



ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



April 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

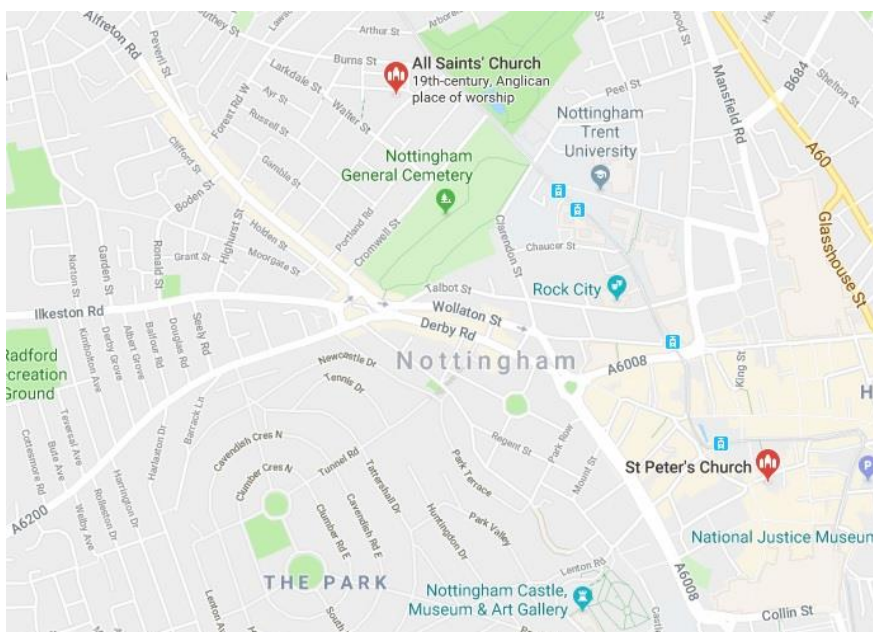


PARISH CLERGY Rev. Christopher Harrison, Rector Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Associate Priest Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Associate Priest Rev. John Henson, Associate Priest Rev. Gill Page, Associate Priest Rev. Owen Page, Associate Priest Rev. James Saxton, Associate Priest	CHURCHWARDENS Lorraine Smedley, David Towers – 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



There is so much bad news these days that it makes a welcome change to hear something good and positive. A new report forecasts that world population is now no longer expected to keep growing until the late 2080s, which is when the United Nations previously expected it to peak at over 10 billion. Latest trends now suggest it will begin to fall before 2050, reaching a peak of almost 9 billion but falling to 7.3 billion by 2100. These figures are still massive, of course, but they give us cause for hope. Economists have long understood that as income levels rise, population growth becomes less steep and eventually stabilises, and this is now happening in more and more countries. All of this means that the pressure on the world's resources will ease, although there will still be a need for environmental policies which place strong limits on carbon emissions, resource depletion, deforestation and threats to biodiversity.



It is also encouraging when countries succeed in reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, by putting alternative fuel sources in place. The UK has lagged behind many other countries in this regard, but it is good to see that the contribution of energy from renewable sources to total electricity use in the UK is now around 40 per cent, ie just under half. This represents a considerable improvement since the turn of the century. There are some days, especially when winds are strong, that this figure rises to around 60 per cent. All the lobbying from environmental pressure groups, along with technological advances and the various international energy agreements, seem to have had an effect.

All of this suggests that there is cause for at least some hope in fields which have become a considerable cause for concern in recent years. Alongside this, however, lie other concerns which have resulted in the poorer and more vulnerable members of many western societies living in conditions which are more and more precarious. The decline in incomes (after taking account of inflation) for many people over the last year or so has been the largest for many years, as the effects of higher energy, food and housing costs have come together to squeeze purchasing power. It is likely that we will soon see figures for rising levels of indebtedness across many parts of society; we are already hearing of alarming levels of child poverty in this country. The challenge is both how the immediate needs of people on low incomes can be met, and also how to create a society which provides adequate protection for vulnerable people in the event of economic shocks such as those we have experienced recently.

We are about to enter Holy Week, the most important week in the Christian calendar. We enter into the spirit of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and join with the crowds who greeted him with the palm branches that symbolised victory. He shares the Last Supper with his friends, very aware that he would soon be leaving them to be arrested and put to death. We join those gazing upon the cross of Christ with deepest sorrow and in abject grief, as the cruelty, viciousness and spite which all too often reside in communities and societies temporarily gain the upper hand. But then of course come the exuberant triumph and utter joy of the Resurrection; Jesus has not been defeated even by death, but shows that God's love prevails even over the worst that humanity can do. The risen Christ brings to the disciples new hope in the face of despair, and inspires them to give themselves fully and unstintingly in his service.

The new hope that Christ brings to us all should not just be a fleeting sensation or transient emotion which gives us a temporary boost before we revert to life as usual. This hope should take root deep within our hearts; it should remind us that God does not just leave the world to its own mistakes and to the consequences of ill-conceived policies. When we consider the signs of hope mentioned in the earlier part of this article, we should remember that God is faithful to us, even when we ignore or deny God. Not all economic and social developments are bad. However, we must also draw strength and inspiration from our belief in a God whose love extends to all people, when we seek to build a society in which everyone is truly included and valued, and in which no-one should face threats to their basic human needs which are beyond their power to resolve. Let us then embrace the Easter hope within in our hearts and go into the world committed to bring that hope to all people, particularly the downtrodden, the broken and those who have lost all hope, confident that Christ calls us to live in the light and love of God, which are the main purpose of our life here on earth.

May God's Easter blessings be abundantly with you all.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Monday 10th April, 10am
at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan
in aid of Mercy Ships.

Further details from any member of the Overseas Committee.

*There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of both churches
to help with catering.*



Prayers for April

The Reverend Dr Helen Hall

A Prayer for Kindness

Christ who knew the ministry of angels, but welcomed with joy the care of human friends: a woman and a jar of perfume, a meal shared and a joke understood. Teach us never to underestimate the treasure of kindness. We thank you for the people we encounter whose warmth brings comfort and brightness, whether they are strangers, acquaintances or those close to us. Inspire our hearts and imaginations to touch the lives of others in our turn, to give the gift a smile, encouraging words or practical help. Amen.

A Prayer for Human Stewardship

From the depths of a crisis, we see so much ugliness and injustice, and yet so much hope and potential, we pray for the courage to look with honest eyes at uncomfortable truths, but also for vision and energy to build on the beauty, richness and love which surrounds us. Suddenly, it is harder to close our eyes to the filth we leave in rivers, the cruelty which we inflict on animals and the ease which we overlook the homeless and destitute, keep us mindful of lessons learnt when this pandemic has passed. Help us to become better stewards, to treat our fellow creatures and the Earth which you have created with compassion and respect, to share more fairly with our human brothers and sisters, and to remember with awe the bonds which bind us, as your children and the works of your hands. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Service

We hold before you in gratitude the many and varied ways in which we serve one another, and pray in thanksgiving for our brothers and sisters. We think of those who provide healthcare and security at this time, doctors, nurses, police-officers and many in supporting roles. And we recall with gratitude those whose contribution is outside the realm of paid work, but who are carers, homemakers or who are otherwise a source of prayer, kindness and support in the world. The offering of each person is unique and precious, and we you to strengthen all, and comfort any in sickness, anxiety or distress. Amen.

Book of the month

Take My Hand

By Dolene Perkins-Valdez

This novel is based on true events in post-segregation Alabama, a powerful story about a Black nurse who blows the whistle on a terrible wrong done to her patients. The reader is left with a feeling of incredulity on reading what is basically an historical novel. This novel enlightens, stuns and educates but also moves the reader. Dolene Perkins-Valdez takes actual events as her inspiration and paints a portrait of a specific time. This is, strictly, an historical novel and worth reading for what it tells of a past which still has repercussions.

The immoral and shameful overreaching of the US government on the reproductive rights of mostly black and poor women and young girls through forced sterilization is the central focus of this novel told in the dual timelines of 1973 and 2016. While these events are mainly told through the experiences of two young black girls aged 11 and 14, and the black nurse who tries to save them, there were many other women in the country subjected to these practices at that time.



This is a story that makes the reader ask questions. When does helping become controlling? When does loving become smothering? When does zeal become interference? How does one do what one knows is best without crossing the line? These questions are all raised by Perkins-Valdez's novel. The answers, quite rightly, are left to the reader.

In her notes to 'Take My hand', Perkins-Valdez gives us the historical background to the novel, outlining the real events and real people that make it so impactful.

The past casts a long shadow on the present. The many ways institutional racism and classism inflict lasting scars, especially on young Black women - and the grace, courage, and love necessary to begin to heal those wounds not only relate to the then but also to now.

'Magnificent? I cheered out loud.' *Bonnie Garmus author of 'Lessons in Chemistry'*

This is the second time I have mentioned this novel in these reviews. Perhaps I am trying to tell you something?

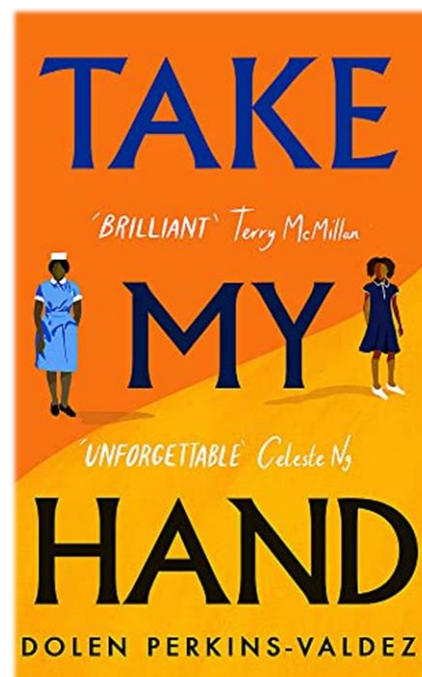
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Easter Week arrangements

Please note that the Parish Office, Coffee Room and Fairtrade Shop will be closed the week following Easter (as well as Good Friday).

We are pleased to say that St Peter's will be open for visitors Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm during Easter week.

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'



Services in April

Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Liturgy of the Palms & Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Liturgy of the Palms & Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Hosanna to the Son of David <i>Victoria</i>	
		Christus factus est <i>Anerio</i>	
		Holy Communion in D <i>Leighton</i>	
		Solus ad vicitmam <i>Leighton</i>	
	5.00 pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Monday 3rd	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 4th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 6th Maundy Thursday	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	12.00 pm	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist & Vigil*	St Peter's
Friday 7th Good Friday	12.00 pm	The Three Hours	St Peter's
	1.30 pm	Good Friday Service	All Saints'
Sunday 9th Easter Day	6.00 am	Easter Vigil & Dawn Eucharist	St Peter's
	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9.30 am	Family Service	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		This joyful Eastertide <i>Owens</i> Agnus Dei (Missa Brevis) <i>Becky McGlade</i> Rise up my love <i>Willan</i>	
Sunday 16th	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Holy Communion in F <i>Sumsion</i>	
		Peace I leave with you <i>Beach</i>	
	5.00 pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's
Monday 17th	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 20th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 23rd	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
		The choir are in residence at York Minster this weekend <i>No evening service</i>	
Monday 24th	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 27th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 30th	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's

Earthquake Appeal

A big thank you to everyone for the retiring collection in aid of the survivors of the Turkish and Syrian earthquake appeal.

Reports of major events such as this quickly disappear from our TV screen and news papers.

Here is an update of the situation given to us by Ebru, Seyma and Merve from Turkey who come along to St Peter's on Wednesday mornings for help with learning English:

'The area effected by the earthquake is almost the size of Great Britain Experts say the three high magnitude earthquakes are the same as 130 atom bombs. Despite this the wounds of the earthquake are being healed quickly by our country. However, the earthquake was massive and that's why help from other counties is very important. Many countries including the UK sent search and rescue teams and financial aid.

Thank you to everyone who felt this pain with us."

Ebru, Seyma and Merve



Bryan Wilkinson

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Bryan Wilkinson at a very poignant yet celebratory Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's on 21st March. Bryan died earlier in the month following a long illness.

We have been provided with this article, which Bryan wrote during the pandemic - it underlines his great love of worshipping at St Peter's.

Hello, my name is Bryan – Bryan with a Y, as I'm sometimes referred to in situations where there is more than one Bryan/Brian.

I was born in the front bedroom of a council house, just inside the boundary of Bulwell, which was separated from Basford by a large railway bridge, which faced our house. Whilst breakfasting I could see the trains arriving, and the boys walking down the tow path on their way to what was then called the Henry Mellish Grammar School for County Boys. The boys were all in uniform, and used to put on their caps as they approached the road. Any boy seen without his cap would be put in detention.

In our house was my Mum (Dorothy), my Dad (Eric) and my elder brother by three years, Eric Geoffrey, but always called Geoffrey.

My Mum and Dad had been married at St Aidan's Church in Basford, and as young children, Geoff and I would go to church three times on Sunday. I remember stopping to talk to the Vicar with my Dad, and telling him that I wanted to sing in the choir. My Dad pointed out that he would be delighted when I could join, but that would only be possible when I had learned to read!

I was blessed eventually with a beautiful boy treble voice, but learned many hymns (first verse only) when my Dad would come in to my bedroom to tuck me in, and teach me hymns like 'Now the day is over', 'Abide with me' etc, well before I could read.

At Junior School, I sang in the choir, often doing solos. I also sang at Sunday morning Eucharist, Evensong, and attended Sunday School in the afternoon. We used to get paid as choir boys – a farthing for each practice and a "ha'penny" for each service. I remember pigging myself out at the fish and chip shop (which still stands opposite the main gates to St Aidan's) on 'pay day'.

We always had a piano in the house, which my Father played, and Mum told me that at one time he had been Organist and Choirmaster at St Aidan's, at the tender age of 17. On regular occasions, Dad would play the piano in the evenings, and I would stand at the side and sing. My favourites were the 23rd Psalm to the tune of Crimmond, and the Holy City.

Around that time, Dad saw an article in the Nottingham Evening Post, where boys were being auditioned to sing in the choir at Southwell Minster, and to attend the boys' school there. I didn't know anything about this until Mum said that I was going to an audition at St Peter's Church, near Marks and Spencer, that afternoon. Sadly, on that day I had the most awful cold, with 'candles' running from my nose onto my top lip, and was unable to breathe properly. I was auditioned in the organ loft, which can still be seen on the left hand side of the chancel, above the choir stalls. I chose the 23rd Psalm to the tune Crimmond as my piece, but could hardly sing at all. I remember being asked if there was a piano in the house, and was I learning to play? I wasn't, and that must have gone against me, as well as my inability to sing properly with my cold on that day.

As I sit in the Nave now, I often wonder how my life might have changed, had I passed the audition.

I love to hear choral music sung in four parts, and look forward to the choir singing every Sunday. So much so that I have gone away with the choir when they visit various Cathedrals. In addition, these weekends away have brought new friendships, often eating out together in large groups, and breakfasting together in hotels.

Back in St Peter's, I still sing my heart out, and although I can't sight read properly I still try to sing the Bass part (and I'm getting better), having bought my own full music copy of the hymn book. But my music making didn't just stop at choral works.

For the last 30 years – yes, 30 years! – I have played bass guitar with "REVIVAL", a fairly successful Nottingham based 60's cover band. Most of the work has been playing at local village halls, but we have supported several 60's icons, namely Vince Eager, Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers, Dave Berry and the Cruisers, Gerry and the Pacemakers.

The most prestigious venue must be when we played The Guildhall in London, but we have also played three times at the Floral Rooms in Southport - 25 years after the Beatles played there! I was nearing the end of my one-year notice period when lockdown happened, so didn't get my swansong appearance.

I look forwards to worshipping together and enjoying fellowship with you all, once this pandemic is under control.



Thanks to Bryan's friend, David Lowe, for these photographs of Bryan and friends enjoying his other love, cricket, at school.

Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, before the Eucharist service at St Peter's, Kit ye, Nora and Hoi worked busily bunching the daffodils and finished just in time. Our grateful thanks to them for helping with this lovely tradition at St Peter's of giving daffodils to everyone who attends the main service.



Overseas Committee – donations needed

A car boot sale will be held in aid of the Overseas Committee Funds at Colwick Racecourse on the morning of Sunday 23rd April. Donations of toys, children's clothes and bric-a-brac are requested to sell.

Please bring your donations to church (but not before the beginning of April because of storage problems).

Thank you for your support!

Holy Week & Easter Services

Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday

- Holy Communion @ St Peter's – 11.00 am
- Holy Communion @ All Saints' – 12.00 pm
- Sung Eucharist with vigil @ St Peter's – 7.30 pm

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

- The Three Hours @ St Peter's – 12.00 pm
- Good Friday service @ All Saints' – 1.30 pm

Sunday 9th April – Easter Day

- Easter Vigil & Dawn Eucharist @ St Peter's – 6.00 am
 - Holy Communion @ St Peter's – 8.15 am
 - Family Service @ St Peter's – 9.30 am
 - Sung Eucharist @ All Saints' – 10.30 am
 - Sung Eucharist @ St Peter's – 10.45 am
- The Rt Rev'd Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood – Celebrant*



Vacancy - Part time Finance Assistant

7.5 hours a week

Salary: £25,000 pro rata (actual £5,000)

The Parish of St Peter and All Saints' wishes to appoint a part-time Finance Assistant to join a busy, growing team. Working closely with the Parish Administrator, the Finance Assistant will have responsibility for day-to-day financial management and financial administration, including the financial information required for funding returns and reports. If you have a good knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting principles, a working knowledge of accounting software, and strong organisational skills, we would love to hear from you.

The successful candidate will be based at the Parish Office, located at St Peter's Church (NG1 2NW). Some remote working may be possible.

For full information and an application form, please visit www.nottinghamchurches.org/vacancies

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly named the Vestry Meeting) to elect churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

This year, the parish Annual Parochial General Meeting (APCM) is being held in St Peter's Church on Tuesday 25 April starting at 7.00pm. Those parishioners on the Electoral Roll may attend and vote at these meetings but also, by our tradition, members of the congregation not on the Roll may attend although not vote. In fact, the Church Representation Rules (of the Church of England) require there to be two meetings that evening the first being a short 'Meeting of Parishioners' to elect two churchwardens from each church to serve for the coming year. This is followed immediately by the main APCM to receive various reports on the life of the parish over the past twelve months, including one from the Treasurer on the state of the parish finances, as well as electing members to serve on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod. Details of those elections, including what posts are available this year and how nominations can be made, will be published in the Parish Notices over the coming weeks.

Spring has sprung!



St Peter's Churchyard in the spring sunshine



St Peter's Church Choir begin the Palm Sunday Eucharist service on the West steps

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
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Charity number: 1130298