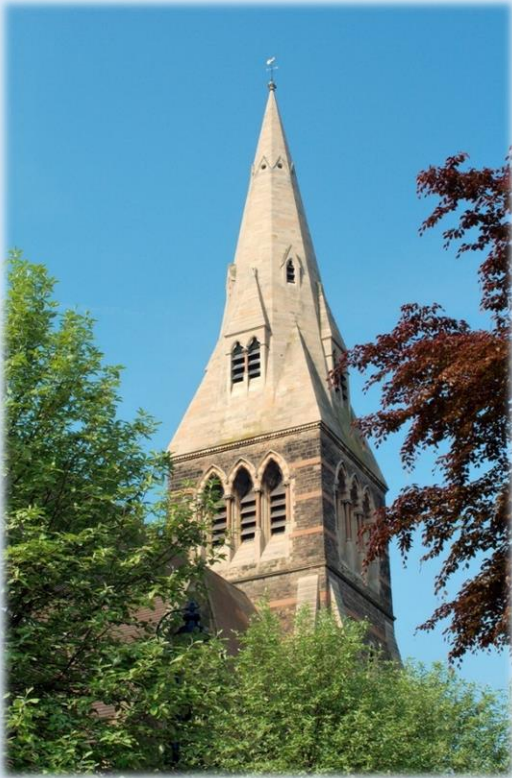


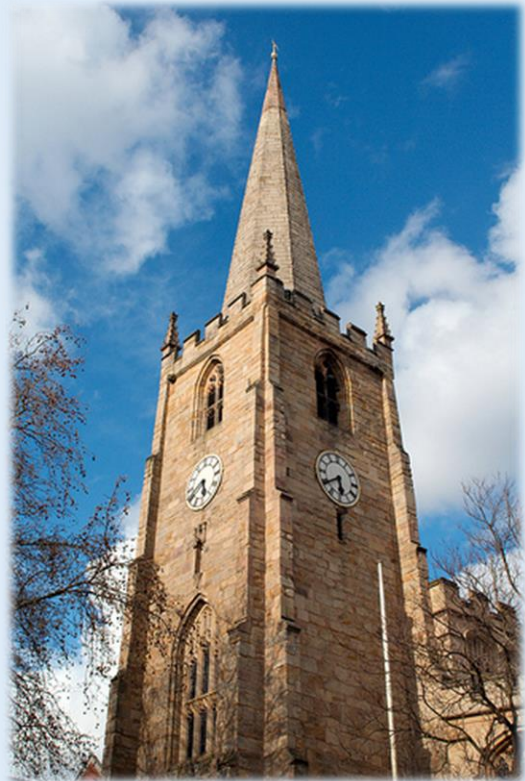


ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



April 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

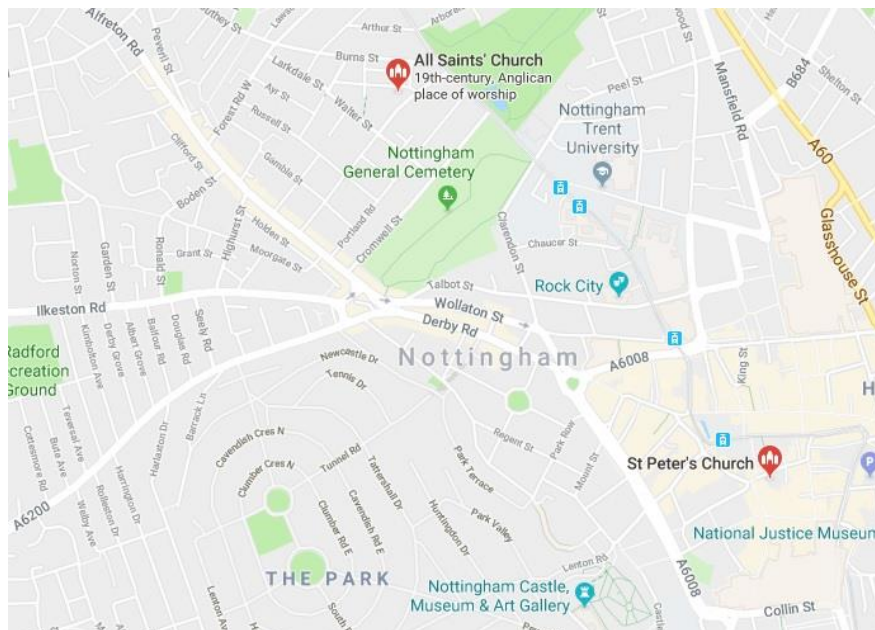


<p>PARISH CLERGY Rev. Christopher Harrison <i>Rector</i> Rev. Dr Richard Davey <i>Associate Priest</i> Rev. Anna Clarke <i>Pioneer Minister to Students at All Saints'</i> Rev. Dr Helen Hall <i>Priest with permission to officiate</i> Rev. Gill Page <i>Priest with permission to officiate</i> Rev. Owen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

CHURCHES

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

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



Spring appears finally to be here, and, as we emerge from the sombreness of Lent, the Easter season is now upon us. We celebrate the new life brought to us by Christ, rising from the dead and reconciling humanity with God in a new and unique way. The sadness of the first disciples melted away as their hope was restored, and they began to share the good news of the Gospel with renewed vigour. Unfortunately, however, our Easter joy this year is tempered by all the divisions and conflict around the world. The war in Gaza is becoming more and more entrenched, with horrendous human costs, and Ukraine remains a battleground as more and more lives are lost. Civil war in the Sudan continues to create massive suffering. It is sometimes hard to see when all this will end, but we need to hold onto our faith in a better world and do all we can in order to make this possible.



As the date of my final service in the parish approaches, however, it is natural to look back and to think back to the time in February 2009 when I was licensed as priest in charge of the churches of All Saints, St Mary and St Peter. This was always going to be a challenging post, as three distinctive churches explored how to work more closely together whilst each retaining their individual identities. The talk at the time was of a parish which was large enough to have influence within the city, but I suspect that part of the diocesan agenda was to see whether all three churches were in fact strong enough to survive. Indeed at one meeting, quite early in my time here, the then diocesan secretary said, 'I thought we were closing All Saints' (to which I firmly said, 'No, we're not').

As I began my work in the parish, I was assured that I did not need to worry about there being enough clergy to cover all the responsibilities of such a large parish. That soon changed, however, as colleagues moved to other parishes or retired. Nonetheless, we have been very fortunate to continue to have a strong team of associate clergy and other priests who have permission to officiate, all of whom have played an important role, and I am deeply indebted to all of them for the quality of their ministry. There must be many parishes which would give much to be as well served as we are. All the same, during the first part of my incumbency I did feel that I was running to stand still as I tried to keep in touch with people in all three churches, along with responding to many complex pastoral situations and tricky management needs. I soon became very aware, however, of the deep devotion to God and the Church on the part of many people in the parish, and an unstinting commitment to each of the three churches. Sadly, a fair number of these have passed on over the past fifteen years, but I remember each of them with great fondness.

When I was vicar of all three churches, it was never easy to balance the civic role of St Mary's with the emphasis on ministry to vulnerable people and the concern for social justice which lie at the heart of St Peter's and All Saints' churches. Each of these responsibilities complement each other, however, and in that respect it was sad to see the parish of three churches having to be unravelled after so much work had been put into building it up.

All the same, there are certain achievements which will remain for a long time to come, including the levelling of the floor at St Mary's, which has opened the doors to many new possibilities, and the reroofing of St Peter's and the associated heritage education project, which involved large numbers of people from the city. It is also important to recognise the transformation of All Saints' in recent years into a centre for so much that is valuable to the community, including its work over many years with asylum seekers, the support for the homeless and other people in need at SFiCE, our links with the Arimathea Trust, and the Eritrean and Hong Kong congregations. We are also most fortunate in being able to keep our doors open to all comers. More and more churches cannot do this, which sadly gives a very unfortunate message to those who come seeking to find God or to get urgent help.

At the heart of our life as a parish, however, lie our regular services, where people of all kinds of backgrounds and church traditions come together as we bring to God our hopes and dreams, sadness and sorrows. Our wonderful choir brings a high level of musicianship to our worship, alongside the dedication of all our worshippers; we must not forget that for many people church attendance also involves costly parking fees and the challenges of Sunday morning public transport. I have experienced many services in our churches over the years where the presence of God has been almost tangible as our hearts, minds and spirits have been lifted above our daily preoccupations to a realm where nothing matters except the love and peace that come from God alone.

Eva and I will miss you all enormously, and I am already coming to realise how difficult it will be to move on after fifteen deeply rewarding years in a parish which has contributed so much to the city of Nottingham and its people. I cannot begin to thank all those from our churches who have brought blessing to Eva and myself in so many ways; we will always remember you, and our time here, with heartfelt affection.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Monday 1st 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.*



School Visits to St Peter's

Thank you to all the volunteers, organised by Dorothy Mountford, who have facilitated hugely successful school visits to St Peter's over the last month. Students from Nottingham High Infant & Junior School and Rosslyn School enjoyed wonderful sessions, learning about the building and the Christian faith. This is a hugely important part of our outreach and couldn't happen without the skills and time of our volunteers. Below are a number of thank you messages from members of staff at the two schools.

I just wanted to say thank you so much for last week. The children had a wonderful time visiting your church and touching a 1000 year old wall! Everyone was so welcoming to us, it was a lovely visit.

We had such a wonderful day yesterday, thanks so much to you and all of the volunteers. The children had a brilliant time and learnt a lot about the city.

A huge thank you to you and your lovely team of volunteers for having our children last week. This is a very challenging cohort with lots of children with special educational needs, however it went really well.



*Stained glass windows made by
Year 6 students from
Nottingham High School*



Slavery Tour with 'Zig Zag Tours'

Eileen Sutton

It is always interesting to find out what connections in Nottingham we have to slavery, mostly how things were funded. This was a very informative tour which, to my pleasant surprise, took in St Peter's.

We started at NatWest Bank, where a plaque details how it used to be 'Smith's Bank'. We found out that this was funded by connections to slavery. NatWest now have a piece on their website explaining these connections. And St Peter's was next - with our memorial to the enslaved. We apparently are the only church, out of many with slavery connections, that have produced a memorial to those affected. The tour guide spoke about how important this is. The ownership of a plantation by a former Rector can't be whitewashed.



We toured through Nottingham, including Bromley House Library and various other places that had connections to funding from slavery, including the strong connection to the Lace Market, whose business owners sourced raw cotton from slave plantations. The beautiful Adams Building was built from connections with slavery. There has been a lot of work done by groups to make black people from history visible.

We saw a blue plaque on Victoria Street where George Africanus had a business. He was a freed black slave who did very well. His grave, and that of his wife, is in St Mary's and has been given a new stone and plaque. We also took in The Galleries of Justice where a plaque has been installed to commemorate Eric Irons, the first black magistrate. We then went to see a painting of him along the canal. This was very inspiring - the canals were built to move cargo from business to business, also funded with connections to slavery. It made me think most of my life has connections to funding from slavery. Almost impossible not to!

There were 30 of us on the tour and it was good to see how interested everyone was in St Peter's. Many of them had never been inside the church before.

Our Zig Zag tour of Nottingham finished at the Broadmarsh site. On the Memorial to the Enslaved at the back of church you can see a picture of the maquette of a statue 'Standing in this place' by local sculptor Rachel Carter. The full-sized statue of a cotton picker and a lace maker will stand in the rejuvenated Broadmarsh centre. It is the perfect spot for it showing the connection between our city and the cotton fields of Jamaica.

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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

'Steeple Chasing' Around Britain by Church
by Peter Ross

'Churches are all around us. They contain art and architectural wonders - one huge gallery scattered, like a handful of jewels, across these isles'

Ross dedicates his book 'To Strangers'. He explains in his preface to 'Steeple Chasing' that the words 'For Strangers Only' can be read on the doors to certain box pews in St Mary's, the church at the top of Whitby's famous 199 steps. The words indicated that these seats were for use of visitors - most likely sailors come by ship to the port town.

He goes on to say that he visited last in 2021, in a week where there had been concerns that new legislation might criminalise those, including the RLNI, who rescue migrants crossing the English Channel in overloaded vessels. 'For Strangers only' - those words painted long ago in a church overlooking the sea, speak of a better Britishness, a desire to welcome and give comfort to those who journey in need and in hope. This book also, Ross goes on to say, is for anyone 'native or newcomer, believer or sceptic, wearying for a place to rest.'

It is written in a wonderfully lyrical and accessible style which pulls in the reader from the first line of the first chapter - intriguingly called 'Darkness':

'It was the hour of the owl, the hour of the men who wear the cowl and the church was in deep winter dark'. Irresistible. The other 13 one-word chapter headings are equally intriguing in particular for this Book Worm: Cats, Bats, Fen and Wen.*

Ross starts his journey in 'Darkness' - Midwinter: among the monks of Pluscarden Abbey, Morayshire and finishes in 'Light' - Midsummer : to Holy Island for the rising sun. We travel with him via Southwark Cathedral and the life and death of that splendidly named feline Doorkins Magnificat. 'Well' takes us to the sacred springs in Glastonbury and nearer home to Ascension Day in Derbyshire.

For the paperback edition of his 'Steeple Chasing' Peter Ross wrote an additional chapter, 'Crown'. Here he takes us to Westminster Abbey, a place of 'bones and thrones' and 'objects of powerful strangeness: the funeral effigies of royals and nobles', the most extraordinary of which is Henry VII modelled on the death mask. Looking at the illustration we see the remarkably modern face of a Tudor monarch.

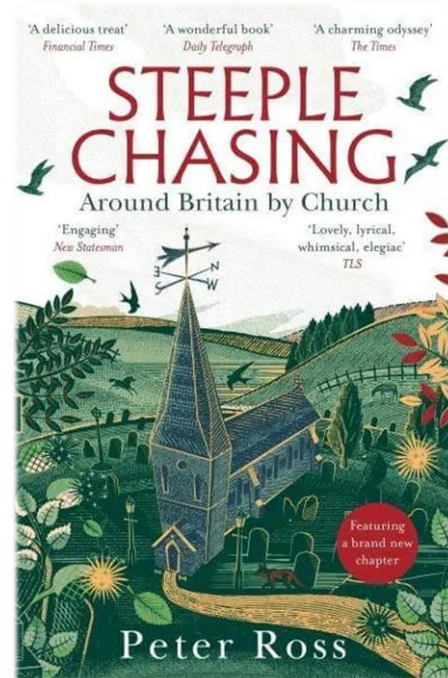
Ross leaves listening to Evensong in the Abbey:

'Evensong is an opportunity, believer or not, to experience the numinous, a chance to leave behind for a time the quarrels and weary cares of the present. What will survive of us? Love? Almost true. What will survive are the things we make - churches, music, children to express our love, our souls, our better selves'

*In case you were wondering as well as being a sort of boil 'wen' as in 'The Great Wen' is a disparaging nickname, coined by William Corbett**, for London.

** Google him!

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'



Palm Sunday at St Peter's

The Palm Sunday service at St Peter's began in the beautiful surroundings of the church garden, followed by a procession along St Peter's Gate. It was a very special service to begin Holy Week!



Photo: Phil Sherratt

Services in April

Sunday 7th	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist* Communion Service <i>Mathias</i> Christ be with me <i>Oliver Tarney</i>	St Peter's
	5.00 pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Monday 8th	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 9th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 11th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 14th	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	A service of love, life and inclusivity	St Peter's
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer with hymns <i>The Church Choir is in residence at Lincoln Cathedral this weekend</i>	St Peter's
Monday 15th	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 16th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 21st	8.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45 am	Sung Eucharist* Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo <i>Haydn</i> Ave verum <i>Mozart</i>	St Peter's
		No Evening Service today	
Monday 22nd	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 23rd	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Thursday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Sunday 28th	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	Compline	St Peter's
Monday 29th	1.15 pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 30th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15 pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's

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 Gabriel's Eritrean Church – 5.30 – 9.30 am on Sundays.

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 - please contact a member of staff if you would like to know more about this.

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 or posted to the address below – please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope,
if you are able to.



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