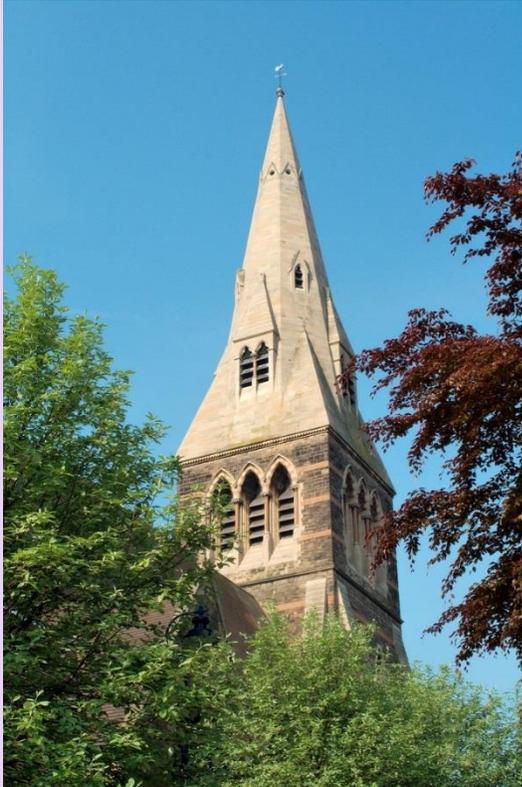


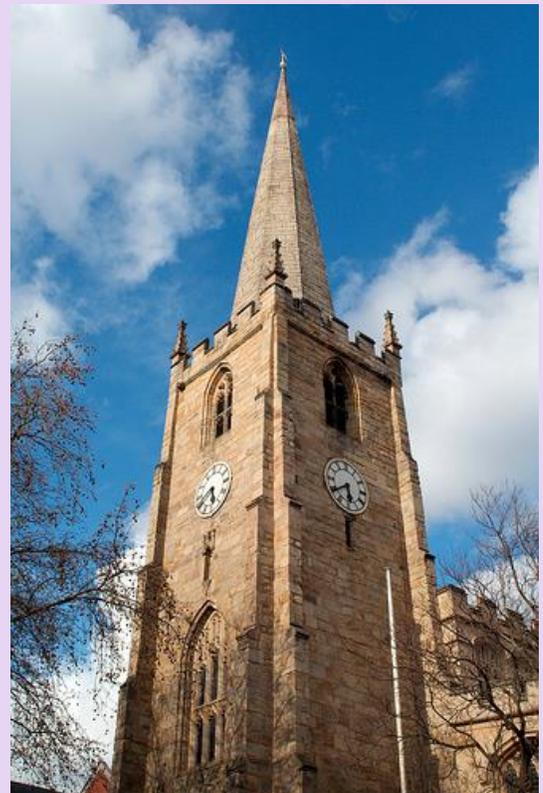


# ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



## Parish Magazine

September  
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



<p><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</p>	<p><b>PARISH READERS</b>                  Laurie Crawforth                  Clarence Rickards                  Chris Smedley</p>
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## 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*

With the recent death of the Reverend Paul Watts, following Norman Todd's demise earlier this year, our parish has now lost two of its elder statesmen in the past few months. We will say our formal farewells to Paul at his funeral service in All Saints' church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 10.45 am. Ruth Shelton will give the sermon at this service.



All Saints' church was built in the 1860s at a time when Nottingham's prosperity was growing strongly, and when the area to the north of the city centre was expanding. For many years before the First World War, congregational numbers at All Saints' were large, and the mission and ministry of the church in its parish were extensive and well resourced. During the inter-war period and the years after the Second World War, however, All Saints' began to face the challenges of the wider national decline in church attendance, coupled with the considerable social changes which began to affect the parish. Wealth and income levels in the streets surrounding All Saints' began to decline and for many years the parish suffered from planning blight. In the 1950s and 1960s a considerable proportion of the people from the West Indies who came to Nottingham lived in the area around the church, and some became very involved in All Saints'. Their valuable contribution and their connection with All Saints' still remain today.

Paul Watts served as Vicar of All Saints' church in the mid-1980s. He made strenuous efforts to develop the role which the church played in the local community and economy, by setting up training programmes and similar projects in partnership with organisations, including those in the public sector, which offered resources for such a response to urban decline. This was the era of 'Faith in the City', a major Church of England report into the causes of urban problems. This report proposed a range of ways in which the Church could help to counter the challenges posed by poverty and wider forms of deprivation, racism, low educational achievement, poor health and similar forms of social need.

'Faith in the City' was a deliberate attempt by the Church of England to reassert the relevance of the Church to urban communities, many of which had become under-resourced and had fallen into a downward spiral of decay. As we reflect upon Paul Watts' contribution to the work of All Saints' Church and the city of Nottingham as a whole, we should salute his determination to bring together the prophetic message of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the needs of an area which for many years had suffered from deprivation indicators which were amongst the worst in Nottingham and indeed the whole country.

What is known to fewer people, though, is that over the years Paul Watts also developed a valuable ministry in the field of contemplative prayer and meditation. The contrast between a spiritual life which was rooted in silence, and in a search for glimpses of a deeper reality through bodily inaction, on the one hand, and the rough and tumble of ministry in the demanding arenas in which Paul worked, is profound. Maybe, however, this balance between two extremes in his life was necessary and even inevitable. A busy ministry needs times of withdrawal from the world, not just for the purposes of inner renewal, but in order that one may be able to see more clearly what the priorities of service to Church and community should involve.

The mission and ministry which we pursue at All Saints' today have not lost sight of the legacy which has been left to us by Paul Watts and Norman Todd. We endeavour to balance activities in the local community with forms of prayer and worship which involve elements of silence and contemplative prayer, largely within the context of the celebration of the Eucharist. It is around the Lord's table, to which each person is invited regardless of income level, gender, race, sexual orientation or any other identifying factor, that we all bring before God our personal striving and disappointments, our sadness as well our hopes. At All Saints' we pray regularly for those who live and work in each of the streets of the parish, reflecting our mission which takes place beyond the walls of the church just as much as within it.

Even though congregational numbers at All Saints' Church are not enormous, I believe that they are not out of line with attendance levels at many churches around the country. As at St Peter's, however, the numbers of those who have been touched by the mission of All Saints' over the years are considerably higher than congregational numbers alone, and we must never forget the contribution made by Paul Watts in this regard. May his legacy endure for many years to come.

# Community environmental initiative: guilt free cup of tea

Steph Lax

I walked past a cycle repair shop recently that had a banner of an H. G. Wells quotation:  
"Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race."

There's a tea shop called Bird and Blend Tea Co. ([birdandblendtea.com](http://birdandblendtea.com)) just off the Old Market Square towards the Lace Market along the tram line. It is a chain, although a very small one, and the owners grew up in Nottingham (in fact one worshipped at St Leonard's Church Wollaton for a while, and went to the same primary and secondary schools as my sister and I). If you like weird and wacky tea flavours, want a new place to have a quiet cuppa with a friend, or are out of ideas for a gift, they're well worth a visit. The staff are nice too. But the reason I mention them is that they've recently pledged to plant a tree for every disposable cup taken away. A tree for every single disposable cup. They reckon they'll plant 40,000 trees a year, absorbing the equivalent CO2 of 42 million miles in an average diesel car over their lifetimes, plus you also get 50p off the price of your tea if you take your own cup.

Of course it's not just about planting trees; there's still much to do to reduce our fossil fuel consumption, tackle deforestation, and to change our lifestyles in many ways, but it is certainly part of the package. Businesses like Bird and Blend Tea Co., and incidentally also adults on bicycles\*, make me no longer despair for the future of the human race.

\*Do you ride a bike? Check out this community initiative near to All Saints':  
<http://www.nottinghambikeworks.org/>

Please share our survey using the links provided, print copies available on request; it'll take less than 5 minutes and it's already getting us talking, sharing ideas, and trying new positive and practical things. Do you have a positive and practical suggestion for how we can be 'greener'? Have you tried somewhere we haven't mentioned that you'd be willing to review for us? We'd love to hear from you at [caringforourcommonhome@nottinghamchurches.org](mailto:caringforourcommonhome@nottinghamchurches.org).



surveymonkey.com/r/5TXQDN6

## Recycling at St Peter's (under the green table at the back of church):

- Foil (foil and foil trays only please, not silver plastic film or foil coated plastic)
- Plastic bottle tops
- Dental stuff (toothbrushes, paste and packaging, but not toothpaste pumps, bamboo brushes or electronic toothbrush heads)
- Baby food pouches
- Glass jam jars - enough have now been collected for the Diocesan Mission events in September, thanks.

More helping hands, particularly to take away foil for recycling in Erewash, would be much appreciated. Bottle tops can be taken either to Lush or to St Paul's Wilford Hill, who are happy to take larger amounts. Dental, baby food and jam jars are covered, thanks.

## Recommendations from community members

1. <https://theclevercactus.com> for eco-friendly personal care, home, baby and gift alternatives.
2. The Bottle Top in Ruddington (High Street, in the old Thomas' fruit & veg shop) for plastic free cupboard essentials (e.g. pasta, rice, dried fruit, nuts, spices), home products (e.g. washing powder, washing up liquid, fabric conditioner), and fruit and veg.

## Campaigning opportunities

Tell the new government how you feel about fracking:  
[act.friendsoftheearth.uk/protest/tell-new-government-not-frack-it](http://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/protest/tell-new-government-not-frack-it)

Petition for a charge for single-use cups: [secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/throwaway-cup-levy](http://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/throwaway-cup-levy)

Petition for plastic free football: [act.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/get-pointless-plastic-out-football](http://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/get-pointless-plastic-out-football)

Support the global climate strike on 20th September: [ukscn.org/](http://ukscn.org/)

Petition against the use of palm oil and soy as biofuels:  
[rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1183/stop-palm-oil-and-soy-biofuels-now](http://rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1183/stop-palm-oil-and-soy-biofuels-now)

## Heritage Bid Update

Dorothy Mountford

We are fast approaching the deadline for the submission of our bid to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. There is still a lot of evidence to collect and proposal plans to complete. The date for pressing the button and sending off the bid form is Tuesday 19th November. Within eight weeks we will know if we have been successful.



One of our major outreach activities is the work we propose to do with the children from Victoria School. As part of a pilot scheme to get this up and running we will be welcoming two year 6 classes to St Peter's on Friday 27th September for 'A Heritage Day'. Bonetta and Bridgetower classes are named after eminent Victorians. In the morning while Bonetta Class visit the Broadmarsh Caves, Bridgetower Class will learn about St Peter's important place in Nottingham's history and heritage.

Alan Franks will tell the grim story of 1140 when Queen Matilda's troops torched the town in retribution for their failure to storm the castle. The parishioners all took refuge in the church where they were massacred. By 1180 the building we know and love had begun to rise on the rocky outcrop above the scene of devastation. The tale of the medieval church is taken up by Julie Gardner and passed onto Helen Hall. She will tell them about Nottingham in the time of the English Civil War, when Nottingham was held by the Parliamentarians and Newark by the King's men. Jane Moore will share with the eleven year olds something about the people whose names are on the war memorial; for example Annie Freeman, the only woman, who was killed on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1918 in the Chilwell Munitions explosion. She had been a Canary Girl.

We hope that 'The Horrid History' of St Peter's will interest and excite the children. However, we also want the warm welcome they will receive from their activity leaders and guides: Bridgett Spalding, Anne Hardy, Keith Mountford and Mary Davey, to encourage them to come back bringing their parents and friends to visit the church in order to find out more about us.

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## St Peter's Church Choir in Riga

Peter Siepmann

The Choir of St Peter's visited Riga, the capital of Latvia for a short concert tour during the second weekend of August. The promise of a temperate climate and a culture where choral music is enthusiastically received was richly fulfilled in a truly inspiring visit.

Our first concert was at St John's Church where choral music by a range of British composers was interspersed with a selection of organ music played by Paul Hale (Organist Emeritus of Southwell Minster). A large and attentive audience gave choir and organist a standing ovation.

Saturday's concert was given in the cavernous space of St Peter's Church (pictured) to an audience of over 250. With no organ in the church, a slightly different selection of repertoire was needed, and at the heart of the programme stood Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, accompanied at the piano by Angela Foan with baritone soloist Ben Watkins, fresh from his first year as a member of the famous choir of Magdalen College Oxford.



Our final performance, on the Sunday evening, presented the same programme as Friday's concert, but this time to a paying audience in the city's cathedral, internationally renowned for its enormous Walcker organ, from which Paul Hale drew a stunning spectrum of colours. Though it is difficult to be sure about these things, I am reasonably confident that this concert featured some of the highest quality music making I have yet experienced with St Peter's Choir, and whilst acknowledging that this trip involved a significant number of guest choristers, I think we all felt that a new benchmark had been reached as we came off stage at Riga Cathedral, and returned home after a wonderful trip, both musically and socially.

## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Matins* Responses <i>Smith</i> Te Deum in G <i>Sumsion</i> A prayer of St Patrick <i>Rutter</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Gospel Choir Rehearsal	All Saints'
	5.00pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Sunday 8<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	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Evensong* Responses <i>Lucas</i> Noble in b Te lucis ante terminum <i>Balfour Gardiner</i>	St Peter's
	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	6.30pm	Public Debate - 'Climate and Ecological Emergency: The time is NOW, not 2045'.	St Peter's
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	12noon	Parish Picnic	All Saints'
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie & Agnus Dei in four voices <i>Byrd</i> Almighty and everlasting God <i>Gibbons</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Gospel Choir Rehearsal	All Saints'
	5.00pm	Taizé Service	St Peters'

<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union Meeting	All Saints'
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</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> Brother, sister let me serve you <i>Patterson</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Compline* Jesu dulcis memoria <i>Victoria</i> Kyrie 'O quam gloriosum' <i>Victoria</i> Nunc dimittis <i>Victoria</i> Salve Regina a 5 <i>Victoria</i>	St Peter's
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist* Missa 'O quam gloriosum' <i>Victoria</i> O quam gloriosum <i>Victoria</i>	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's
	5.00pm	<i>No service this evening</i>	

Magazine contributions are welcomed by **20<sup>th</sup> of the month** to Adele Siepmann:  
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*

## The Reverend Canon Norman Todd

*Sanjay Brown*

I met Norman Todd when I returned to the Church of England after several years of youthful inactivity, vacillation and contemplation. I had just joined a new church on the outskirts of my home city and as I got used to the format, its idiosyncrasies and my fellow congregation members, one person stuck out to me in particular. As I came back from communion I would see a man kneeling down in fervent prayer, head bowed and hands clutched together tightly with an intensity I'd never seen in worship before. As the weeks and months went on and my own faith began to re-establish itself, I realised this man had found something that I was looking for in my own religious life. Like a spiritual child, I began to pray as he prayed, in the hope that I could find what he had found and surely enough, slowly found the beginnings of this same peace. As time went on I began to speak to the man whose example I had followed and this was Norman Todd (or Reverend Canon Norman Todd to give him his full title).

Norman had lived an extraordinary long life, seeing action in World War II, as well as spending much of his life as a parish priest and adviser on clergy training. He was very obviously a person who had lived in Christ for many years, and who had reached his 94<sup>th</sup> year by the time I met him. As someone who began to think of a future in the clergy himself, I asked Norman for some advice, and he gave me as much time as he could, always with the proviso that he only had a short time left to live, so not to get too attached. He invited me into his house, recommended me a hundred books and listened patiently as I talked about my hopes and fears knowing I would always get an honest, patient and caring audience.

A church is one of the best places for people of all ages to talk to each other at length and depth in a world that can sometimes seem divided along generational lines, and Norman was able to reach across to me from across a distance of a lifetime and give me directions towards a deeper understanding of my faith and the vital meditative elements of Christian practice. His experience and knowledge were like a rock that had been worn smooth by years of the waters of faith flowing past it, and that is a remarkable thing for a young person to see and experience. He passed away earlier this year on the Greek Orthodox Easter Sunday, and I wrote this piece as an expression of my gratitude for my friend Norman.

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## Prayers for September

*Reverend James Saxton*

There are times when we feel it is difficult to pray:

When alone and lonely

When we don't know what to say or how to convey our feelings

When we doubt the God who is involved – in the ordinary moments and those moments of hurting.

My Loving God – sometimes I don't what to say or feel – the world is so complex. We pray for the things they don't understand or all who face moments of transition, young people going to College and University, young people who have faced failure and people who are engaging with complexity of this land and of others.

Give your Servants a humility of Soul; give us understanding of justice for a world, for the environment, for those of the world who are angry and don't understand. Give us the privilege to be for you, who we sometimes forget.

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## Mothers' Union

### 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September

our leader, Mary Davey, will be attending the national Mothers' Union General Meeting at the Guildhall and Celebration Service at the Cathedral in Portsmouth.

### 19<sup>th</sup> September

We will be taking part in the Worldwide Wave of Prayer 2019, our service will be between 1.00 and 2.00pm.

### 21<sup>st</sup> September

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



# Building an Eco-Church – what can we do?

Ann Parker

How many people reading this article have ideas about how to 'save the world', but are worried that their ideas will sound silly or pointless? Is anybody involved in projects like 'restart'\* at Sherwood Methodist Church, where volunteers help you to repair broken household items, rather than throwing them away? Or does anybody have ideas about how to publicise eco-issues within the church?

Whatever the answer to these questions, if you feel you have something to offer, we would like to hear from you. We need interested people to give us a list of what they are or could be doing and then gather it all in to see where it connects - or if it doesn't.

For instance, I am still trying to give up plastic, but it still creeps in everywhere. I have been buying loo rolls from 'who gives a crap' – despite the title, it is good stuff, and doesn't have any plastic wrapping (however, I recently bought boxes of paper tissues from them – and found a plastic bit in the hole where the hankies come out!)

My latest sort of happening is growing plants from seeds, like old apple pips. This is not the right time of year to do so, but I have produced four apple trees this summer, the biggest now being about 6". I am hoping to get them into gardening groups or charity shops. Now four apple trees won't save the world, but it could give others the idea and move us away from the eat it and chuck it mentality.

I started all this having read about our society's belief in scarcity. Scarcity is not biblical - peel an apple, eat a melon – and there are always far more seeds in the one fruit, more than you could rear in one back garden. Let's get biblical and demonstrate abundance!

So could we arrange a meeting or meetings more locally to bring our ideas and our green efforts together? Or email to each other anything 'green', to help us as we learn to speak eco?

I wrote an article for CEL (Christian Ecology Link) about four years ago called 'Can you speak Eco?', based on the idea that we were then getting beyond muttering a few badly pronounced French phrases in the safety of our classroom, but about to go abroad and actually speak it! We are beyond that now - we should be able to speak fluently, but preferably with some sort of back up - an eco advisor - or like the young women who pushed model planes about on the maps in the RAF bomber stations. Back stage but in control.

Can you think of the next step forward? Please inundate me with your answers!

\*restart, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September -

<https://therestartproject.org/parties/sherwood-methodist-church-2/>



## PUBLIC DEBATE

'Climate and Ecological Emergency:  
The time is NOW, not 2045'.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September  
6.30 pm at St Peter's Church,  
Nottingham (next to M&S)

*Light refreshments available from 6.00 pm*

### Speakers:

- Alan Simpson (former MP for Nottingham South)
- Paul Bodenham (chair, Green Christian)
- Matthew McVeigh (Extinction Rebellion Nottingham)

The evidence of climate change and of environmental degradation is increasingly alarming. Come and hear the latest analyses of what is happening to our planet, and learn what we can do to make a difference before it is too late.

**ALL WELCOME**

www.nottinghamchurches.org  
tel 0115 948 3658  
office@nottinghamchurches.org

## 'Glowing Older'

An exhibition of Portraits by Grace Eden featuring Nottingham's older residents in the style of Old Masters will go on display at St Peter's Church during September.

The exhibition first opened at the Broadway Gallery in Nottingham from 18-20 July and was enthusiastically received by visitors, so the new exhibition at St Peter's Church will give many more people in the city the chance to see Grace's portraits.

There is a special launch for members of the congregation and friends on Saturday 7th September between 2 and 4 pm. Please let Dorothy Mountford know if you will be attending so that we can cater accordingly. The Media launch will take place on Monday 9th September 2pm-4pm - when they will preview the exhibition and interview the artist, Grace Eden; the organisers and participants.

Jagdish Patel, from The Nottingham Photography Hub, who plans to work with our rough sleepers as part of the outreach activities related to the Lottery bid, alerted us to Grace's work on show at the Broadway Gallery. It was felt that by putting it on show at St Peter's Church in the heart of the city it will be enjoyed by even more people.

'Glowing Older' is Grace's first solo show and the exhibition was commissioned by 'Place' - The Renewal Trust's community-led arts and culture programme. Suzannah Bedford, The Renewal Trust's Creative Director explained: "We were drawn by the way Grace uses her camera in the same way that the artists of the past used their paintbrushes, to create portraits in a 'painterly' style. As a community-led arts and culture project, we were keen to create an exhibition featuring Nottingham's older residents and it became clear Grace has an extraordinary affinity with older people - as well as being a very talented fine art photographer. Grace was the perfect artist to lead this project and the exhibition has put Nottingham's older residents at the heart of cultural life in the city. It's fantastic the portraits will be on display in a community setting at St Peter's Church - where they can be enjoyed by everyone from local people and visitors from further afield, to passers-by, shoppers and the many communities who use the church, including older people."

Grace has a very special affinity with St Peter's. When her mother was losing her sight she and Grace would regularly come here together to light candles. Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is a very special occasion for Grace and so she is especially delighted to have her work on display here. She finds the church a place of peace and tranquilly. Grace is now the full-time carer for her 76-year-old father.

Grace says: "I see the difficult side of ageing, as well as the joy of growing older. I have seen first-hand the wisdom, beauty and life experience gained during the golden years and that's what I've aimed to capture in my portraits. I wanted to give older members of society their time to shine and tell their story through my art so it's great that the new exhibition at St Peter's Church will give many more people the chance to experience those stories for themselves."

Older people who chose to take part in the project include 82-year-old Shirley; a couple, Ros and Paul who love dancing and are both in their sixties, and housemates Elaine and Ange, also both in their sixties.

This powerful and poignant portrait of Grace's father is redolent of her style and sensitivity. As Grace says: 'I have painted with my camera.'



## BOOK OF THE MONTH

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

### 'Where the world ends'

By Geraldine McCaughrean

The St Kilda archipelago lies in the North Atlantic 40 miles off North Uist - the westernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. The sea cliffs Hirta of the largest island, are the highest in the United Kingdom, in the remotest part of the British Isles. Sturdy stone houses protected people and their few animals during the winter. Life was brutal, the landscape bleak and treeless. Survival depended on scanty supplies of barley, potatoes and sheep's milk cheese. Fishing was dangerous and terrifying in the mountainous waves of the North Atlantic. However, the islanders sustained themselves by hunting the island's profusion of birds - gannets, fulmars and puffins. The flesh of these birds formed the major part of their diet - caught by 'fowlers' who lowered themselves on ropes from the sheer clifftops or by scaling the towering sea stacks from their boats.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1930 the last of its remaining 36 inhabitants who had survived on the edge of the known world for thousands of years were taken from St Kilda to the main land. They had voted to leave as their way of life was no longer sustainable. St Kilda's is the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of only 39 in the world.

Geraldine McCaughrean's novel is based on a true story which began on the island of Hirta in 1727. The setting is as harsh, unforgiving and miserable as you would expect from the above potted history and geography; the story is one of the best I have ever read. It is a beautifully written novel about humanity and survival, about relationships, hope and fears and, above all, the power of nature.

The story is told by Quillam, a sensitive and gifted boy, one of the group of fowlers who set sail for Warrior Stack one August day to harvest "the summer plenty: bird meat, eggs, feathers, oil..." over a period of weeks as their ancestors had done from time immemorial. Spoiler alert number one: no one comes to take them home.

This is not a cosy read, rather a tale of extreme hardship, of striving for survival against impossible odds. As a race, the St Kildan's were a God-fearing people. They held onto their belief in omens, superstition and religious doctrine. Days turn to weeks and weeks to months. They remain marooned on their rock convinced that out there the end of the world had come. Starving and frozen they only have each other for comfort. Spoiler alert two: How can they hope to survive?

McCaughrean compels us to read on despite our own fears. She creates humour and surprises. Her characters enthral us - weak and strong, good and bad alike. That this novel was written for young adults is immaterial. This is a story for us all. That it won the Carnegie Prize for young adult literature is to be celebrated. A prize-winning historical novel in a book market swamped with vampires and science fiction is an achievement indeed. The young adult readers I know who have read it love it - as did their teachers and parents and grandparents.

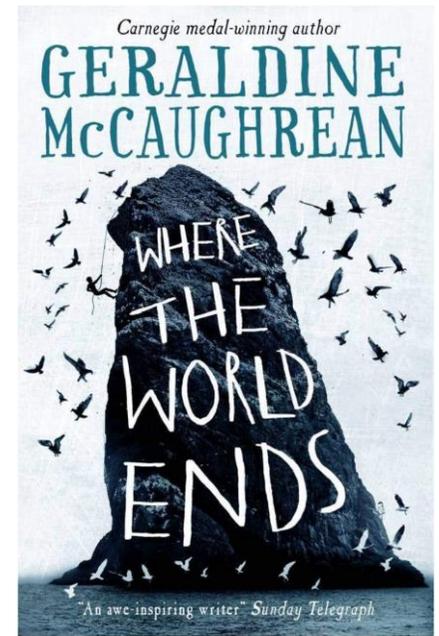
Some interesting information about St Kilda:

- Home to nearly 1 million seabirds, including the UK's largest colony of Atlantic puffins.
- The most important breeding ground for seabirds in north-west Europe
- The sea birds of St Kilda's are under threat from climate change
- St Kilda's is the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of only 39 in the world.

If St Kilda's has captured your heart and imagination you may like to read:

'The Life and Death of St Kilda' Tom Steel, Published 1965, Harper Press

'Island of Wings' Karin Altenberg, Published 2012, Quercus and Nominated for the Orange Prize



## 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.
- The Bridge Community Gospel Choir meets for rehearsals on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month from 5.00-6.30pm.

### St Peter's:

- Rough Sleepers' Drop-in: Mondays (women only) from 10.30am – 12noon;  
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

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