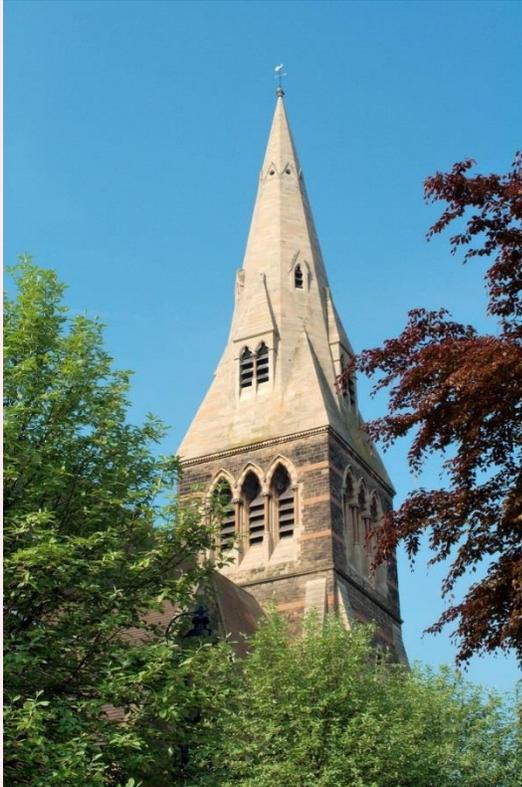


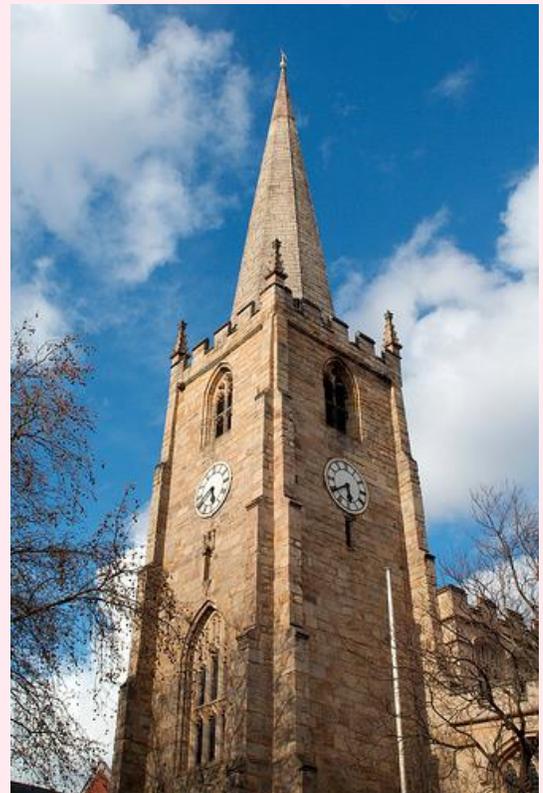


# ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



## Parish Magazine

February  
2019



*This magazine is provided free of charge but donations are invited to help cover costs; please use the donations boxes in the churches*

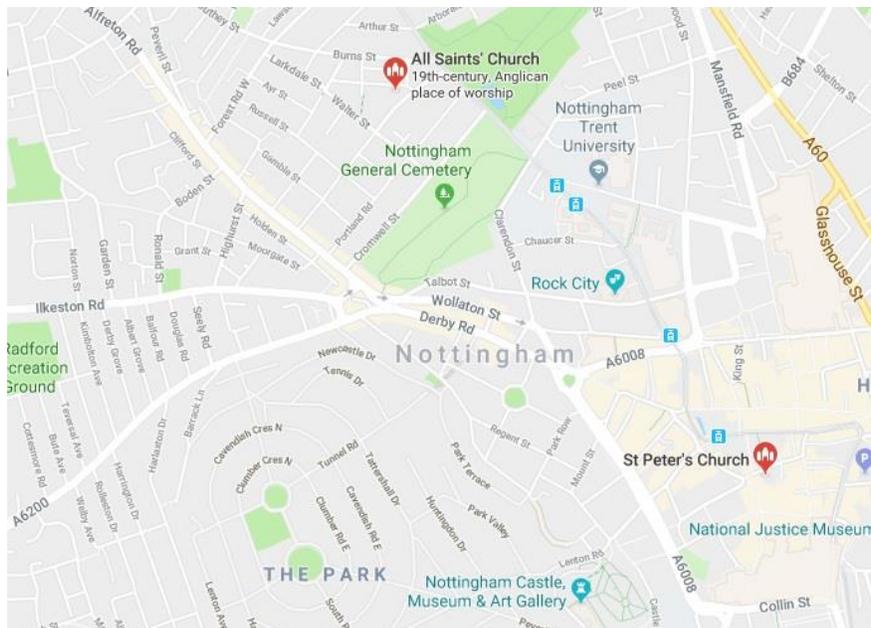
# THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



<b>PARISH CLERGY</b> Rev. Christopher Harrison, Rector Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Associate Priest Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Associate Priest Rev. James Saxton, Associate Priest	<b>PARISH READERS</b> Laurie Crawforth Clarence Rickards Chris Smedley
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<b>MINISTRY ASSISTANT</b> Jason Wratten	<b>HEAD VERGER</b> Michael Scott

## CHURCHES

St Peter’s Church, St Peter’s Square, Nottingham NG1 2NW  
 All Saints’ Church, Raleigh Street, Nottingham NG7 4DP



As February begins, the season of Epiphany draws to a close with the Feast of Candlemas, and we begin to set our sights on Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. In the meantime, there are a number of events during the coming weeks which are of particular importance:



- On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February we are delighted to welcome Javier García Oliva, friend and colleague of Rev Dr Helen Hall, as our guest speaker at the 10.45 am service at St Peter's. Javier and Helen have recently collaborated on a book entitled "Religion, Law and the Constitution: Balancing Beliefs in Britain".
- Two weeks later, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February, the preacher at the 10.45 am service at St Peter's will be Father Neil Roberts, Chaplain of Repton School. Fr Neil has been a school head of Religion and Philosophy and involved in the Benedictine movement. I am grateful to Peter Siepmann, who is head of academic music at Repton alongside being our Director of Music, for helping to arrange this.
- Also on 24<sup>th</sup> February, at 4.00 pm at All Saints' Church, we will again be holding an Occasion to Commemorate Homeless People who have died, in partnership with Emmanuel House and Framework. With homelessness and the factors contributing to it becoming more and more acute, this event provides an opportunity to show respect to people who, both in life and in death, had been on the margins of mainstream society.

In similar vein, I commend to you the article about homelessness, contained in this magazine, by Louise Wilkins from the Drop-In for rough sleepers and homeless people which meets at St Peter's every Wednesday morning. The article is based on a moving talk which Lou gave at St Peter's on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Do support the work of the Drop-in, in the ways suggested by Lou, as we work together to develop further this most valuable ministry to some of Nottingham's people who are in the most acute need.

Another group of people, many of whom are in very difficult circumstances, is the Women of Faith group of asylum seekers and refugees who meet at All Saints' Church on the first Thursday of every month for a shared meal and other activities. I am delighted to be able to announce that, thanks largely to the efforts of Courtney Smith and the group leader, Salani Mutseyami, a grant of £1,000 has been received to enable members of the group to offer training in cookery skills to others in the community. Five group members will be trained in food hygiene, and improved facilities will be installed in All Saints' Church to enable the cookery training sessions to take place. These will be a valuable opportunity for members of the Women of Faith group to work together on a common project which will benefit others.

I encourage you also to look out for details of the forthcoming launch of a new community choir, which will be based at All Saints' Church and will be led by the musician Freddie Kofi. I am delighted to be able to support Freddie in this new venture, as part of Freddie's wider involvement in the life of the parish over the coming months. Freddie, who comes from a Pentecostal background but who is now exploring his vocation in the Anglican Church, brings a wide range of musical and other gifts.

Alongside these developments in the ministry and mission of our parish, however, we should not forget that at the heart of our faith lie the need for continual prayer and the deepening of our faith. Prayer for one another brings us together just as much, if not more so, as our social activities and our sharing in ministry. Do, therefore, remember to pray for those whose names are included in the prayer list on the weekly notice sheet. It doesn't matter if you do not know the people concerned; your prayers still matter to God. We have also begun to make available copies of the prayer list which is used at the weekly Thursday communion service; those who come for coffee after that service are now invited to take this list home so that they can continue in prayer for those on the list during the following days. Look out, also, for details of this year's Lent course, which will consist of lunchtime talks on the relationship between prayer and poetry, art, mental health, creation and inclusiveness.

Finally - the weekly Bible study group which takes place after the Thursday communion service has now completed its study of the Gospel of St John and will now be looking at the Book of Psalms. All are welcome to this group, which meets in the St James' room at St Peter's Church from 12.15 - 1.00 pm on Thursdays.

## Dates for Your Diary

### Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday 5th March 2019

**What?** The Overseas Committee Annual Pancake Party with sweet and savoury pancakes to order with a variety of toppings. Tea, coffee and fruit juices are served.

There will be quiz with a prize for the winning table, this is an opportunity to meet informally with others in our Parish and from St Mary's and have a feast and some fun.

**When and Where?** Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 6:30pm in the Coffee Room at St Peter's.

**How much?** Donations are welcome towards the cost of catering and the Overseas Committee's funds: this year we are supporting 'Five Talents', Our CMS Partners in South East Asia and CARF UK (Children at Risk Foundation) working with street children in Brazil.

There will be sign-up sheets in the back of our churches from the beginning of February for you to indicate that you will be attending.

### Ascension Day: Thursday 30th May 2019

This is last day of the Overseas Committee Silver Smarties Scheme launched on Advent Sunday. Over 60 tubes of smarties have been given out- once eaten the empty tube conveniently takes as many 20pence pieces as you can spare or find in your change!

You have already done marvellously well with your twenty pence pieces, we have raised over £160 between us: the three churches of All Saints', St Mary's and St Peter's.

Should you like to take part there is still lots of time for you to ask for a tube of smarties (or two) from any member of the Overseas Committee.

### The Work of The Overseas Committee:

This group meets every other month to share concerns for our wider world. Currently, we are already considering where our support should go in 2020. We would love your input into this decision making so would ask you to let us know which of the following charities you feel it would be appropriate for our churches to support in the course of that year:

Leprosy Mission  
Toilet Twinning  
Mercy Ships  
CARF UK  
Our CMS Partners

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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## Mothers' Union

### 16th February

Mothers' Union Meeting at All Saints', 10.00 for 10.30am.

MULO: Mothers' Union - Listening Observing Acting

This is the name being used to explore the essence of what it is to be Mothers' Union.

The speaker is Pauline Wainwright.

### 4th March

Archdeaonry Meeting, 10.00 for 10.30am St Jude's, Mapperley.

A message from Mary Davey, our MU Branch Leader:

*I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers and support, which have been a great comfort to me after the recent sad death of my husband John.*



## Composer of the month

*Peter Siepmann*

The choral music set for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February is all by Grayston Ives (b. 1948). St Peter's Choir first learned and performed Ives' quirky Missa Brevis when we had the privilege of leading the Sung Eucharist for Corpus Christi at Southwell Minster last May. I had been looking for a contemporary setting of the Mass that would present the choir with a reasonable (but not insurmountable!) challenge, and the Ives (in fact suggested to me by Simon Hogan at Southwell) fit the bill very nicely. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> we will pair the Kyrie and Agnus from the Missa Brevis with Ives' setting of text from the Beatitudes.

Readers may be familiar with the work of Bill Ives, a former member of The King's Singers and, for eighteen years, Director of Music (or Informator Choristarum to use the proper, and wonderfully archaic title!) at Magdalen College, Oxford. In fact, they are one in the same man: 'Grayston' when writing, 'Bill' when singing or conducting!

Dr Ives was a chorister at Ely Cathedral and studied music at Cambridge before joining The King's Singers, with whom he recorded and performed worldwide. As a composer, Ives' work consists mainly of sacred and secular music for choir, much of it written for the liturgy at Magdalen.

For his contribution to church music, Ives was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal School of Church Music (May 2008) and a Lambeth Doctorate in Music (July 2008).



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## Prayers for February

*Rev. James Saxton*

'I have seen the sun break through  
To illuminate a small field  
For a while, and gone my way  
And forgotten it. But that was the pearl  
Of great price.....'

R. S. Thomas 'The Bright Field'

Soon it will be Lent, and to keep Lent is to turn aside from the ordinary routines of our personal lives, and reflect as to what is going on in our lives, and the world, and ask ourselves what is really significant.

So we pray:

To put time and space aside for Lent  
For diligence in the study of Scripture  
To find time to care for the marginalised, the oppressed, the forgotten, those whom we have hurt in any way  
For a disposition to let go of the things that 'shackle' us.

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that we may spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord, and may those seeds of your Word, which have been long buried within us, grow, like everything around us, into love for you, and love for people; to become a visible declaration of your presence in our lives. Grant Father, that this Lent there may be a spring time for our life in Christ.

We continue to pray for peace for ourselves, for our communities, for the world.

We pray for a new renewed sense of vision for our Churches. Spirit of God, you call your people to patient endurance that we might not fail in times of testing, that we may not grow weary in well-doing, that we should not abandon your love. Help us to find our constant inspiration in you that a lamp may be kept burning as we witness to your grace, and hold all people in our prayers.

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	11.00am	Coffee Break Concert Reuben Tendler, horn Angela Foan, piano	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.45am	Matins* Responses <i>Radcliffe</i> Te Deum 'Collegium Regale' <i>Howells</i> Nunc dimittis 'Collegium Regale' <i>Howells</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Coffee Break Concert saraBande	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9.45am	Family Service	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist Speaker: Dr Javier García Oliva	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Evensong* Responses <i>Tomkins</i> Murrill in E Sing joyfully <i>Byrd</i>	St Peter's
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Coffee Break Concert James Gaughan, baritone Matthew Collins, piano	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie & Agnus Dei (Missa Brevis) <i>Ives</i> Beati mundo corde <i>Ives</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's

<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	11.00am	Coffee Break Concert Scarlet	St Peter's
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Kyrie & Agnus Dei 'O quam gloriosum' <i>Victoria</i> Jesu dulcis memoria <i>Victoria</i>	
	4.00pm	Service to commemorate homeless people who have died	All Saints'
	5.00pm	Compline* Let nothing trouble you <i>Farrell</i> Kyrie <i>Jackson</i> Nunc dimittis VIII Ave regina caelorum	St Peter's
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'

**An Occasion  
for Remembering**

Sunday 24th February, 4pm  
All Saint's Church, Raleigh Street,  
Nottingham, NG7 4DP



An occasion for remembering those who have died  
and been homeless

For further details contact [office@nottinghamchurches.org](mailto:office@nottinghamchurches.org) or tel. 0115 948 3858





Magazine contributions are  
welcomed by **20<sup>th</sup> of the month**  
to Adele Siepmann:  
[office@nottinghamchurches.org](mailto:office@nottinghamchurches.org)

If you don't have access to  
email, hand written pieces will  
be accepted!

*Please note that it may not be  
possible to include all submissions*

# HOMELESSNESS AND THE ST PETER'S DROP-IN

*By Louise Wilkins*

*Talk given by Louise Wilkins from the Nottingham Health Shop at St Peter's Church, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

Running for nearly 20 years, the Rough Sleepers Breakfast provides a weekly service for some of the most vulnerable people in our city. It is provided in partnership by The Health Shop and Emmanuel House and operates in the room at the back of this church.

Due to the generosity of St Peter's Church, its parishioners, other supporters and our wonderful volunteers and mentors, the session offers a basic breakfast, hot drinks, access to socks and warm clothes. While they attend for breakfast we can support people around drug and alcohol use and link them in with services. Hannah from the Wellbeing Team based Emmanuel House provides outreach to improve mental health and wellbeing.

But it's more than that; it supports people where they are in their lives without judgement. It is a beacon for those who need help and don't know where to go. It's continuity in an unstable world, it's a friendly face - we have worked in this field for a long time and have built a lot of trust and relationships with service users over the years, it's acceptance in a place where people aren't always accepted, it's not giving up on anyone.

I'm sure you have read and heard about homelessness increasing nationally and sadly Nottingham is no exception. I have worked in this field for nearly 20 years and I have never seen the situation as bad as it is now. The reasons a person becomes homeless are multi-faceted. I have seen it affect men, women and children from all walks of life.

Jesus spoke about welcoming strangers, providing food, something to drink and care for those who are poor - this is what the Rough Sleepers Breakfast does every week for people who need this so much. And through your generosity you too provide this - it's a bit like being virtual neighbours - you just might never get to meet the people you help in person.

These words from a service user attending the drop-in echo this:

"The drop-in helps with food when we are hungry, gives us a bit of energy for a boost to carry on. It's somewhere to go when nowhere else is open."

We have managed to get very poorly people to go to hospital, supported people experiencing significant domestic abuse, provided sleeping bags and blankets and given life-saving medication.

Quite often, people are most generous around Christmas time - each year Sarah from The Health Shop coordinates the annual Christmas breakfast where we provide a full cooked breakfast, food parcels, Christmas presents and other items to approximately 60 people, all from the small side room attached to the church - again we are grateful for all the donations we were given to make this happen each year.

We want to offer more on Wednesday lunch times - this includes access to a wider number of services, as many of the people attending find it difficult to go to mainstream services. By increasing provision we can prevent ill-health becoming more significant, putting extra pressure on secondary care (like hospitals) and making already vulnerable people more vulnerable. We know that many of our service users use food banks but sometimes access to these can be difficult - we have managed to provide food parcels for the last few weeks but our supplies are running low now.

The drop-in runs on a small budget which we fundraise ourselves and through kind donations; thank you to all those who give in whatever way they can. We always welcome donations of long life items, especially those which enable people with no electricity or gas to eat - tinned meals etc, biscuits and cakes (our service users often have a sweet tooth), men's socks gloves and hats, women's sanitary products or financial donations to buy any of these things. A lot of what I've spoken about are basic human needs - I've seen so many people in such desperate situations. People coming to the drop-in after leaving hospital or prison with nothing but the clothes they are standing in.

So finally, I need to say thank you. Thank you to the church for enabling the drop-in to operate for so many years, free of charge - with all the cuts experienced by Nottingham city, having something that has remained so constant for so long is rare. Thanks especially to Michael and Christopher and the rest of the staff at St Peter's for their continued support and thank you to you for being good neighbours.

## Introducing...Alan Franks

### Parish Manager

Since I started singing in the choir of St Peter's Church, I have been made to feel very welcome and have made many friends. When it was announced that Wendy Pearce, the Parish Administrator, was retiring and that there would be a vacancy for someone to become the Parish Manager, I felt the calling to contribute to a much wider range of the mission of the Parish of St Peter and All Saints, so I applied for the position. So, here I am, your new Parish Manager.



My background is in education: I taught Mathematics up to A level at Redhill School, Arnold, and later, the Minster School in Southwell. I retired from teaching and took up administration for the Mathematics Department at the Minster School.

My musical background is mainly choral, having sung in several local church and other choirs, including St Mary's Nottingham, and Southwell Minster. In the 1980s I was organist and choirmaster at St Martin's, Sherwood. I am an average ability pianist.

Other than music, my hobbies include reading, astronomy and other sciences, doing jigsaws, and UK holidays.

I aim to emulate the wonderful work that Wendy did for you and the Parish, but it will be a difficult act to follow! If you haven't already done so, please do introduce yourself to me.

*Alan Franks*

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## HeartEdge

Some months ago, a new network of churches known as 'HeartEdge' came to the notice of our parish. This network was established recently by St Martin in the Fields church in London, in order to develop links between churches which could identify with the vision of a Church which is called by God to be in the heart of society but also on the edge. A few members of our churches have made an exploratory visit to St Martin's to meet with some of the co-ordinators of the HeartEdge network; PCC members have also attended two conferences run by HeartEdge. These events, and the network generally, have been designed to help churches to develop their ministry around the themes of the four 'Cs' of commerce, culture, congregation and compassion.



The PCC of this parish has decided that we should become members of the HeartEdge network, and we are currently developing our relationship with St Martin's church in this regard. Jason Wratten, our ministry assistant, attends monthly study meetings at St Martin's through being part of the Sheppard Scholars scheme set up last year by HeartEdge. Plans are being put in place for a Consultancy Day in which members of other HeartEdge churches will visit our parish to offer suggestions and ideas for the development of our ministry and mission.

Further details of the ethos and vision of HeartEdge are given in the document overleaf; do also visit [www.heartedge.org](http://www.heartedge.org)

A monthly newsletter for the HeartEdge network can also be found at

<https://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=3c49876c902f5b7ddcf73b9e3&id=3b2bbb76e1>

This gives a wealth of information about the development of HeartEdge and events in member churches.

## HeartEdge | Introduction

Growing movement via network, communication and resource



### HeartEdge:

The church is getting smaller; and it's getting narrower. HeartEdge asks, 'How do you feel about that? What are you doing about it?' – and provides ways to turn convictions into actions.

### About HeartEdge:

Initiated by the congregation at St Martin-in-the-Fields in 2017, HeartEdge is:

1. *A membership-based organisation* building association, learning, development and resource with churches and other organisations working in the UK and overseas.
2. *An ecumenical network*, bringing churches and church related organisations together to share ideas, make connections, do theology and develop mission.
3. *A movement for renewal* fuelled by the interest and agenda of active members, encouraged to participate, sharing their assets, experience, resource and needs.
4. *Informed by belief* that a) The Bible was written in exile and the first disciples saw God most fully present on the cross – so adversity is the principal time of depth and discovery for the church b) Jesus makes himself present most reliably in those on whom the world turns its back.

HeartEdge is about churches developing four Cs:

1. *Commerce*: Generating finance via enterprise.
2. *Culture*: Art, music, performance re-imagining the Christian narrative for the present.
3. *Congregation*: Liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life.
4. *Compassion*: Addressing social need via our congregations.

We think nurturing each of these is essential for renewal of the church.

### Catalysing kingdom communities:

We function as a network and a brokerage, enabling churches to make connections together.

- HeartEdge is a movement with thousands of churches, clergy, volunteers and workers; dispersed, often disconnected doing vital work in challenging circumstances.
- HeartEdge is practiced in a gospel longing for heaven to come to earth; built on mutual solidarity; discovering gifts in the stranger, seeking to be a blessing to a whole society.

### How it works:

- Churches become members, completing a brief application form.
- Annual membership subscription from £50 upwards contributes to running costs.
- HeartEdge works with members to identify their assets – knowledge, insight, skills and experience, alongside issues and obstacles being worked through.
- We work with HeartEdge Hub Churches to establish ways for members to participate, access resource and find support; via consultancy, workshop, meet-ups and website.

### Resources:

Inspired by vision, we think networks, communication and resource grow movement:

1. *HeartEdge publications*, and monthly email offer insight, news, links and resource.
2. *HeartEdge Day*, offers theology, practical ideas and connections; an intensive bespoke programme focused on mission and our four Cs. Contributors, all practitioners learning by doing, experts by experience. A moment to share insights, learning, experience, ideas.
3. *HeartEdge Workshops*, are practical half-days focused on aspects of one of our four Cs.
4. *HeartEdge Consultancy*, is a half-day at your church, focused around your questions, experience and concerns. A time to go deeper into issues defined by you, sharing with guest practitioners, people learning by doing, experts by experience. From sharing together, new ideas emerge to take away, inspire and equip, resulting in development.
5. *HeartEdge Meet-Ups*, enable members to find and meet up with others sharing similar contexts and challenges, to ask questions and find answers and support.

**To find out more or join HeartEdge contact:** Revd Jonathan Evens, Associate Vicar  
Partnership Development – Tel: 020 7766 1127. Email: [jonathan.evens@smitf.org](mailto:jonathan.evens@smitf.org).

## **Book Review: 'Ethnicity: The Inclusive Church Resource'** *Christopher Harrison including a Theology of Ethnicity by Rev Michael Jagessar*

*This is the first of a group of reviews which will look at a series of books which have been commissioned by the organisation 'Inclusive Church', whose statement of belief is as follows:*

*We believe in inclusive church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical activity, race or sexuality. We believe in church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.*

*Each of the six books in this series focuses on one of the areas of inclusiveness which are mentioned in the above statement of belief. These reviews are offered as a means of enabling us to reflect and act upon issues of inclusiveness in our own parish.*

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This book is introduced by Rev Rosemary Mallett, who is a Barbadian-British parish priest in inner city London, and also a member of the Church of England's General Synod. She mentions the encouraging progress which has been made in welcoming people of non-white backgrounds into Anglican churches, stressing that diversity within churches is something which should be celebrated. Diversity brings cultural richness to congregations and should promote greater mutual understanding. In spite of this, however, people from non-white backgrounds remain under-represented in church leadership at all levels.

There follow some disturbing stories given by Christians in this country who have experienced prejudice arising from their racial background. One contributor arrived from Nigeria some years ago, and was shocked to find that the churches in the UK were far more divided along ethnic lines than she had expected. You wouldn't expect, for example, a 'Women's Church', or a 'Manchester United Supporters' Church', so why should there be 'Black majority churches' or 'Polish churches'? It may be natural for those of similar background to wish to worship together, but there is always a risk that this will reinforce existing social divisions rather than reflect the unity which all Christians have in Christ.

Another contributor says that she prefers the term 'mixed parentage' to 'mixed race' because 'we all belong to one human race'. 'Dual heritage', she adds, is another phrase which does justice to the situation of those from a combination of parental backgrounds. She experienced prejudice in her church when she was a child, but remarks that those who behaved in an unwelcoming way towards her probably did so just as much because they didn't want to see children in church as because she was of a non-white background. She highlights the particular difficulties faced by those of dual heritage background, who can be victims of prejudice from both sides of their racial heritage. There is always a risk, she adds, that we can use language thoughtlessly; using 'black' to refer to something negative, for example, can be very distressing to some people.

The book includes the story of an Indian woman, married to a vicar, who was regularly left on the edge of church and social circles. Someone in the street once said to her, when she was in the front garden of the vicarage, 'This house used to be a vicarage'. She has been regularly surprised to see how few people know that there are more Christians in India than in the UK and that Christianity reached India before it reached Britain.

Rev Michael Jagessar then outlines a theology of ethnicity whose key theme is that of the 'Rainbow Tapestry, or God's Mosaic'. This vivid image of diversity in society and in the Church is especially relevant at a time when divisions along ethnic lines are, if anything, becoming more pronounced in the UK. He starts from the Biblical premise that all of humankind has been created in the image and likeness of God, which means that although the peoples of the world are different from one another, there is also a fundamental unity, equality and interdependency between races. The principles of hospitality and welcome to those of other backgrounds from our own also lie at the heart of Scripture, as does the image of the Church as one body, where injustice, if suffered by one part, diminishes the body as a whole.

This powerful book rightly describes the progress which has been made in bringing about a mature approach to diversity within the churches of this country. There is still, however, some way to go before the Church as a whole sees diversity as the norm, not the exception, in God's kingdom.

## Regular Activities in our Churches

*For regular services, see the calendar pages in this magazine*

### 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.

### St Peter's:

- Rough Sleepers' Drop-in: 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

ST PETER'S CENTRE

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