be announced shortly.

There is a service of Holy Communion in St Peter's every Thursday at 11.00 am, with the church being open for private prayer on Thursdays, from 10am – 3pm. All Saints is open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 11am-1pm.

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday

Eucharist Service at All Saints', 10.30 am.

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's (live streamed only), 10.45 am.

A Passiontide Devotion (live streamed only), 5.00 pm (more information on page 11).

Maundy Thursday

Eucharist Service at All Saints', 12.00 noon.

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's (live streamed only), 7.30 pm.

Good Friday

Service of the Cross at All Saints', 1.30 pm.

Devotion on the Cross (Webcast), 12.00 noon.

Easter Day

Eucharist Service at All Saints', 10.30 am

Services resume at St Peter's

Easter Vigil & Dawn Eucharist at St Peter's, 6.00 am

Holy Communion at St Peter's, 8.15 am

Sung Eucharist at St Peter's, 10.45 am (booking advised – <u>www.nottinghamchurches.org/booking</u>)



Poem

I almost went to church last week, But then an old friend came, To have to close the door on him Would have been a shame.

So we talked, chatted and gossiped Until goodbyes were said, But I made a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But something made me late, And unpunctuality Is a sin I really hate.

So I didn't go, and stayed at home And to my conscience said, I'll make a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But the air was chill and cold, To venture out on such a day Would be foolish, I'd been told.

So I sat beside the fire, Took up a book and read, But made a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But a certain preacher was there, And for that type of preaching I didn't really care.

So rather than go to church, And come home with a heavy head, I made a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But couldn't find the time; So much to do, about the house, To leave it would be a crime. So I brushed, vacuumed and polished, Then wearily went to bed; But I made a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But my favourite programme was on And by the time it ended The time for church had gone.

So I stayed before the telly, Then started, nodding my head, I'll make a resolution To go next week instead!

I almost went to church last week, But I'd been on a pub crawl, in town. The vicar might notice the booze on my breath And glare at me with such a frown.

I really must amend my ways, And to my conscience said, I'll make a resolution, To go next week instead!

I actually went to church last week, But should have gone before! The church was locked and silent; 'For sale' was on the door.

No more listening to the choir, Singing those heavenly tunes, An offer had been put in for the building, By the pub chain Wetherspoons.

Oh! The remorse that I then felt, For that little cause was dead, And 'twas I that killed it off, By going next week instead.

By an unknown author, contributed and adapted by Phil Hobson (All Saints' Church)

In my way prayers at the beginning of Lent are personal; there have been so many deaths, bereavements, words that we utter to God in Christ, wondering what we are saying/doing:

Do not hurry

As you walk with grief;

It does not help the journey

Walk slowly,

Pausing gently

As you walk with grief.

Be not disturbed

By memories that come unbidden,

Swiftly forgive; and let Christ speak for you

Unspoken words,

Unfinished conversations

Will be resolved in Him,

Be not disturbed

Be gentle with the one who walk with grief

If it is you, be gentle with yourself

Swiftly forgive

Walk slowly, pausing often,

Take time, be gentle

As you walk with grief and everything.

Let us pray for a holy Lent and we journey to Holy week – on line, or wherever we are in our homes, churches, in those private moments and shoot the door and pray to the God we believe in and trust.

My prayers for all of you during this Holy Season and for your families and friends.

Notes from The Overseas Committee

Dorothy Mountford

Shrove Tuesday

Liz Marsh hosted an excellent Zoom Pancake Party, attended by a goodly company. Her challenging Pancake Quiz set a precedent as we worked as a team rather than competitively. It was good fun and great to see friends from St Mary's as well as St Peter's.

Easter Breakfast

The Annual Easter Breakfast will take place as usual - this time in the form of a parish Zoom on Easter Monday (5th April) between 10 am and noon. Link details will follow later in the month.

Donations to Mercy Ships:

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.



Christian Aid Covid-19 Vaccination Appeal

During the season of Lent, we would usually share resources from Christian Aid with ideas of how to support their appeal. This year, as well as their Lent & Easter Appeal, Christian Aid are asking for donations to help those throughout the world who will not have the same access to a Covid-19 Vaccination that so many in this country are lucky to have. More information can be found here:

www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/lent-easter-appeal/church-collection



From All Saints' Church...



11 year old Luis Ashton, tolling the Sanctus Bell at the back of All Saints' Church. Luis has enjoyed getting more involved in the life of All Saints' with his family.

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.

Charity Number: 1130298

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