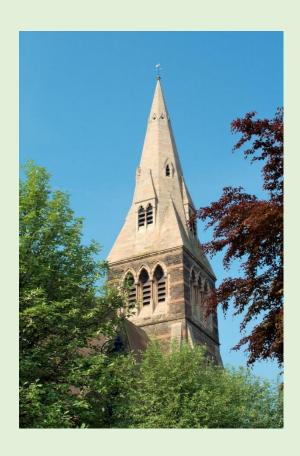
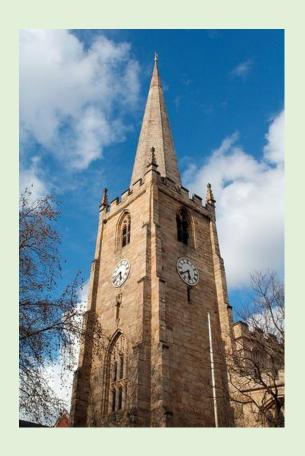


# ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM





Parish Magazine **June 2021** 



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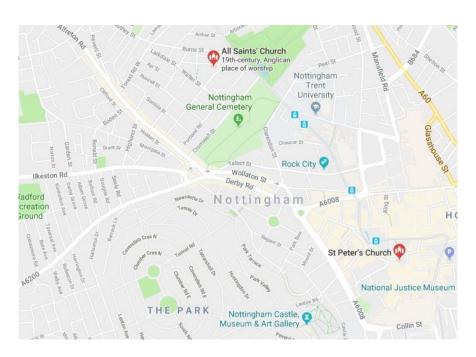
# THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



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
CHURCHWARDENS Lorraine Smedley – All Saints' Brian Dunn, Dorothy Mountford – St Peter's	PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Adele Siepmann
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Dr Peter Siepmann	WORKPLACE CHAPLAIN Rev. Jo Tatum
PARISH TREASURER Peter Moore	PCC SECRETARY Ros Horsley
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



On 27th June, St Peter's church celebrates its patronal festival. This is the day on which we give thanks for St Peter, to whom our church is dedicated, and reflect upon the example of discipleship he sets to us and his role as a leader of the ancient Church. In particular, St Peter shows us that whoever we are, whatever our personal history, we can still come to God and serve Him and the Church. Even though St Peter disowned Jesus three times, and in spite of the many times when he failed to understand the true nature of Jesus' mission, Jesus repeatedly showed Peter mercy and compassion and eventually appointed him as the one who would lead and care for his flock.

Following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting a few days ago, it is helpful for us to reflect on the nature of how we can all contribute in our own particular way to God's work both in the Church and in the wider world. At that meeting we thanked four people who are stepping down from roles which they have held for many years: Keith Charter as PCC secretary and vice chair, Laurie Crawforth as churchwarden, Peter Moore as treasurer, and Keith Mountford as parish safeguarding officer. They have each contributed massively to the work of the parish, and I repeat my profound thanks, on behalf of us all, for everything they have done in their respective roles. When someone steps down from a position which they have held for some time, it can be hard to see someone else following easily in their footsteps, which makes our appreciation of those who have risen to the challenge of taking on these roles all the greater: Ros Horsley as PCC secretary, Dorothy Mountford as churchwarden, Gawain Briars as treasurer and Lorraine Smedley as parish safeguarding officer. All the other PCC members are continuing in office for the next year, with the addition of Lisa Howman from All Saints who has been elected as a Deanery Synod member, along with David Towers. I also congratulate Lisa on being selected for the Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers Course, which starts in September.

As we continue to emerge from lockdown and life in our churches gradually returns to something like what it was before March 2020, it is perhaps a good time to ask ourselves afresh how we give back to God something of what He has given to us. Through our giving to God, to the Church and to the wider community we not only bring blessings to others, but we also become blessed by the knowledge that we are doing something for Christ and helping, in however modest a way, to create a world which reflects his love. Are there ways in which you could make a difference by offering to help with the various activities of our churches? We need people to support our vergers by being present in St Peter's and helping with some of their tasks; we are looking for new coffee room volunteers; and help in the churchyards at All Saints and St Peter's is always appreciated. These roles are not necessarily glamorous, but of course that's not the point; we can serve God just as well in the day to day activities of the Church, which may be invisible to most other people, as in the special events and high profile roles.

Even if all we can do is come to church regularly, though, this is an important expression of our faith and our desire to serve God. Your presence in church is an encouragement to others, and of course our faith should not be just an individualistic thing but something which is deepened and enriched by the journey we share with fellow church members. Some people may have lost the habit of coming to church over the last year; some may have understandable reasons for wishing to continue worshipping at home via the live streaming of our services. If you feel that you have been drifting away from church in recent months, do ask yourself why this has happened, and remember that we all receive blessings from one another when we join together in prayer and worship, whether this be in our church buildings or as part of an online community of worshippers which exists alongside those who are coming to church regularly.

May I finally express my sympathy with all those who are part of the musical life of our parish who are living with the frustration caused by the government's current restriction on choir numbers to a maximum of six. It is very hard to see why this limit has been set, and it feels like a retrograde step in the face of the relaxation of restrictions which is taking place in the wider community. Let's hope and pray that this rule will be rescinded very soon - perhaps in time for the St Peter's patronal festival service!

### Make COP 26 count: Join Us in a Meeting with Your MP

In November, the UK Government hosts a crucial international conference called COP 26. I represent our parish in a programme run by USPG and Hope for the Future, called 'Make COP 26 Count'. Since January we've had monthly online meetings which combine information, calls for action, and prayer. We've learned about the way the world's climate and ecological crisis is playing out in places as diverse as the Pacific islands, the Philippines and Bangladesh. Some of what I've heard is harrowing. For many people the emergency is a much more immediate reality than it is for us – as yet. However, videos and presentations from church leaders across the world do inspire hope. They need our prayers and also our practical and political support. COP 26 is a critical moment, and what we are asked to do is to add our voices, as Christians, to calls for action. Real actions.

The UK is good at the rhetoric of world leadership, and yet we are still exporting plastic to Turkey where it is burned; investing in fossil fuels or even contemplating new coal mines; permitting new developments where buildings are poorly insulated and lack facilities for renewable energy; dragging our feet about changes such as the electrification of East Midland Railways; building new roads rather than investing in public transport; and so on. In the year of COP 26 we need to seize the moment and make radical changes.

As Christians we can speak about such things in the name of God's creation, rather than from the perspective of a particular political party. St Peter's and All Saints will be organising meetings with Nottingham MPs. We may possibly be joined by other local faith groups in this project. Would you like to come to one of the lobbying meetings? When we meet an MP we must make specific requests. Could you help us focus on what needs to change in our city, as we respond to climate change and pollution? I'd love to hear from you by phone (07954302765), by email (chrisdward89@gmail.com) or by mail (82 Edward Road West Bridgford NG2 5GB).

Chris Ward, on behalf of the Caring for Our Common Home group.

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### **Prayers for June**

The Reverend James Saxton

'I shall look at the world through tears. Perhaps I shall see things that dry-eyed I could not see' Nicholas Wolterstoff – 'Lament for a Son'

We continue to pray for all those affected by the Pandemic and its variants, especially for the peoples of India, Brasil and places in Africa where poverty is abject.

For those who mourn, who grieve silently, not able to be with their loved ones at the end and say good-bye; For the lonely, for those in nursing homes and care homes

For the marginalised and those oppressed by peoples' inhumanity

For the peoples of Palestine and Israel

For those who misuse politics, and use it in ways that are not helpful in furthering justice

I am mindful at this time those who value silence in prayer – I am sure we all learn to pray by talking and we probably usually do so by asking God for things. It is a good way to learn that God is there for us in that kind of way – caring and supporting us in our needs, but God is also there in the silence of our hearts. We can also pray through scripture, through our spiritual reading. A big milestone in prayer is reached when we discover a need to listen rather than talk in prayer...the way to contemplation, to wait on God and trust – to appreciate silence and the presence of God, who is with us always, no matter what.

As we journey through June, we remember Justin, and all the Martyrs for Christ; we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi, for St Barnabas, for the Birth of John the Baptist – who prepared the way for Christ, and at that time spoke of repentance, renewal, and the need to look oat our lives with openness = and we also remember St. Peter and St. Paul, who gave their lives to Christ, flawed and with a past that often let Christ down – but they gave their all.

#### 'The Madness of Grief ': A Memoir of Love and Loss

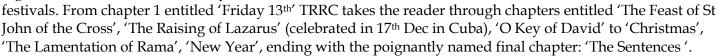
by The Reverend Richard Coles

You may know The Reverend Richard Coles from Saturday Morning Live or Strictly Come Dancing. You may even have been a fan of the Communards. He is well known as a journalist and a TV personality. The list goes on. His husband of 12 years, The Rev David Coles, used to refer to him as 'a borderline national trinket'. The Reverend Richard Coles is also the Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Finedon, in his home county of Northamptonshire.

A couple of health warnings to the prospective reader of The Reverend Richard Coles' account of living through his grief, at the unexpected loss of his of his life partner, The Reverend David Coles:

- This is not a book which allows you to put it down and pick it up later. You may find that you need time to consume it all in one gulp. It may take you by the throat.
- This is a book full of humanity, a little humour and some horror. It may break your heart.

Richard Coles' story of David's unlooked for death in mid-December 2019 and his funeral in 2020 is interspersed with reflections from their life together. The structure of the story is rooted in dates and feasts and



The story of David's death is interspersed with italicised reflections on their life together and populated with a range of wonderful characters: family and friends, clergy and parishioners, medics and media people, members of the general public and members of the aristocracy. About people Richard Coles writes - 'as you live on you realise, we are not so much the authors of our lives but a library of other peoples'.

Between David's death and funeral, Richard Coles finds that his priestly role is reversed, as he becomes the one 'ministered unto' rather than the pastor, and chief mourner rather than officiant.

The theme of 'The Madness of Grief' is precisely that, the pain of loss. Coles writes: 'When people ask me how I am, and want to know, I find it harder and harder to answer. "I am standing up and facing forward," which is true and socially palatable, but it is not always true to say that motion follows. Sometimes I am stuck, and the day goes by when I think of something I said, or did, which I wish was different. It induces a sort of paralysis.'

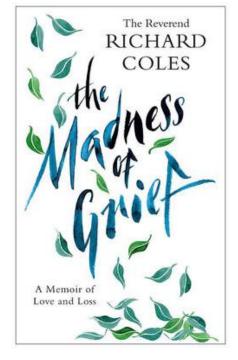
As one critic writes: 'This book will resonate, unforgettable, with anyone who has lost a love one '

Other books by Rev Richard Coles:

'Fathomless Riches - or How I went from Pop to Pulpit'

'Bringing In the Sheaves - Wheat and Chaff from My Years as a Priest"

'Three Vicars Talking' (with Revd Kate Bottley and Canon Giles Fraser)



#### **Photography Project**

The 12-week Photography Course for students at the Recovery College lead by Jagdish Patel of the Nottingham photography hub has finished, and an exhibition of their work based on the history and heritage of St Peter's will be on display from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June in the south aisle of the church.

You are warmly invited to join us at 1pm that day for the launch (more details can be found later on in this magazine). As a taster Jagdish has sent shared some of Ishmael's work based on the Baptistery Window.



Ishmael's interpretation of the Baptistery Window

#### **City Stories**

- Contributions continue to be submitted
- Sarah Clemson, our Heritage Officer, is busily editing them for inclusion in a coffee table type book to be available in the Reflective Area we hope to create with in the church
- Stories will also be available on the Church's heritage website
- We are also exploring the possibility of publication
- A taster of these stories is printed below.

# Sierra Leone and St Peter's, Nottingham

In the south aisle of St Peter's Church, a wooden plaque, in the shape of the map of Sierra Leone and its provinces, records the special relationship between the church and that country. The inscription reads: 'The Sierra Leone Community thanks the Parish of St Peter's Church for their support and prayers during the Ebola crisis. May 2014 - Nov 2015'.

During that time 4,000 people died of Ebola and the people of St Peter's held a daily vigil for them. This special relationship with Freetown, the capital, and with Sierra Leone, is not a recent thing. George John Scipio Africanus, Nottingham's first black businessman, was born there is 1763.



He was brought to England, aged 3, at a time when to have a black servant was the height of fashion. We know little of how he gained his freedom, but George was provided with an education and apprenticed to a brass founder. He settled in Nottingham and married a local woman, Esther Shaw, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1788 in St Peter's Church, where their children were later baptised. In 1829 George Africanus became a "freeholder", owning his own family home as well as business premises and accommodation he rented out. Being of a certain property status he was able to vote - something very rare in Nottingham at that time.

Links with Sierra Leone grew in the second half of the twentieth century. Members of the diaspora, their children and their children's children have worshiped in St Peter's for over 50 years. Ransolina Lewis, born in Freetown, came to Nottingham to study nursing and midwifery in 1968. She married Wilfred Morgan in St Peter's Church in 1972. Their three sons were baptised there. Lina went on to become a Midwife Teacher at Nottingham University and was the first woman and person of colour to be Churchwarden of St Peter's.

Here is Lina's account of her Great, Great Grandfather, Sir Samuel Lewis.

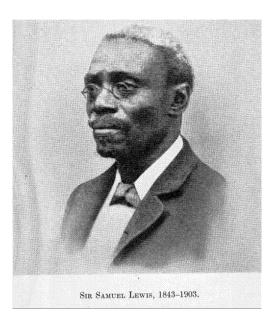
Sir Samuel Lewis

Lina Morgan

After the abolition of the slave trade, some salves were recaptured. In 1828, among a cargo of captives liberated by the British Navy in Freetown, Sierra Leone was a boy of about sixteen years old, Willian Lewis. He was given the name of the then Colonial Secretary. We don't know his African name. With most of his shipmates, he was sent to Murray Town, a new village on the outskirts of Freetown.

William started work as a fisherman; he saw that the opportunities were limited so became a trader. He apparently started trading with a capital of half a dollar. He worked hard and became successful, owned a horse, property and two small ships that he used for trading. He was ranked among the principal merchants and public figures of liberated Africans.

He served in the Municipal Council and many offices and committees, including the Health Board and became Lieutenant in the militia. He was an active member of the Wesleyan Church and a generous contributor to church funds.



William married Fanny Thorpe, the widow of a local Methodist lay preacher. They had seven sons and two daughters; one of his sons was the father of my grandfather Moses Alexander, father of my father Walter.

His second son, Samuel, was born in 1843. After leaving school, he worked in his father's business before leaving for London to study Law. Samuel entered Middle Temple and then the chambers of Samuel Danks Waddy. He moved to a Chancery Chambers and was called to the Bar in 1871, the third Sierra Leonean to be called to the Bar, and returned to Freetown in May 1872.

In addition to his practice as a barrister, he held various government positions including Acting Queens's Advocate and Chief Justice. Realising the under use of the fertile soil, he studied agriculture and developed various agricultural schemes and training. He continued to be active in the Wesleyan Church and served in many committees and was a Sunday School Teacher. Like his father, he contributed generously to church funds.

He took legal cases in other African countries and in England. Though he did a lot of unpaid work, his income was reported to be quite considerable. He challenged the paternalistic sentiments of the Parliament and Colonial Office and organised petitions and attempted to educate the few British MPs interested in West Africa and made effort to influence Imperial policy in the colony. He was the first Mayor of Freetown and was elected three times; in 1896, he became the first African to be knighted.

He continued working even when he was unwell and kept postponing his medical treatment in England. He eventually arrived in London in May 1903 and died of cancer of the rectum in July 1903. Sir Samuel Lewis, my Great Grandfather is buried in Acton Cemetery. My eldest grandson is named Samuel after him.

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#### **Living Histories**

Thursday 3rd June 1pm-3pm

St Peter's Church St Peter's Gate, Nottingham NG1 2NW

To find out more about the Scrambles Photography group visit the website at www.scrambles.com Churches are an important part of our community. They tell and keep stories, often hidden stories which can be forgotten.

During the months of lockdown, St Peter's Church and members of the Scrambles Photography Group, have been working together to uncover and unsilence some of the stories from Church, and think about its relevance today.

This exhibition showcases the work produced during lockdown, and will be displayed from June until December 2021. Come and meet the artists, and learn about their work.

Artists showing work are

Alyn Mulholland

Ben Todd

Calvin Howell

Carla Coppin

Chris Middleton

Ismail Khokon

James Bulter

Jon Wheat

Lisa Stead

Lester Shipley

Martina Warner

Steph Shaw

#### Services in June

Booking for the 10.45am service at St Peter's is advised: www.nottinghamchurches.org/booking

Thursday 3rd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 6th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Matins*	St Peter's
		Resonses Mold	
		Te Deum in F Ireland	
		Behold the tabernacle of God Harris	
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
		Communion Service in F Darke	
		Rise up my love Willan	
Thursday 17th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 20th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Missa Sancti Joannis de Dei Haydn	
Thursday 24th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 27th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Patronal Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Tu es Petrus <i>Duruflé</i>	
		Locus iste Bruckner	

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# Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, held at St Peter's on Wednesday 19th May, Brian Dunn, Dorothy Mountford and Lorraine Smedley were elected as Churchwardens for 2021-22. Laurie Crawforth stepped down as Churchwarden but will continue on the Parochial Church Council as Vice Chair.

At the Annual Parochial Church meeting, Lisa Howman and David Towers were elected to represent our parish on the Nottingham South Deanery Synod, with Keith Charter stepping down. All the above appointees will be PCC members; there was no change to the PCC members representing the two churches, who will continue to be Patricia Coy, Rob Edlin-White, Anne Hardy, Resil Jarrett, Cathryn Vindelis, Deena Caunt, Diane Caunt, Amy Fines and David Fines. Lisa Howman will continue as Assistant Churchwarden at All Saints'.

Peter Moore will be stepping down as Treasurer in the coming weeks, and will be replaced by Gawain Briars. Ros Horsley will take over the post of PCC Secretary from Keith Charter, and Lorraine Smedley is our new Parish Safeguarding Officer, replacing Keith Mountford. The meeting expressed sincere thanks to all who have served the parish in these roles over the past year, particularly to those who are stepping down from positions which in some cases have been held for many years.

# Reminiscences from a 1960s Vicarage

Way back in 1964, whilst living with my parents at St John's vicarage, Mansfield, my good friend Terry and I joined the Alfreton Silhouettes Scooter Club. Terry and I had similar scooters: Terry's was a Triumph, and mine a BSA Sunbeam. Mine was brown and Terry's was bright yellow and they both came to a point at the back. Terry rode too fast on what we called his 'yellow banana'.

BSA scooters and motorbikes all had hard leather seats and you became sore from riding them. The Scooter Club published a monthly magazine called 'The Shadow' and one member wrote the following poem for it:

He passed a lorry He passed a bus He passed a brewer's dray He overtook a speeding car And then he passed away!

(Eric Jackson, Alfreton Silhouettes Scooter Club 1964)

Eric was much older than us and a heavy smoker. He must have passed away by now and isn't tearing around Alfreton any more on his battered old Lambretta LI 175, unless he's on a mobility scooter. I'm still in touch with Terry and his wife Barbara. Dad married them at St John's, Mansfield. This is the church in the middle of town and is a bit like All Saints' but larger. Later Dad christened their son at All Saints', Heath, Derbyshire, where we moved to next. I'm Steven's godfather. Later still, Dad married their daughter Suzanne back at St John's, along with the vicar who was there then.

Terry and Barbara were very hard workers and had several jobs over the years. Terry was once a bus driver in Mansfield in the days when the buses had separate driver cabs. One day he was picking up shoppers in Mansfield and didn't notice one guy boarding the bus holding a bunch of flowers. The conductor rang the bell and Terry closed the rear electric doors too soon; the guy was left holding a bunch of stalks, whilst the rear of the bus floor was littered with flowers. He had several more jobs after this, including being a milkman driving those electric milk floats. That would slow him down a bit, I hope! Terry and Babs remind me of that tall guy with the big teeth in the 'On the buses' films. Barbara looked a bit like Olive with her glasses.



# **Church Opening Times**

At present, All Saints' services are taking place in church every Sunday at 10.30 am, and the church is open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 11am-1pm.

Sunday morning services at St Peter's are now taking place at 8.15 and 10.45 each week, with the 10.45 service being live streamed (available live each Sunday at 10.45am at <a href="https://www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts">www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts</a> or to watch again from the following day).

Booking for the 10.45 service is advisable - www.nottinghamchurches.org/booking

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 Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10am – 3pm.

The Coffee Room is open Tuesday – Friday, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm - now with indoor as well as outdoor seating!

Book Review Ann Parker

'The one hundred years of Lenni and Margot'.

One of those - to me - books which somehow changes your entire shape. It's about death but without being gruesome, and it's a bit about God without being Victorian. Written by Marianne Cronin, who looks about 17 but must be twice that age - which is still young for a book like this.

The story takes place mostly in a hospital where certain things have to be done or not done, and this makes one ask 'Why?' It's not for the same reasons as 40 years ago, so it would seem to be yet another case of pleasing box tickers. I suppose the main theme is about loss or deprivation in various forms, yet it is not a gloomy book, even though several deaths are mentioned.

The 'God bits' come when Lenni meets the hospital chaplain in the hospital chapel. She asks difficult questions which he admits he can't answer. Lenni (a Swedish born girl) is seventeen, the chaplain, Arthur, is about to retire. Nothing is resolved but Lenni keeps finding ways to go to the chapel; but one of the hospital rules is that she can't go without an escort and the nurses can't see why she needs to. On one occasion a more perceptive porter takes her along.

Shall I tell you more? Stop here if you'd rather not.

The One Hundred

Years of Jenni

An extraordinary friendship.

A lifetime of stories. Their last one begins here.

MARIANNE CRONIN

By almost a fluke the hospital is able to run an art group for certain sections of the inmates. Lenni is put in the young people's section , Margo is 83 so in with the geriatrics. Neither of them are 'typical' ages. The teenage group has three others who are mostly on their phones. Margot does not feel 83 - she just is who she is. The two main characters get to meet up by accident or cunning and are necessary friends to each other. But, of course, this happens in a hospital and you have to stay in your age//disease related wards and avoid anything that might threaten health and safety. Even if you have a terminal illness.

It has about 390 pages and I read it in 24 hours! I hope to read it again in a year's time, when I will have forgotten much of it but be able to read it more slowly.

# **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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### PARISH OFFICE

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