



ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



December 2019
& January 2020



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.*

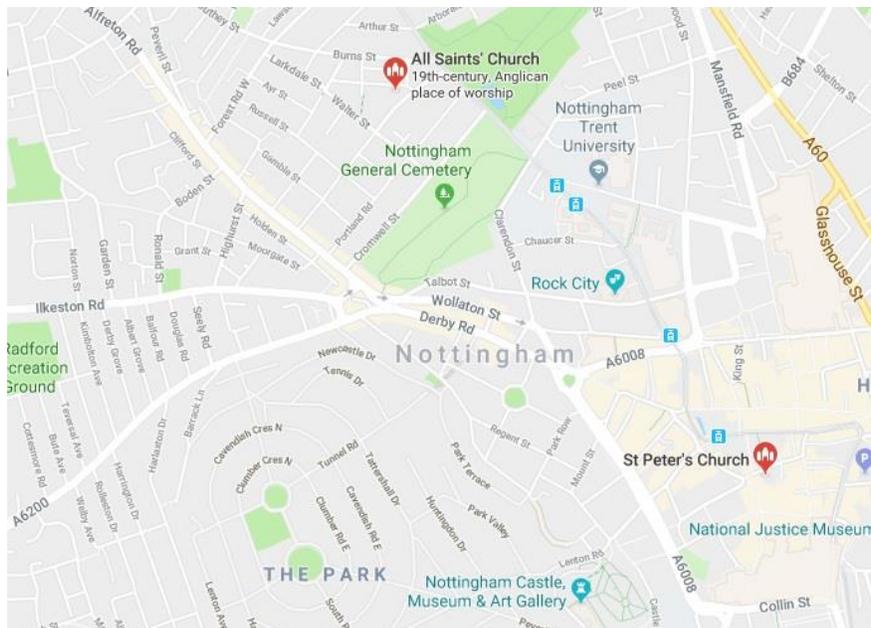
THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



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CHURCHES

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



In 2013, an epidemic of the notorious Ebola virus began in Western Africa which was to send shock waves through the world. Ebola is extremely hard to counter and usually results in a high proportion of sufferers dying from the disease. Between 2013 and 2016, there were over 28,000 known cases of Ebola, almost all in Western Africa, with most of these being in Sierra Leone. Around 11,000 of these Ebola patients died. In this parish we had close links with the evolving situation in Sierra Leone, through various personal contacts as well as via the work of our Overseas Committee; there is a plaque in St Peter's church which marks this connection at a very difficult time for the people of that country.



There is a powerful film, made in 2016, which depicts the response of the Nigerian health service to an outbreak of Ebola in Lagos in 2014. The film, called *93 Days* (the period during which Ebola was active in Nigeria), illustrates in graphic terms the absolute fear and terror which Ebola caused to those who might have been exposed to it, at a time when there was no known cure. Alongside this, however, we see how Nigerian doctors and others in the medical profession were able, amazingly, to limit the number of cases to only 20, of whom 12 survived. We also observe how the absolute determination on the part of some patients to fight the virus meant that they lived; others, conversely, however hard they struggled, were not so fortunate.

Reflecting on the film, I found myself wondering what might have happened if the Nigerian outbreak had not been successfully contained. The possibility of an uncontrollable spread of such a deadly virus was truly frightening, and indeed this is still the case whenever we hear of new instances of Ebola such as the recent outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where around two thirds of the total of 3,100 infected people have died. What were the factors, though, which prevented Nigeria's experience of Ebola from being considerably worse? We saw in the film the incredible professionalism of the doctors who were involved. But what was also evident was the astonishing readiness on the part of some of the key doctors to give absolutely everything they could in order to prevent Ebola from spreading. We saw how at least one of them died as result of this total dedication to their profession and to their patients. Another doctor, herself infected, continued to support and attend to the needs of the patients with whom she shared a hospital ward, even though she herself was suffering acutely from the virus. An American doctor who was working in Nigeria put himself at huge risk in treating each of the patients who were brought to him, whilst also being able to inspire large numbers of his colleagues.

Alongside this deeply moving account of dedication, struggle, inspired teamwork and great medical skill, I was struck by another message which emerged from the film. The first few days of the outbreak were a critical time; if a few key people had not responded with such total professionalism and in some cases with a readiness to make massive personal sacrifices, the path taken by the outbreak of the virus could have been very different. Thousands of deaths could quite possibly have occurred, and indeed Ebola could very easily have spread to many of the other countries around the world with which Nigeria has close connections.

We sometimes think that nothing that we do as individuals makes much of a difference, at least beyond our immediate circumstances and situation. The way in which the actions of a very small number of people succeeded in containing the Nigeria Ebola outbreak, however, reminds us that we can never tell how far reaching the consequences of our actions might be. Caring words which we might have said to someone; a gesture of support or kindness; a time when we stood up against injustice or stood alongside someone who was being bullied or abused; even a change in our career path to bring it more into line with our deepest values: we can never know what the ripple effects of these things might ultimately involve.

We will soon be celebrating Christmas. Who could have foreseen that the birth of a baby in an outpost of the Roman Empire around two thousand years ago could have had such momentous consequences for humanity? Could Mary and Joseph have ever known how all that they did to care for and nurture Jesus, during his childhood, would ultimately make possible a ministry which would change the world? Let us never forget that God can and does also work through each one of us, and that through the power of the Holy Spirit the results can be far greater than we can ever imagine.

Community environmental initiative: Perspective

Steph Lax

I'm really looking forward to Christmas. We don't get the same opportunity at other times in the year to reconnect with our family, friends, and communities, and as Christians we can both enjoy the fun and appreciate the deeper meaning. We also can take some time to reflect on where we are at with and in the world, and consider if we can be doing more to help tackle the climate and ecological crisis. That's why this month's page is entitled perspective. I also have brief festive ideas for you:



Switch to reusable wrapping paper. I recommend www.wragwrap.com for clever options. I recently made a pass the parcel as a present for someone and they can now use the layers to wrap their own gifts. Lush sell some too: <https://uk.lush.com/products/knot-wraps>. You can also (and I regularly do) just reuse leftover brown paper, small boxes, or pieces of fabric, for cheaper alternatives. Get creative!

Give rather than gift. <https://www.christmasgiving.net/> or google 'Oxfam Unwrapped'.

Send eCards. Google for a charity you'd like to support by doing this.

For more tips, check out:

- greenchristian.org.uk/christmas-tips-from-milton-keynes/
- CAScaid Campaign - Ideas to encourage all to spend less at Christmas and use the money for charity

Also, this year I want to make a sustainable New Year's resolution; one that will benefit the planet and that I can also stick to. I'm switching to plant-based milk. I've found oat milk is really versatile and works on cereal and in hot drinks, even in tea (honestly, I was surprised). I'll be recycling the empty tetrapack cartons in a nearby council hopper in the car park of our local pub. I might even make it myself from time to time with rolled oats from Shop Zero, packaging free!

The Hourglass Newspaper - 'Rigorous Journalism for Fragile times..'

Printed on recycled paper, The Hourglass will be distributed around the UK by members of Extinction Rebellion's regional groups who believe in telling the truth through the press. The Hourglass aims to reach people who are not necessarily on social media, and who still read and trust traditional press. Readers can expect stories similar to that of a mainstream newspaper like The Metro while at times hitting the tone of Take a Break, all the time approaching climate reporting as should already be the norm in the press.



The first copy came out in September and so far has had a very positive response from the public, with many individuals thanking the newspaper team for frank climate reporting. Distribution coordinator Angus Barr, said: "The Hourglass arises out of the urgent need for journalism to give the emerging climate and ecological crisis its due weight on a planet that, scientists and sociologists agree, is becoming increasingly incompatible with human civilisation. In doing so it hopes to raise awareness among the public and offer solutions to the challenges ahead." The current edition of The Hourglass can be collected at St Peters on the 'Green Table'.

Sonia Moratto

Coffee room recycling: plea for help

Please can we have more volunteers to help sort and take away the coffee room recycling? These pictures give you an idea of a typical array:



Please ask or email for more information, or just take a bag away with you!

Other recycling at St. Peter's (under the green table at the back of church):

- Foil* (metal foil/foil trays only, not silver plastic film or foil coated plastic e.g. tablet packs)
- Plastic bottle tops*
- Dental* (toothbrushes, paste tubes and packaging, but not toothpaste pumps, bamboo brushes or electronic toothbrush heads). If you use an electric toothbrush and fancy trying recyclable toothbrush heads have a look on <https://www.livecoco.com>.
- Baby food pouches

**These can now be recycled at All Saints too.*

Other things to do:

Plant, pledge to plant, or donate to plant, trees locally. Local charities such as the Woodland Trust and The National Forest are a good place to start if you're interested.

Do you have food scraps but nowhere to compost, or compost and want more food scraps? See if you can get hooked up at sharewaste.com/

Visit the new surplus food store, Affordable, on Derby Road in Nottingham City Centre.

Petition University of Nottingham to go carbon neutral by 2028:

you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/university-of-nottingham-to-commit-to-going-carbon-neutral-by-2028

Stop oil advertising: secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/no-space-for-oil-ads

End opencast coal: you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/end-opencast-coal-for-good-1

Green Tips for Christmas

Are you looking forward to Christmas? Before we get there, we have Advent. A time to look forward and to prepare for the future. Advent is the start of the Christian year. A time to take stock, consider where we're going and make resolutions. If Christ comes at Christmas for all life, can we use Advent to reflect on how our actions are contributing to the well-being of all life on Earth? Can we think of ways we can be more considerate in caring for God's creation?

With all this in mind I had a look for eco-friendly tips for a green Christmas. Did you know it's possible to rent a Christmas tree? It goes back afterwards and is replanted in the ground. Whether renting or buying a real tree make sure it's grown sustainably by looking for either the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Soil Association logo. Or go alternative and use a large branch of holly, or a large perennial indoor plant like a yucca or palm, and decorate it like you would a Christmas tree. If you have a fake tree already then keep on using it as long as possible. If you light up your tree with fairy lights then LEDs use up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent lights.

Food waste is a huge problem. It's so easy to over-cater at Christmas. Plan to transform left overs into new meals. Freeze what you can't eat. Or donate to a local charity feeding those in need. And compost what is still left.

Almost everything we buy has a carbon footprint and much of it is packaged in un-recyclable plastic. Put simply - by buying less we can reduce the rate at which natural resources are used up and the earth is polluted. Let's rejoice and take delight in God's free gift to us - God incarnate, a baby born in a manger.

*Barbara Echlin - Green Christian
greenchristian.org.uk*

All Saints' Church: Tower Project Progress

Ed Walker

As one would expect with a project such as this, there was an awful lot of planning and work behind the scenes before anything practical could begin. So, I begin by giving my thanks to everyone that has been involved in that side of the project. This report will highlight the work we have done at All Saints', and what we have left to go at the time of writing (late November!)

The current total hours spent in the tower working is 505.5 – a massive amount of commitment from current students, alumni and friends, and this number is rapidly rising. Without this commitment and drive, we would never be at the stage that we currently are at, so to those who have helped so far, thank you!



To give an overview of the story so far: the first stage of the project was, of course, to begin cleaning. A crack team spent the best part of 40 combined hours cleaning the middle chamber and belfry, shovelling guano into bags, which was over 1.5ft deep in some places! Once clean, with the floor finally visible, the fittings of the bells came off. In an ideal world we could keep anything deemed not to be in the way, but unfortunately the build-up of guano was so bad we were left with no choice but to remove everything so it could be cleaned properly.

Stage 2 of the works was to get scaffolding up. NUSCR's thanks go especially to Richard Wolfgang who allowed us to use his lighting trussing saving the project a substantial sum of money. Thanks also to Mike Semken, who provided Richard with technical drawings of the frame, allowing him to plan the structure. The scaffolding stage alone was approximately 80 hours of work, there was no shortage of effort from anyone! Following this was then a 55+ hours of lifting, cutting and laying planks on top of the new scaffolding to form a false floor, allowing us to safely dismantle the rotting ceiling. The planks from the false floor will go on to be used as sound insulation under the bells.

Following the construction of the false floor, it was finally time to begin removing the old ceiling. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it didn't require much force to come down! We suffered casualties in the form of one light (now repaired), when a small section of the ceiling collapsed under its own weight, but with that excitement aside, it was an undisputed success. In total, about 90 hours were spent removing the ceiling, cutting old beams and planks into manageable pieces and lowering them from the tower, it was no small operation! During this time, the grating on the louvres has been temporarily fixed; and on the eve of the 22nd October, I had the pleasure of officially declaring All Saints' pigeon free!



With all the guano, planks and carpet out of the tower, we began drilling holes ready for steel. Four holes have been drilled, the rubble has been bagged and removed from the tower. As such, we found ourselves taking a breather!

On the 22nd November work resumed, and steel and timber arrived on site. We spent 2 days lifting, sawing and joining to begin the creation of the new floor. It was over 130 hours of work!

This brings me to our current state of work – what’s left for us over the coming weeks? We will concrete the steel into the walls, lay the floor boards and then create the trap doors for sound control. We will then work our way down the tower, cleaning as we go.

The bells themselves are in good condition, with a small amount of work needing to be done which falls under the ‘general wear and tear’ category. The Sanctus bell was also found to be in good condition, with just a snapped cable to replace. This has now been fixed, giving the church a bell to chime while the ring of ten are out of action.

In the ringing chamber, new carpeting will be laid, along with a whole host of other renovations, with the aim to make All Saints’ a fantastic place to be for NUSCR now, and in years to come.

Naturally, when relying on volunteer labour, and church availability, we cannot progress with the project at lightspeed – however I’m sure you will agree with me that the work been done so far is extremely pleasing, given the preparatory works in the tower only truly kicked off in the summer of this year.



Silver Smarties Appeal

For the third year running, the Overseas Committee invites you to take part in the Silver Smarties Fund raising scheme. Each year for the last 2 years this has raised £1,000.

As usual this will run from Advent Sunday (Tubes of Smarties available from members of the Overseas Committee) until Ascension Day - Thursday 21st May 2020. Please enjoy the sweets and fill the tube with as many 20 pieces as you can.



St Peter’s Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

We are proud to offer a wide range of festive gifts, groceries and books in the shop at St Peter’s. Visit us Monday – Friday, 10.30am-2pm and after the morning service on Sunday for some ethical Christmas shopping!

- Advent Calendars
- Christmas Cards (with or without bible verse)
- Nativity activity books
- Christmas decorations
- Festive sweet treats
- Christmas gifts for all ages



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 1st Advent Sunday	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie in F (BWV 233) <i>JS Bach</i> O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (BWV 401) <i>JS Bach</i> Offne dich; Amen (BWV 61) <i>JS Bach</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Advent Vespers* I look from afar <i>Palestrina</i> Psalm 9 (tone vi) Magnificat a 8 <i>Bevan</i> Rorate caeli <i>Byrd</i>	St Peter's
Monday 2nd	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 3rd	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 4th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 5th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 6th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 7th	2.00pm	Notts WI Christmas Carol Concert	St Peter's
Sunday 8th	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>Smith</i> St Paul's Service <i>Howells</i> E'en so Lord Jesus <i>Manz</i>	St Peter's
Monday 9th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
	7.00pm	Hollygirt Carol Service	St Peter's
Tuesday 10th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 11th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	7.00pm	NTU Carol Service	All Saints'
Thursday 12th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 13th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 14th	11.00am	Christmas Coffee Break Concert Nottingham Bach Choir	St Peter's

Sunday 15th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie & Agnus Dei H.1 <i>Charpentier</i> Rejoice in the Lord alway <i>Purcell</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Taizé Service	St Peters'
Monday 16th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 17th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	5.30pm	Browne Jacobson Carol Service	St Peter's
Wednesday 18th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 19th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	6.00pm	A Rainbow Christmas	St Peter's
Friday 20th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 21st	2.00pm	Saturday Matinée – Christmas	All Saints'
Sunday 22nd	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie & Agnus Dei in E <i>Darke</i> The angel Gabriel Trad., <i>arr. Pettman</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Compline* The Advent Prose Kyrie XI Nunc Dimittis (tone iii) <i>Palestrina</i> Alma redemptoris mater <i>Palestrina</i>	St Peter's
Monday 23rd	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Family Carol Service* Adam lay ybounden <i>Ord</i> Lo how a Rose e'er blooming <i>Blackwell</i> A little child was yborn <i>Archer</i> My Lord has come <i>Todd</i> Tomorrow shall be <i>Gardner</i>	St Peter's
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass	St Peter's
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	All Saints'
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day	10.00am	Parish Sung Eucharist* Resonemus laudibus <i>Willcocks</i> Agnus Dei in E-flat <i>Bairstow</i> Nativity Carol <i>Rutter</i>	St Peter's
	10.30am	Church open for prayer, reflection and coffee	All Saints'
Sunday 27th	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist	St Peter's

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Music details tbc

Thursday 2nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 3rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 5th Kept as The Epiphany	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	St Peter's
Monday 6th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 7th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 8th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 9th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 10th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 12th	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*	St Peter's
Monday 13th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 15th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 16th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 17th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 19th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Taizé Service	St Peter's
Monday 20th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 22nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'

Thursday 23rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 24th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 26th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist*	St Peter's
		Preacher: The Venerable Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham	
	5.00pm	Compline*	St Peter's
Monday 27th	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning Places of Welcome	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 29th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Thursday 30th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 31st	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'

You are warmly invited to our

Family Service

8th December 2019

12th January 2020

9.45am – 10.15am

A child friendly service,
followed by crafts, coffee & croissants!

Magazine contributions are welcomed by **20th 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

Nottinghamshire's Inclusive Churches and
Christians Together at Pride invite you to



RAINBOW CHRISTMAS

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE FOR THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY
AND OUR FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND ALLIES

Thursday 19th December

18:00-19:00 followed by

refreshments

St Peter's Church

St Peter's Gate

Nottingham

0115 948 3658

Poem

On this day
A son is born
From a virgin womb is torn
To fight for truth
In his father's name
To heal the sick and the lame
To say over and over
Again and again
Judge not but forgive
So all of my father's creation may live
In peace and harmony
Where all are fed
And have a house in which to live
So please instead of judging
Smile, hug and forgive.



David Atkins



Nottingham
Bach
CHOIR

CHRISTMAS
COFFEE BREAK
CONCERT

Nottingham Bach Choir
Edward Turner, conductor
Peter Siepmann, organ

Sat 14 Dec 2019, 11.00am
St Peter's Church, Nottingham

Coffee & mince pies from 10.15am
Admission by donation

nottinghambachchoir.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 508139

FOLLOW US:
 

Prayers for December & January

Reverend James Saxton

December is about the Birth of Christ – God becoming human and the Incarnation – God is with us, which is the greatest moment in our prayers...God in Christ born in the most humble circumstances, visited by the lowly and those from far off, an indication that God's love is for all peoples, whatever their disposition, context, gender, sexuality: whoever we are God is there for us – the birth of inclusivity, if we want/need to understand that, let us approach the manger throne with humility and integrity.

O God the Son, highest and holiest, who did humble yourself to share our birth and death: bring us with the shepherds and the wise kings from afar to kneel with you and beside your lowly cradle that we too may sing with your holy angels, and praise you, in whatever way we can. You live with the Father and the Holy Spirit and reign with God, in a way that is forever...world without end.

Lord Jesus, this Christmas as we sing the familiar carols, hear readings that we are so familiar with, and ponder on the mystery of the moment, give us the gift of prayer and worship, and that ability which Mary had to give of attributing to you true worth, your full value, and something of your greatness, which touches the depths of our being - and help us to understand and be with those who find this time difficult:

We are with the rough sleepers
The lonely
Those in debt
Those who are ill and near to death
Those who grieve
Those who are at odds with themselves

Sweet child of Bethlehem, grant we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas - pour into the hearts of all your peoples Peace, which often eludes humankind. Help us to know one another better and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same heavenly Father. Help us to appreciate, no matter what your infinite goodness.

And a New Year - hopes, aspirations, a looking back and forward, and of living in the before you the moment, perhaps:

God of all time,
Who makes all things new,
We bring the year now ending,
For life full and good,
For opportunities recognised and taken, for love known and shared, we thank you.

Where we have fallen short, forgive us; when we worry over what is past, free us. As we begin again, and take the first few steps into the future, where nothing is safe and certain, except you, we ask for the courage of the wise men, who simply went and followed a star; we ask for their wisdom, in choosing the deepest truth.

In the year to come, God of all truth and time, hold our hands as we journey forward, be our help as we journey forward.

And my blessing to everyone at this time of the year.

Mothers' Union

18th January

Mothers' Union Meeting at All Saints'

10.00 for 10.30am.

Speaker: Philip Hobson - poetry



BOOK OF THE MONTH

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

'I Saw Eternity the Other Night'

By Timothy Day

King's College Cambridge and an English Singing Style

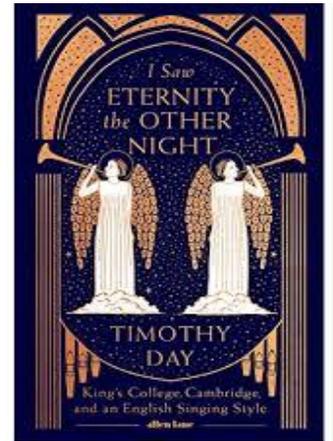
'I saw eternity the other night

'Like a great ring of pure and endless light

'All calm, as it was bright.'

From 'The World' Henry Vaughan (1621- 1695)

In the early 1950s when the bookworm was a child Christmas started as the light faded on Christmas Eve, we were allowed to put up the tree and from the old battery operated wireless came the first notes of 'Once in Royal David's City'. This book with its ethereal title and evocative is a Christmas Gift.



Timothy Day was formerly Curator of Western Art Music at the British Library's sound archive. By choosing the first line of Vaughan's metaphysical poem as the title of his book Day manages to recreate, albeit in visual terms, some of the wonder of the sound made by the famous choir.

Day's exploration of the way in which that unique sound developed takes us from the rough and ready singing in many churches and Cathedrals in the 19th century to the sound associated by so many millions with the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve.

Apart from the Choir itself the main characters of the book are the directors of music. Mann and Ord, Willcocks, Ledger and Cleobury and how they contributed to the creation of that special sound in that special space:

Arthur Henry 'Daddy' Mann in whose obituary address in 1926 was remembered as 'The maker of the King's Choir as England knows it'

Boris Ord who was responsible for much of the early broadcasting which put the choir on the map

Philip Ledger who, just occasionally, let the boys sing in the style of The Vienna Boys Choir 'for fun'.

David Willcocks who nurtured the 'bright and clear tone' of King's. Their awareness of style, the ability to be expressive without sentimentality. Their intelligence.'

Stephen Cleobury who 'usually started choir practice with boys stretching their arms above their heads. The boys sang a note as they glissanded on a hiss.'

Moving, funny and thought-provoking Day shares his extensive research in a very readable style.

Moving: how David Willcocks aged 9 was put on the train from Cornwall to sing in the choir of Westminster Abbey and 'Lying in bed during that first night at school he listened to Big Ben strike the quarter of an hour through his tears'. After that it seems most of the time he was very happy.

Amusing: In 1939 the BBC provided the French radio with an announcement

'This Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has been celebrated ever since the foundation of the Chapel 500 years ago...'

Thought provoking: how in 1918, barely a month after the armistice, The Dean, Eric Milner-White created the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols modelled on the service devised by the first Bishop of Truro and used on Christmas Eve, 1880 in the wooden shed that was being used while Truro cathedral was being built.

Milner-White had a distinguished war record about which he never spoke. As a chaplain he had frequently led stretcher bearers over the top into No Man's Land to rescue the wounded. He took charge of his unit, at the men's request, when all the officers were killed thus becoming a combatant, which chaplains should never do, and for which he was disciplined. He was however awarded the DSO. It was Milner-White who incorporated the ancient benediction still used at the end of the service:

'The Almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.'

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 usually meets for rehearsals on the 1st & 3rd 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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