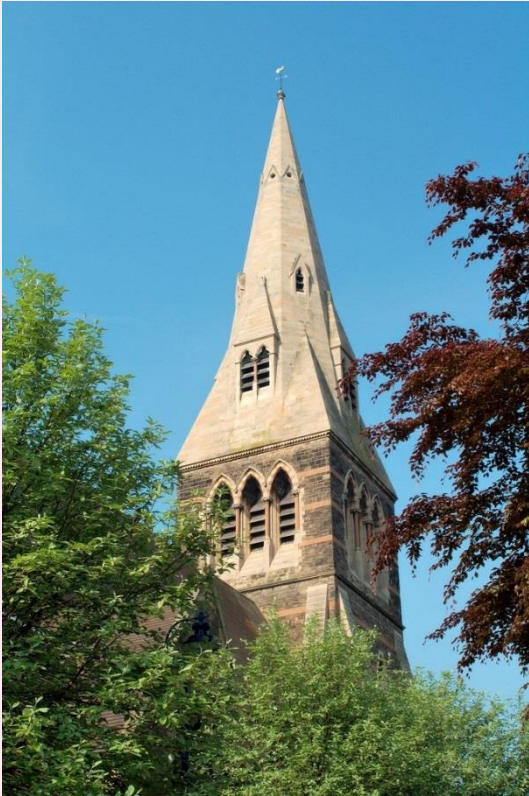


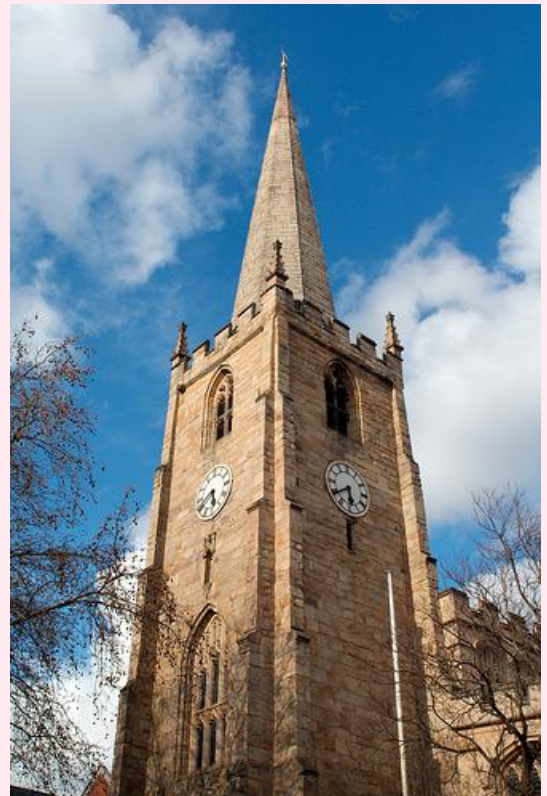


# ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



**August 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

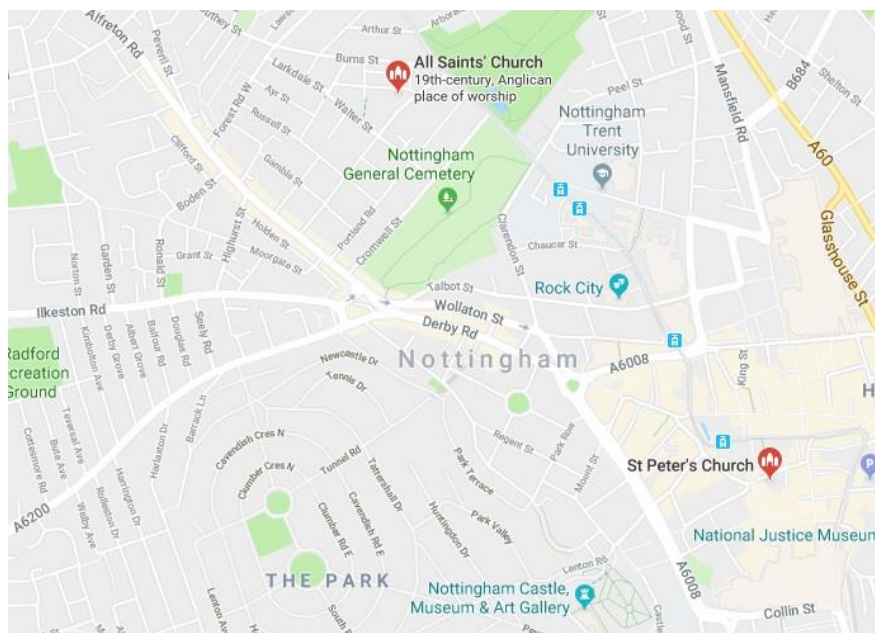


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## CHURCHES

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*

It is very good that more and more aspects of our national life are returning to something like how they were before the coronavirus pandemic began in early 2020. There are more and more signs that a corner really has been turned, in view of the successive daily falls in the national rate of new infections in the last days of July. Many people are enjoying the summer weather with a new sense of optimism, and holidays, at least for some, are now a real possibility.



In our parish, we have travelled together on a long and arduous journey over the past year and a half. Some within our church community, or known to us, have become seriously ill, and many of us know people who have died. This period has of course been especially difficult for those who have underlying health conditions which have made them particularly vulnerable. The effects of isolation, loneliness, uncertainty and anxiety have taken a heavy toll on those who have been at high risk of being seriously affected by the virus. The sadness of not being able easily to visit family members in hospital or in care homes has been profound. In spite of all these factors, in our churches there has been a remarkable sense of mutual care and support, as we have sought to walk alongside one another through these difficult times and to be attentive to the needs of those who have found things especially difficult.

At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) considered how to respond to the changes in the Church of England guidance which now make it possible to relax many of the restrictions which have affected our worship and other church activities. On balance, though, the PCC concluded that for the time being it would be premature to make any major changes. It is no doubt true that the risk of becoming infected with Covid-19 does seem to be much less than, say, this time last year, owing to the success of the vaccination programme and the fact that a substantial proportion of the population have had the virus. However, there is still some risk, especially to those of our members who have underlying health conditions or who are in groups which, statistically, are more susceptible to Covid-19. There have been cases, both locally and nationally, of people who have been hospitalised after being infected with the virus even though they have had both vaccinations. There are also cases of people who have had coronavirus more than once. Even though the national daily rate of infection appears to be falling, hospitalisations and deaths do seem to be rising, albeit at a much lower rate than in previous waves.

I know that some people are keen for us to put aside all our various restrictions and enjoy the freedom which is now increasingly within our reach. However, I urge you all to remain patient and to respect the needs of those within our church community who are still not able to be confident that they are at low or zero risk of infection. There some whose underlying conditions continue to mean that if they did become infected, even having had both vaccinations, the consequences could be serious. It is also possible that if we contract the virus we can transmit it to those who remain at risk, even if we are not symptomatic ourselves. So even though the general risk to the population of being seriously affected by coronavirus is on a clear downward path, at least at present, in our churches it remains important for us to respect the needs of those who remain unable to put anxiety and uncertainty aside.

All this means that for the time being we will not be resuming congregational singing, with the exception of the final hymn at St Peter's which will be sung in the churchyard, weather permitting. There will be a modest adjustment to the spacing of the available pews in the centre aisle at St Peter's, to allow more people to sit in this part of the church if they wish. We continue strongly to encourage everyone to wear face coverings in church, primarily for the benefit of those around them. We also remain of the view that social distancing is important, and urge you to respect the desire of those who are particularly keen to keep at a safe distance from others. There will no change for the time being in the communion arrangements, or in how we greet one another when we share the Peace. The booking system at St Peter's, however, is now discontinued although we would like you to continue to give your contact details when you come to services.

It is important that we all understand that members of our churches may feel differently about these issues, and these differences should be respected. None of us can know whether our neighbours in church have their own particular reasons for wanting to keep at a safe distance from others or for wearing a face covering at all times, both inside or outside.

The PCC will review these matters at its meeting on 21st September, when there may be more clarity about the national path of infections and hospitalisations. In the meantime, do continue to support one another, to be alongside those who have found this period especially demanding, and to pray that God will continue to guide us as we seek to make decisions which are in accordance with his will and purpose for us all.



## Book of the month

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

### 'The interior Silence - 10 lessons in Monastic Life'

by Sarah Sands

This is a book to be cherished or given as a gift; to be read in one great gulp or rationed out over a week or two. It is part travelogue, part nature writing, part personal reflection but overwhelmingly about stillness and tranquilly. In it, Sarah Sands recounts her spiritual journey, her quest for the hidden knowledge of how 'to live and work and have our being.'

The ruined wall in her Norfolk garden is the only remains of Marnham Abbey, a Cistercian nunnery destroyed by Henry VIII in the first wave of dissolution because, as Sands notes it was poor and it housed women. This inspired her to research the monastic world with its renunciation of the world which was causing the writer so much stress in her professional life. Sands describes herself as suffering from information overload as the editor of Radio 4's 'Today' programme. All other strategies to de-stress threaten, in her words: 'to become an exercise in self-absorption'.

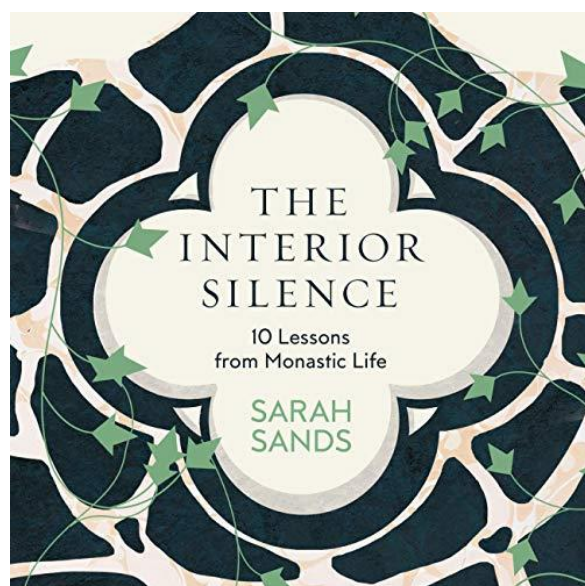
The essence of the ten places Sand visits and writes about in 'The Interior Silence' is she feels reflect the words St Ailred of Rievaulx; 'Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world.' This is true for the wide ranging and far-flung monasteries she visits. The visits were made, and the book written during the pandemic. This is an up to the minute account of lockdown life and the fleeting opportunities for travel in the periods of lockdown easing. Medieval plagues and pestilence were often the stuff of monastic life. The medicinal skills of the monks and the isolation of their monasteries have a very contemporary resonance.

Each chapter tells of the author's travels to a place of pilgrimage and its association with one of the lessons of the subtitle. 'Harmony' is found in Koyasan, Japan, self-denial and nature in Assisi. In the monastery of Monserrat in Catalonia Sands meets Brother Xavier who had made a study of St John of the Cross and discovers, through his poem 'The Dark Night of the Soul' that the transition from dark to light is monastic wisdom. Solitude in the Egyptian desert.

In chapter 5 Sands visits Bhutan in the foothills of the Himalayas and finds there 'The art of happiness and saving the planet'. Nearer home, in 'Living on the edge: Lindisfarne' Sands explores the glories of the Lindisfarne Gospels and recognises that 'out of desolation comes illumination'. The penultimate chapter of 'The Interior Silence' is entitled 'Music and monasticism: Salzburg'. Here Sands and her husband visit the city which is a shrine to both Mozart and 'The Sound of Music'. This is a witty and engaging chapter which unsurprisingly ends with the line: 'my heart will be blessed with the sound of music and I'll sing once more.'

Simplicity is found in her own back garden. During weeks of isolation Sands writes:

'I would describe the feelings I associated with the wall during those weeks as intense serenity and sense of belonging. Good Friday passed for the population indoors without the warmth of the sunshine or the caress of family and friends. It was a kind of mass imprisonment. A darkness fell over the land. Yet here I was looking at the chalky limestone wall as a symbol of endurance and resilience.'



## Heritage Outreach Update

Sharing the History and Heritage of our church and city was part of the 'something for something' we offered in return for the grant for our roof repairs. Following on from the wonderful photography exhibition, which can still be viewed in the south aisle, July was dedicated to the Rosslyn Park School Visits. Over the course of three weeks - every Thursday afternoon and all day on Friday for the first three weeks of the month - 270 children from the Aspley school visited St Peter's.

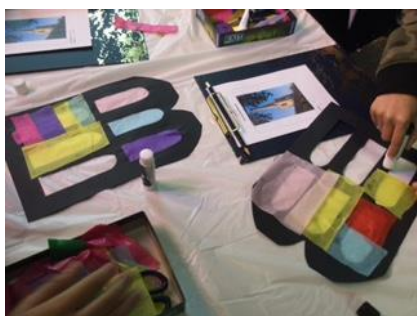
Profound thanks go to the following volunteers who have so freely of their time, and without whom we couldn't have offered the children such an exciting experience:

Anne Hardy, Bridget Spalding, Chris Haywood (Lay Reader at St Martin's Bilborough), Helen Hall, Jane Moore, Keith Mountford, Lesley Wilson (who travelled all the way from Ashbourne) Lina Morgan, Liz Thomas, Mary Davey, Pat Wilkinson (we have Bryan signed up for next year) Sheila Hayward (also from St Martin's, Bilborough). Thanks also to Sarah Clemson our Heritage Officer and Lee, our verger, for sweeping up the confetti!

The Year One classes thoroughly enjoyed their time in church on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July. Churches, they decided, were for weddings and baptisms and for celebrations as well as for singing and praying. They enjoyed processing round the church with Queen Matilda who had called in specially to see them. They learn about baptism through the activity led by Anne Hardy and Lina Morgan.



Jane Moore and Liz Thomas organised the wedding. Lee very willingly swept up the confetti which was the thing the children seemed to enjoy best of all. Each Bridal party (there were nine weddings in total and a wedding reception - of orange juice and party rings in the West Porch. The children celebrated 'Christmas- in-Summertime' with Lesly Wilson from Ashbourne, who brought sheep's wool for their creative activity along with a rendition of 'Little Donkey', appropriately situated in the south aisle where they had a good view of The Palm Sunday Donkey in the stained-glass window.



Year Five Classes came for an 'Art and Architecture Day' on Thursday and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July. They explored how a church was built and tested out the best shape for the arches to hold up the roof. The empty niches at the west of the church inspired them to make something to fill them. Anne and Lina had a busy time telling them about the stained glass in the church and they had a busy time making their own stained class.

Sarah Clemson used her museum skills in an object handling activity where the children could touch various artifacts: from the communion silver to silk stoles and leather-bound books and Bibles.

The last classes to visit were year 6 for a Horrid History Day. Queen Matilda was back and telling them about her battle for the throne with her cousin Stephen, they spent time in the chancel and imagined it being bombarded from the castle and the church being full of soldiers, horses and associated smells.

They were particularly interested in Black History with Lina and Sarah - as they had been learning about George Africanus at school and were thrilled to know he was married here, and his children baptised in the font. They were shocked to see the pictures of slave ships. Jane told them about some of the people whose names are on the war memorial - about Annie Freeman, who died in the Chilwell explosion in July 1918, and The Snow Brothers, one killed on the Western Front, the other who drowned himself in the Canal on Wilford Road, rather than go back to the Front.





We were extremely impressed by how well behaved and engaged the children were, and we received fantastic feedback from the school - we certainly look forward to seeing the Rosslyn children here next year. If you feel that you would like to join us as a guide or an activity leader, a timekeeper or as back-up, then do let us know.

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## Prayers for August

*The Reverend James Saxton*

Often prayer is fragmentary - unfinished; we do not always know how to voice our prayers. In our prayers we often ask questions - Jesus did and so have philosophers down the ages - Socrates, Kierkegaard to name but two, but there have been many others.

We pray for those who doubt, who ask questions, who search for deep answers to their problems, and issues.

For those who suffer because of mental health issues.

For a cherishing of our heritage

For those marginalised because of racism, prejudice -

We pray for the Windrush Generation.

God our Father, you sent your Son to us: grant that filled with your Spirit, we may be renewed in faith, and inspired in hope and love to proclaim the Gospel with integrity and our way of life for the sake of all humankind.

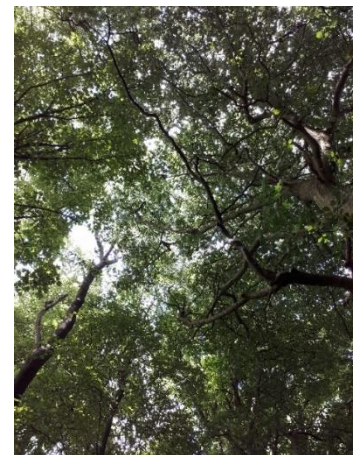
Most merciful Father, you have called us to be a caring Church reflecting in our lives your infinite care for all your children. Help us to fulfil our calling and to care for one another in an unselfish fellowship of love and to care for the world around us with it the good news of your love and serving who suffer from poverty, hunger and disease.

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## Christianity and the Environment

May our loving God,  
who created the world and all that is in it,  
Inspire us to delight in our beautiful home,  
And to live in wonder, peace and joy.  
May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our neighbour and to respecting the creation we share.  
May our merciful God help us to live this week in goodness and hope,  
And fill us with God's peace.  
Amen.

*Ash Vale Chapel Poetry Group*



## Family Service



Recently, when in the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool, I saw an amazing piece of art produced by children using just BUTTONS! Helen thinks we could do something similar (and simpler) at Advent. When we've asked for help before for the Family Service (for yoghurt pots, coat hangers, etc.) you have been most supportive. Please, therefore, could you fetter around at home and donate any unwanted buttons and leave them in the box provided at the back of the church? Many thanks.

*Anne Hardy*

*The next family service will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> August, followed by 12<sup>th</sup> September.*

## Services in August

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Oratory Mass <i>Martin</i> Ave Verum <i>Elgar</i>	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9.45am	Family Service	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Oratory Mass <i>Martin</i> Love Divine <i>Summers</i>	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Oratory Mass <i>Martin</i> Ave Maria <i>Lindley</i>	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Oratory Mass <i>Martin</i> Verily, I say unto you <i>Tallis</i>	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	The Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Oratory Mass <i>Martin</i> A new commandment <i>Nardone</i>	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's

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## Church Opening Times

All Saints' Sunday services are taking place in church every week at 10.30 am. Sunday morning services at St Peter's are 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 [www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts](http://www.nottinghamchurches.org/webcasts) or to watch again from the following day).

Weekday Communion services take place on Tuesdays (11 am at All Saints' and 1.15 pm at St Peter's) and Thursdays (11 am at St Peter's).

St Peter's is currently open for private prayer on Tuesday - Friday from 10am - 3pm, and All Saints' is open 11 am - 1 pm on Tuesdays.

**The Coffee Room** is open Tuesday - Friday, 10.30 am - 2.30 pm.

# Regular Activities in our Churches

*Many of these activities are currently suspended due to the pandemic*

## 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.

## PARISH OFFICE

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