



# ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



December 2023  
& January 2024



## 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

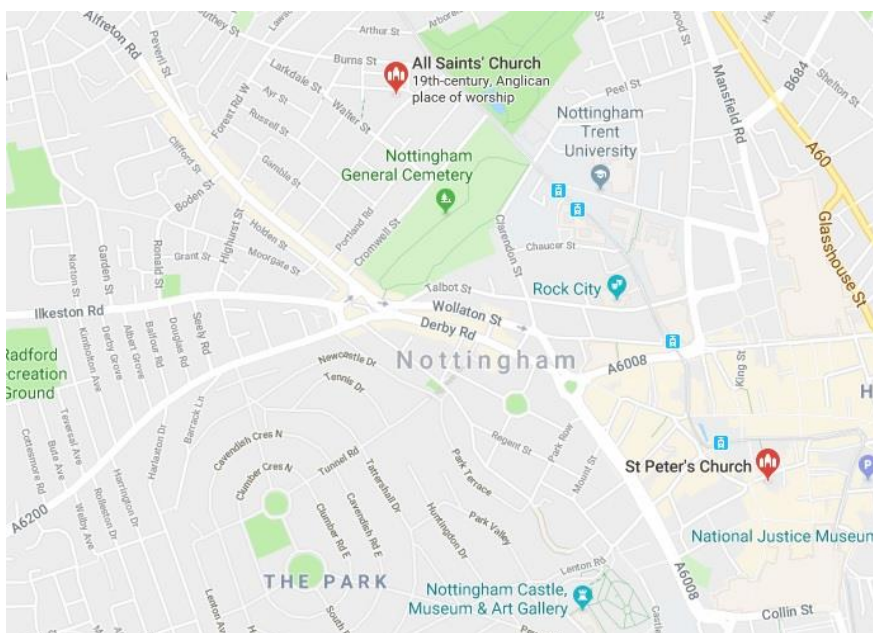


<b>PARISH CLERGY</b> Rev. Christopher Harrison <i>Rector</i> Rev. Dr Richard Davey <i>Associate Priest</i> Rev. Dr Helen Hall <i>Priest with permission to officiate</i> Rev. Gill Page <i>Priest with permission to officiate</i> Rev. Owen Page <i>Priest with permission to officiate</i>	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Lorraine Smedley, David Towers – All Saints' Dorothy Mountford, Jane Henson – St Peter's Chigozie Nwachukwu – Assistant Churchwarden, St Peter's
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b> Adele Siepmann	<b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</b> Dr Peter Siepmann
<b>MINISTRY ASSISTANT</b> Ian Wright	<b>WORKPLACE CHAPLAIN</b> Rev. Jo Tatum
<b>PARISH TREASURER</b> Peter Moore	<b>PCC SECRETARY</b> Rachel Dyer-Williams

## 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*

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 hopeful about the future. Are the peace, love, joy and hope that we celebrate during the Christmas season to be merely 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, the source and fount of all that exists. This self-giving on the part of God reached its climax in the sending 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 the outcasts, 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, then, is the heart of what we celebrate at Christmas – 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). And this means that when we consider the horrific images of the recent massacre in Israel and the destruction of large parts of Gaza, the continuing conflict and devastation in Ukraine, the resumption of the civil war in Sudan, and as well as other wars around the world, it is so important not to conclude that there is no longer any hope for humanity. In the battle between good and evil, evil will prevail if we cease to believe in the power of good – and the power of God.

Let us, rather, be inspired by people like Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish priest who gave his life in exchange for that of a fellow prisoner in 1941 in Auschwitz; Martin Luther King, whose civil rights speeches led to massive changes in post-war USA, but also to his assassination in 1969; and Oscar Romero, the Archbishop who opposed the dictators of El Salvador and was gunned down at the altar, for speaking out, in 1980. Let us also never forget all the small but sacrificial acts of kindness which take place every day of every year, which are rays of light in a world where more and more people seem to be struggling to maintain even a simple lifestyle which is safe and free from anxiety about food, fuel costs, or housing needs.

There are, therefore, signs of hope, and there is always hope if we remain firm in our faith in the God who cares for each individual, and whose Son Jesus Christ came to the world to share our life and to bring love, mercy and justice to this troubled world. This is the heart of the Christmas message; that God is with us and has not just abandoned the world to those who would divide and destroy it. Indeed, this is the meaning of the ancient Hebrew word 'Emmanuel', God with us.

As we worship God in the many services in our churches during the Advent and Christmas season, let us therefore ponder on all the various ways in which we can join with others in making real our belief that God is with us. God needs each one of us, and wants to use our hands, our feet, our hearts and our minds in his service.

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all.



## Parish Overseas Committee Silver Smarties

Dorothy Mountford

This year the Overseas committee has decided to support a specific charity with the funds raised from this year's Silver Smarties initiative – World Vision UK.

Last year through the Silver Smarties scheme you raised over £820 for the general Overseas Committee funds. For this support our most grateful thanks.

### About World Vision UK

*We have a long history of taking action to transform the world. Our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children in the most difficult places to overcome poverty and to experience fullness of life.*

*Together with supporters like you we've helped millions of children and families out of poverty and we are often among the first to help when a crisis strikes. Inspired by our Christian faith we help children - of all faiths and none - in some of the world's most dangerous places. We believe it takes a whole community to create a happy and fulfilling childhood - and we work together with our communities so that they are empowered to do just that. Our integrated approach includes healthcare, child protection and income generation with the aim of allowing every child to fulfill their God-given potential.*

World Vision

## All Saints' Day celebrations

Lorraine Smedley



All Saints' day this year saw all three congregations gathered together at the 10.30 a.m. service. The Nottingham Enlightening Word Church has been meeting for seven years now with growing numbers. Members of their young music group sang for us accompanied by piano and violin.

St Gabriel's (Eritrean) Church are reaching their first anniversary in December. They also have large numbers of young families who are taught the traditions of their orthodox faith. They sang for us accompanied by drums. Awtsana Misghna told us about their faith and style of worship.

*I just want to say welcome and we are so glad to be part of this ceremony. In the next 3 to 5 minutes I will give you a brief history about the Eritrean Orthodox Christian Church, our church. Christianity entered Eritrea and Ethiopia (which were called the Aksumite kingdom under the King of Ezana) in the 4th century (347 AD). The Christian faith was first introduced and preached by a man called Abu Salama (father of peace) through the Red Sea. Abu Salama was originally from Syria but he was born in Greece. Christianity then spread to the whole region, specifically to the Tigrinya*

*speaking people majority in living in the highlands (KEBESA). We believe in the Trinity and worship One God. We have a huge respect for Saints and we occasionally name a church with their name. For example, our church is named after Saint Gabriel. We get service from deacons and priests. Every child is baptised after 40 and 80 days, boys and girls respectively. Holy Communion/ the Lord's Supper is prepared only by the priest in the name of Jesus, and children and the elderly eat it from the hands of the priest. When an adult has done any sin, they tell the priest and confess all, then they receive the Lord's Supper. This is completely confidential and kept secret. We pray to glorify our God and receive mercy for our sins. We have a big ark called Tabot made in wood. We use this in the prayer time in special occasions and this holds the 10 commandments of God. It is only held by the priest. We use different cultural instruments like drum, xinha (I do not know in English) to sing and glorify God. All of us have to wear a white sheet (Nexela) when we come to church. The white colour is a sign of purity and cleanliness. "If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me" Jesus said. We have a cross hung round our neck normally tied by a piece of cotton. This is due to the above quote.*

*Thank you for listening.*

Awtsana Misghna  
St Gabriel's Church



# Christmas Coffee Break Concert

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 11am

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Nottingham Bach Choir will give a Christmas Coffee Break Concert, 11am at St Peter's. All are welcome! Entry is through donation to the church music fund.

.....



# Come and Sing with John Rutter

**Sunday 21 January 2024**  
**Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham**

10.00am doors open to collect scores

13.30pm take your seats as soon as possible

14.00pm singing starts



If you love singing and can read a bit of music, this inspiring workshop is for you. Led by the celebrated composer and conductor **John Rutter** and accompanied by Neil Taylor, Come and Sing is an afternoon of choral singing to lift the spirits. Music will be a mixture of old and new, including some of John Rutter's own well-loved choral works. If you're not a singer yourself, you can come along and enjoy the music as a supporter.

BOX OFFICE: 0115 989 5555; [www.trch.co.uk](http://www.trch.co.uk) TICKETS\*:

SINGERS: £26; SUPPORTERS: £14. Tickets include tea/coffee and biscuits during the interval.

RUNNING TIME: 3 hrs 30 mins including a 30 min interval.

AGE SUITABILITY: 12+\*

It is advisable to arrive early to collect your music scores and to be seated according to your voice part as soon as possible after 13.30 to start immediately at 14.00.

The proceeds from this concert will help to support asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham and Notts through Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum and Nottingham Arimathea Trust ([www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](http://www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk), [www.nottinghamarimathea.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamarimathea.org.uk))



**NOTTINGHAM  
ARIMATEA  
TRUST**



## 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.

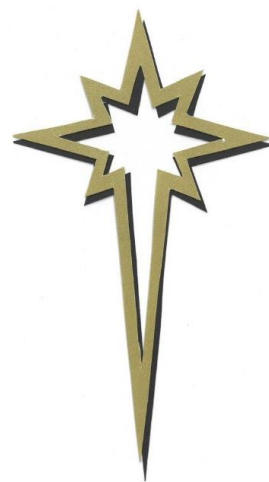


---

## ST PETER'S CHURCH NATIVITY TRAIL

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

*A small donation towards the work of the church would be much appreciated*



---

### St Peter's Choir at Peterborough Cathedral

St Peter's Church choir will be singing Choral Evensong at  
Peterborough Cathedral for the Feast of the Epiphany –  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January – at 5.30 pm. It is always a great pleasure  
to see members of our own congregations supporting these  
visits where possible!



## Services in December

<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	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
	3.00 pm	LGBT network carol service	St Peter's
	5.00 pm	Choral Evensong*	St Peter's
		Responses <i>Forbes L'Estrange</i> Wood in E-flat No. 2 Rejoice in the Lord <i>Anon.</i>	
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Carol Service	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Studentenmesse <i>Lotti</i> Creator of the stars of night <i>arr. Scott</i>	
	5.00 pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Eve	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
	4.00 pm	Family Carol Service*	St Peter's
		Ding dong! merrily on high <i>Trad. arr. Wilberg</i> A tender shoot <i>Kerensa Briggs</i> The Holly and the Ivy <i>Matthew Owens</i> My Lord has come <i>Will Todd</i> Sir Christmas <i>Mathias</i>	
	11.15 pm	Midnight Mass	St Peter's
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	All Saints'
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Day	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Eucharist	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's

## Christmas opening times

- \* The Parish Office will close at 2 pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and will re-open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.
- \* The Coffee Room and Fairtrade Shop will close at 2.30 pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – the Coffee Room will re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, and the shop on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.
- \* St Peter's will be open for private prayer on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December. Weekday services will resume on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.



## Services in January

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b> Kept as The Epiphany	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
	5.00 pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	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
	5.00 pm	Choral Evensong*	St Peter's
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
	5.00 pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Choral Compline*	St Peter's
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's

We are very grateful for all donations, which provide vital funds to keep our parish running.

Donations can be made via the contactless donation point by the West door at St Peter's,  
or by scanning the QR code below.

Alternatively, cash or cheques (made payable to 'St Peter and All Saints PCC') can be given to a  
member of staff – please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope,  
if you are able to.

