



ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



December 2022
& January 2023



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

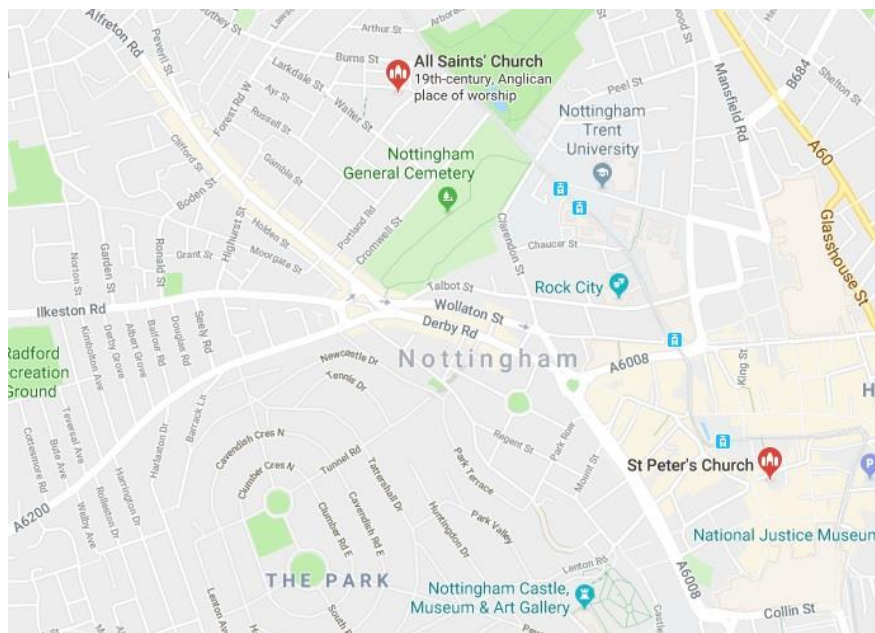


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| PARISH CLERGY Rev. Christopher Harrison, Rector Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Associate Priest Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Associate Priest Rev. James Saxton, Associate Priest | CHURCHWARDENS Lorraine Smedley, David Towers – All Saints' Dorothy Mountford, Chi Nwachukwu – St Peter's |
| PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Adele Siepmann | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Dr Peter Siepmann |
| MINISTRY ASSISTANT Ian Wright | WORKPLACE CHAPLAIN Rev. Jo Tatum |
| PARISH TREASURER Peter Moore | PCC SECRETARY Ros Horsley |

CHURCHES

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

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



I once overheard someone say, in a charity shop, "My husband likes those nativity cards, but I prefer something more Christmassy."

At least the husband found some nativity cards. In many shops today it isn't easy to do so. I wonder what kind of cards the woman in the charity shop thought were 'more Christmassy'. Maybe robins on snow-covered branches, or Father Christmas with his sleigh, reindeer and sack full of presents. Is this what she thought Christmas was really all about?

Christmas is a time when we understandably seek to take our minds off the struggles of everyday life. The days are short, cold and wet, the nights are long, and the ever-lengthening Christmas season (now beginning in October in many high streets) is a pleasant compensation. Now of course there's nothing wrong with having a good time. But let's not lose sight of the reason for celebrating in the first place. That baby in the nativity scenes is not just an alternative to the holly berries and the mistletoe. He is the very reason for the celebration itself.



The word 'nativity' comes from the Latin for 'birth'. Not just the birth of any baby, but the coming to earth of one who was unique in the history of the world, God's Son, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel – an ancient Hebrew term which means 'God with us.' God with us in a new and remarkable way, God revealed in human form, so that we might see what God is like and so know how to live our lives better. Through Jesus, God shows us how to love one another; and he even died for the world, so great was his love for us.

We are now into the season of Advent, the period which is marked by the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent was originally a time of penitence, in keeping with the ancient Church tradition of preparing for the major feasts of the Christian year by a time of prayer and self-denial. It is also a time for reflecting on the themes of hope, peace, love and joy, which are one way of interpreting the four outer candles in the Advent wreath.

But what does such reflection really mean? We see Christmas as a time which should be characterised by these four qualities, but how do we square this with the brutal fact that in much of the world today there isn't much joy, peace is increasingly fragile, love is more and more superficial, and there are plenty of reasons to be pessimistic rather than optimistic about the future. Are the peace, love, joy and hope that we celebrate during the Christmas season merely to be vain longings for a utopia which we suspect will never become a reality?

At the heart of the Christian faith, however, lies the conviction that it is wrong to be fatalistic about the future, for Christians believe in a God who is total and utter Love. This is something that may be hard to understand in the abstract, but which starts to seem more real when we think in terms of the self-giving that lies at the heart of God, who is the source and fount of all that is. This self-giving on the part of God reached its climax in the coming to earth of Jesus Christ, who embodied the love of God in a manner never matched before or since. This divine love shone forth from Christ in his care for those on the margins of society, his healing of the sick, his teachings about the way of life to which God calls us, and above all in his sacrifice of himself on the cross for the sins of the world.

This year there are many factors which are making Christmas a more subdued affair than is normally the case, not least the effects of higher food and fuel prices, and large increases in housing costs for some people. The war in Ukraine, with the massive suffering endured by so many of its people, and the uncertainty which this causes for the world as a whole, also make a sombre backcloth to our festive celebrations. These cannot be ignored, and the Church needs to play its part in responding to these developments as actively as possible.

In spite of all this, the good news of Christmas remains the same, and we can celebrate this wherever we are, and in whatever circumstances we find ourselves: that 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3.16). This is the only Christmas message that really matters, and gives us confidence that the peace, love, joy and hope which Christ came to bring can never be defeated by the selfishness, greed and violence which still create so much suffering and sadness in our world.

A very happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Star Safari

Headland Theatre present...

Star Safari: A Nativity

by Pat Ashworth

St Peter's Church on Sunday 11th December - 1pm and 4pm

Pat writes:

The Nativity as told by the gospel-writers, Matthew and Luke, has always intrigued me as much for what it doesn't say as what it does say. It's a tantalisingly brief account. There were angels, shepherds and kings; there was a stable and a manger, and no room at the inn.

But when you look at the great Renaissance paintings, the place is heaving with people who've flocked in from everywhere. I fantasised on who else could have encountered Mary and Joseph on their journey. Whose everyday lives might have collided with theirs?



Bea Stevenson as Mary

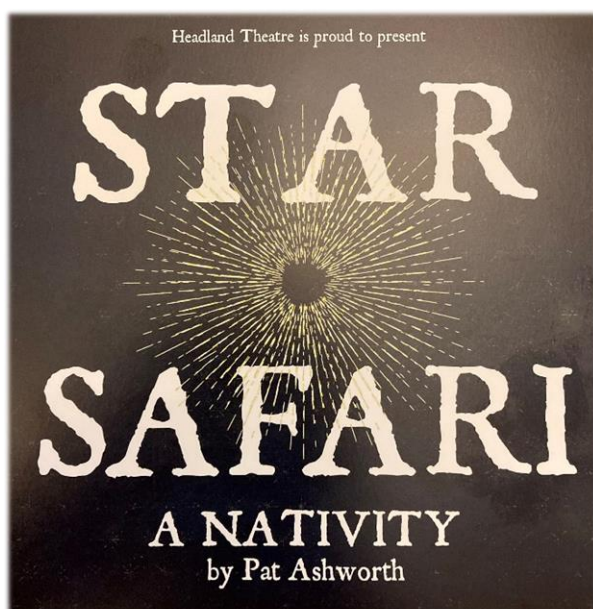


Keith Mountford on a rehearsal break at St Michael's, Bramcote, another of the four venues.

Writers in the Middle Ages played with those notions, and the Mystery cycles that resulted were robust and irreverent as well as devotional. The language of my play is modern and colloquial, a mixture of prose and verse, but the play is set in a medieval context, as though a bunch of local people had got together to tell the story.

And that's how it turned out. You, the audience, are the arrivals at the census, the guests at the party, the witnesses of what happened at the stable. Music is a big part of what we do, and we hope you'll join us in the final chorus, Gaudete, Christus est natus – Rejoice, Christ is born.

This is our second visit to St Peter's, where we love performing and where we're made very welcome. Thank you. Tickets, £12 and £10, are available from Dorothy Mountford, on online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/headland-theatre



Raymond Wiseman with a hurdy-gurdy, one of several period instruments played.

Book of the month

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

'In Black and White'

A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice system

By Alexandra Wilson

Alexandra Wilson was a teenager when her dear family friend Ayo was stabbed to death on his way home from football.

'Ayo's death changed me. I wanted answers. I couldn't understand why his life had been taken so casually. These boys didn't know him, they had never met him before, but had killed him within minutes'. It compelled her to enter the legal profession in search of answers.

At first, she wondered whether her age, race and gender and the fact that she wasn't 'posh' meant that she wouldn't be welcomed. She came to realise that 'The Bar needs people like me'.

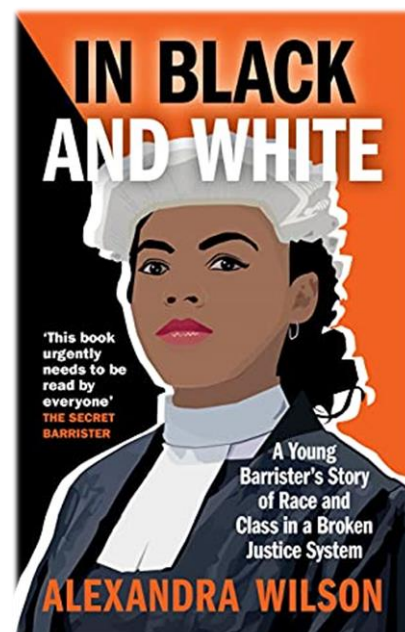
As a junior criminal and family law barrister, Alexandra found herself navigating a world and a set of rules designed by a privileged few. A world in which fellow barristers sighed with relief when a racist judge retired: 'I have a black kid today and he would have had no hope'.

Alexandra Wilson re-creates the tense courtroom scenes, the heart-breaking meeting with teenage clients and the moments of frustration and the small triumphs that make up her life as a young barrister.

Alexandra shows us how it feels to defend someone who hates the colour of your skin, or someone you suspect is guilty. We see what it is like for children coerced into county line drug deals and the damage that can be caused when teenagers are criminalised.

'In Black and white' is a compelling, shocking and powerful account of Alexandra's pupillage – the traineeship to become a qualified barrister.

'Even as I gain experience, this career remains emotionally challenging. It is impossible to detach myself completely from my work because I am involved in people's lives at some of their toughest moments, and my representation can make a real difference.'



Meditation Service at St Peter's

Contemplative Christian Meditation Group

Every Monday 1.15pm - 1.45pm at St Peter's Church

The Contemplative Meditation Group has restarted on Mondays at 1.15pm - 1.45pm at St Peter's. This is an opportunity to experience Christian Contemplative Meditation, which sounds more complicated than it is! We'll be using some very simple awareness techniques of focussing on our breath and listening to a short inspirational passage to anchor ourselves in the present moment. We'll quieten our minds, become more still, present and aware and in that stillness we'll wait on God. Afterward we may feel more relaxed, at peace and maybe even more energised.

No previous experience of meditation is required. You are particularly encouraged to come along if you feel that you can't meditate because you can't stop thinking. Here you won't have to stop thinking!

Christian Contemplative Meditation dates back to the early church and in particular the desert Mothers and Fathers. Silence, stillness and waiting on God has been practised in the Church for centuries and silence may well be God's "first language". Over the past 20 years there has been a growth in religious and other groups offering meditation techniques and you may have heard of approaches like Mindfulness.

Ours will be a friendly, accessible and relaxed group which is open to all and will offer an opportunity to sit together in the stillness and silence of ourselves and our beautiful Church. These are drop-in sessions, no booking is required and no commitment to attend all. Come when you can or feel moved to attend.

If you have any questions and/or need further information then please contact Ian Wright, Ministry Assistant on 07810 740 931 or ian.wright@nottinghamchurches.org

Services in December

| | | | |
|--|----------|--|-------------|
| Sunday 4th | 8.15 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist | All Saints' |
| | 10.45 am | Matins* | St Peter's |
| | | Responses <i>Ayleward</i> | |
| | | A Song of Peace <i>Stanford</i> | |
| | | A new commandment <i>Tallis</i> | |
| | 5.00 pm | Holy Communion with prayers for healing | St Peter's |
| Monday 5th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 6th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | All Saints' |
| | 1.15 pm | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Thursday 8th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 11th | 8.15 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 9.45 am | Family Service | St Peter's |
| | 10.30 am | Sung Eucharist | All Saints' |
| | 10.45 am | Sung Eucharist | St Peter's |
| | 6.00 pm | Evensong* | All Saints' |
| | | Responses <i>Reading</i> | |
| | | Blair in B minor Vox dicentis <i>Naylor</i> | |
| Monday 12th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 13th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | All Saints' |
| | 1.15 pm | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Thursday 15th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 18th | 8.15 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| | 10.30 am | Carol Service | All Saints' |
| | 10.45 am | Sung Eucharist* | St Peter's |
| | | Holy Communion in F Sumsion | |
| | | A Spotless Rose <i>Howells</i> | |
| | 5.00 pm | Taizé Service | St Peter's |
| Monday 19th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 20th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | All Saints' |
| | 1.15 pm | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Thursday 22nd | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Saturday 24th Christmas Eve | 4.00 pm | Family Carol Service* | St Peter's |
| | | The Sussex Carol <i>Trad., arr. Chilcott</i> | |
| | | A Spotless Rose <i>Howells</i> | |
| | | The Bell Carol <i>Ledger</i> | |
| | | The Huron Carol <i>Trad. Canadian, arr. Andersen</i> | |
| | | Alleluia a new work <i>Bednall</i> | |
| | 11.15 pm | Midnight Mass | St Peter's |
| | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass | All Saints' |
| Sunday 25th Christmas Day | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist* | St Peter's |
| | | In dulci júbilo <i>Trad. German, arr. Chilcott</i> | |
| | | Agnus Dei in F <i>Darke</i> | |
| | | In the bleak midwinter <i>Darke</i> | |
| | 10.30 am | Eucharist | All Saints' |

Services in January

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| Sunday 1st | 10.45 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 3rd | 11.00 am 1.15 pm | Holy Communion Holy Communion | All Saints' St Peter's |
| Thursday 5th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 8th Kept as The Epiphany | 8.15 am 9.45 am 10.30 am 10.45 am 6.00 pm | Holy Communion Family Service Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist Evensong* | St Peter's St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's All Saints' |
| Monday 9th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 10th | 11.00 am 1.15 pm | Holy Communion Holy Communion | All Saints' St Peter's |
| Thursday 12th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 15th | 8.15 am 10.30 am 10.45 am 5.00 pm | Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist* Taizé Service | St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's St Peter's |
| Monday 16th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 17th | 11.00 am 1.15 pm | Holy Communion Holy Communion | All Saints' St Peter's |
| Thursday 19th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 22nd | 8.15 am 10.30 am 10.45 am 6.00pm | Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist* Compline* | St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's All Saints' |
| Monday 23rd | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 24th | 11.00 am 1.15 pm | Holy Communion Holy Communion | All Saints' St Peter's |
| Thursday 26th | 11.00 am | Holy Communion | St Peter's |
| Sunday 29th The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Cadlemas) | 8.15 am 10.30 am 10.45 am | Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Sung Eucharist* | St Peter's All Saints' St Peter's |
| Monday 30th | 1.15 pm | Meditation | St Peter's |
| Tuesday 31st | 11.00 am 1.15 pm | Holy Communion Holy Communion | All Saints' St Peter's |

Christmas opening times

- * The Parish Office will close at 2 pm on Friday 23rd December, and will re-open on Thursday 5th January.
- * The Coffee Room and Fairtrade Shop will close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 21st December, and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January.
- * St Peter's will be open for private prayer on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th December. Weekday services will resume on Tuesday 3rd January.



St Peter's Fair Trade & Christian Book Shop

Adele Siepmann

The shop is currently open Tuesday - Thursday, 11 am – 2.30 pm. However, I can also deal with any purchases on Fridays and most Sundays.

If you think that you would be able to offer some time to volunteer in the shop on Mondays or Fridays, please contact me in the office –

office@nottinghamchurches.org



Thank you to our three fabulous volunteers – Heather, Gill and Phil – who have worked so hard over the past year. It wasn't easy to re-open after such a long break, but the shop is going from strength to strength once more. Please support us this Christmas season, and beyond, if you are able to!

Prayers for December & January

Ian Wright

Loving God, creator of all things...

Thank you, thank you, thank you
for the gifts of our minds, hearts, souls and bodies.

May you always act through us and help us to grow in your Love, Compassion
and Forbearance.

Thank you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you
for the gifts of our families, friends, neighbours and this, our worshipping
community.

Help us always to offer a tender hand, word or deed wherever needed.

Thank you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you
for those held in your Love who are sick, infirm and housebound. We remember particularly those now held
in your Peace. Help us also to be ever mindful of those in particular who may well struggle at this time of
year through loneliness, isolation or despair. Help us always to be ready to offer whatever we can and
whatever is needed. Thank you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you
help us to appreciate the many gifts that surround us every day,
for the watching and waiting
and, of course, for the eternal promise of your Love born again in all our hearts
through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you.
Amen.



'I'm Missing a Robin!'

The Diary of our Physick Garden by Sue Baker

As I walk forwards in working on St Peter's garden, I have something to share. I'm missing a robin.

As I write this, I think perhaps this is something we could put into a St Peter's garden site? I am about to start planting interesting medicinal/ herb/ remembrance plants and it would be good to share information on them so perhaps you can think about how we do that?

Why is a Robin not joining me in my work at St Peter's garden?

I began work on St Peter's garden 5th of October 2022. I divided the garden up into 6 projects compost, front planters, rose garden, café garden, church wall and long borders. I am working on all these projects. I have also been asked to create a physick garden which will include a remembrance garden and moving the 'gifted' roses to another plot- including two planted in memory of Daphne Pentecost. This will free up a space in the sunshine for Ossie's Physick Garden and give the memorial roses a new lease of life in some fresh soil.

Ever since I started work on St Peter's garden, I have noticed that there is no robin working alongside me. When I am working in my garden and my friends' gardens I am followed around by a robin. As I turn over the soil - the robin is there. I pull out a lot of ivy from under a hedge - the robin is there. In all my work at St Peter's, there has never been a robin. Really? Yes really! I have never seen a robin. That is so sad.

Why? Because in our garden at the moment there is no shelter or nesting areas. There are no plants that attract butterflies and insects. There is a grass/ meadow a meadow where butterfly orchids appeared last summer. These are usually found in the most neglected of areas such as a lime stone quarry. On our churchyard there is no water. There is no diversity. Diversity means a multitude of different plants, including our British wildlife plants. These thrive work in all sorts of environments and encourage the diversity of insects, birds, amphibians, and mammals such as bats and squirrels. St Peter's garden is a neglected space. I want to change this.

I would like to set myself a goal to encourage a Robin to come at work with me in St Peter's garden.

At the time of going to press I plan to meet with Lorna from the Nottingham Wildlife Trust on Friday 25th November. I can't wait to what they recommend for our space. Especially how we can get that very common and garden bird, the robin, back into our garden?

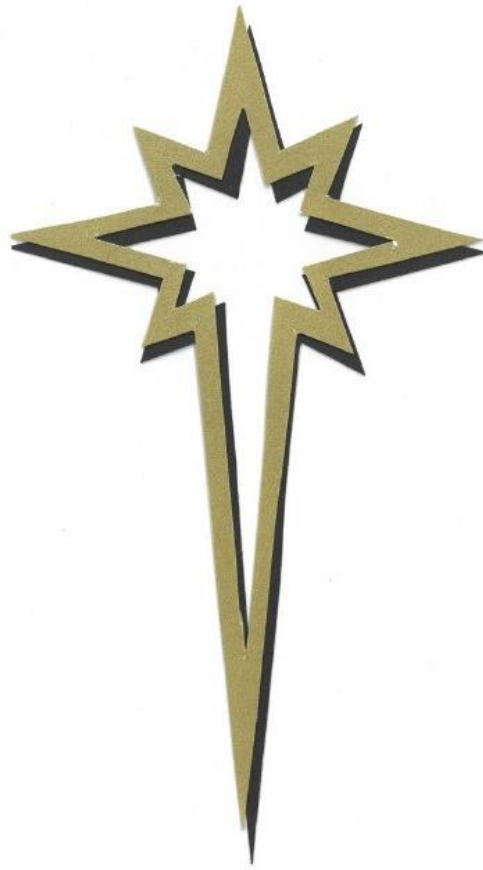
We are so grateful to Sue for all her creativity in designing the Physick and remembrance gardens and for her hard work in all weathers in making that vision a reality. Any donations towards the gardens will be most gratefully received.

Chi and Dorothy, Churchwardens



ST PETER'S CHURCH

NOTTINGHAM



NATIVITY TRAIL

Pick up a leaflet
and follow the Christmas Story
around the church

Regular Activities in our Churches

All Saints'

- Coffee and Fellowship (part of the Places of Welcome network):
Tuesdays from 11.30 am – 1.00 pm
- 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.

St Peter's:

- The Thursday Communion service at 11.00 is followed by coffee and fellowship
- 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.

The Parish Office
St Peter's Centre
St Peter's Square
Nottingham
NG1 2NW

0115 9483658
office@nottinghamchurches.org
www.nottinghamchurches.org

Charity number: 1130298