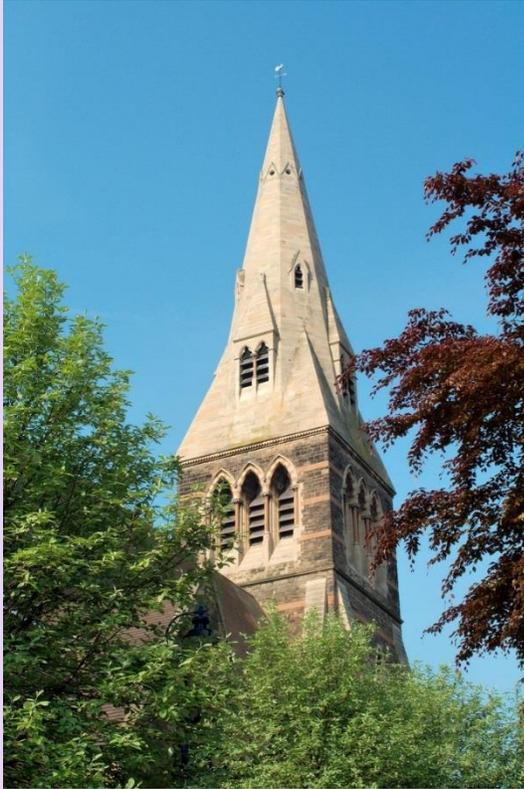


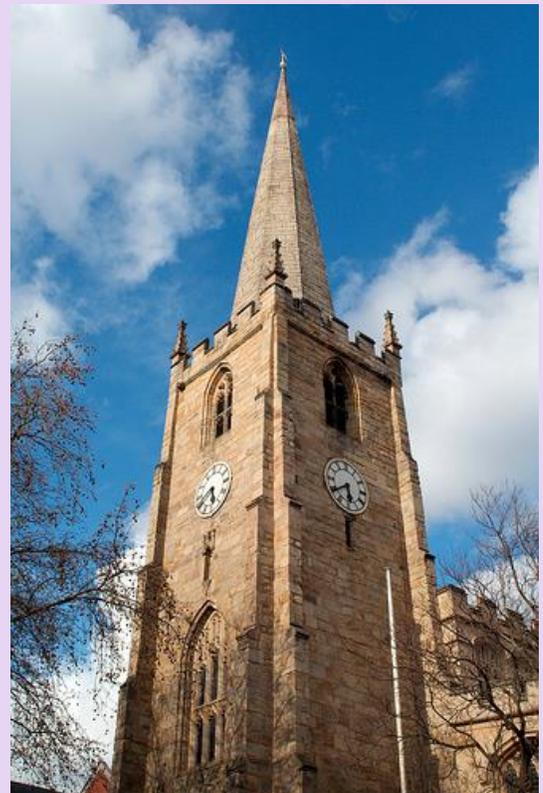


ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM



March 2020

Parish Magazine



*This magazine is provided free of charge,
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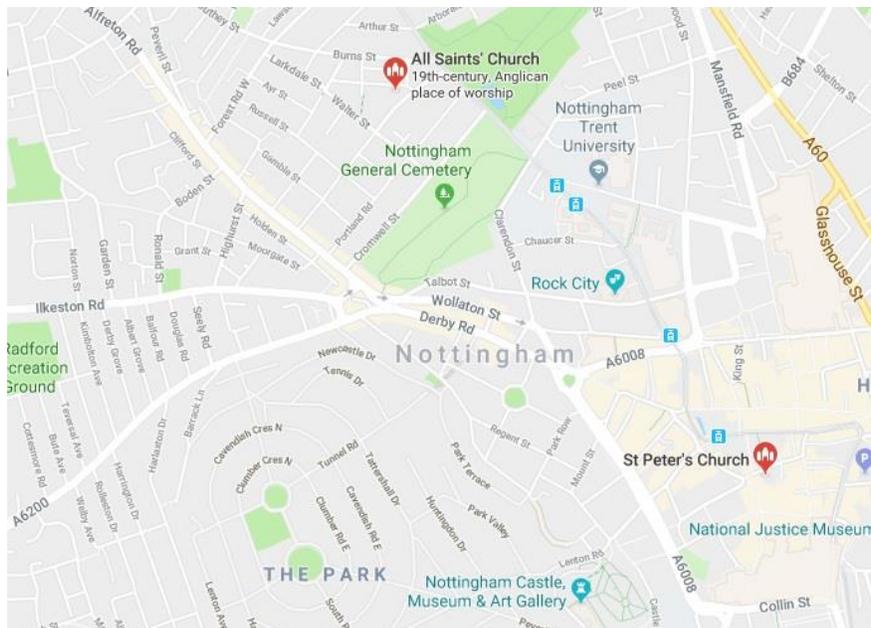
THE PARISH OF ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS, NOTTINGHAM



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CHURCHES

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



'Who is my neighbour?' This is the title of a series of parish discussion group meetings which we are holding in Lent, on Monday evenings in the Coffee Room beginning on March 2nd. The course will involve five meetings, each of which will involve reflection upon a painting from the collection held by the National Gallery in London. The paintings are all of Biblical scenes, and they will help us to explore those aspects of the Christian faith which concern how we relate to people around us. The course has been devised for the HeartEdge network of churches, of which this parish is a member.



When Jesus was asked what was necessary in order for a person to gain eternal life, he quoted the ancient 'Golden Rule' of Moses, which said that one should love God with all one's heart, soul, mind and strength, and love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus' questioner responded by asking him to clarify who one's neighbour actually was; perhaps he was trying to find out whether Jesus would set any limits to the meaning of 'neighbour'. Jesus then told the parable of the Good Samaritan, thereby demonstrating how wrong it is to define 'neighbour' too narrowly. The person who proved to be the true neighbour of the man who had been beaten and robbed by bandits was not the priest or the Levite, people who were supposed to be holy, but a Samaritan, who came from a race which had been in a state of enmity with the Jewish people for centuries.

This parable has echoes of Jesus' teaching that we should love not only our neighbours, but also our enemies. The meaning of the Greek word for 'enemy' is 'one who is hostile', which reminds us that this teaching concerns our relationship with anyone with whom we don't feel comfortable, including those who treat us badly. How exactly, however, should we love our enemies and all those who are hostile to us? This is of course difficult, but it is in keeping with other commands of Jesus which remind us that the Christian journey is not always easy, and will sometimes involve struggle and sacrifice. Love for enemies means praying for them; it also means making an effort to see things from their point of view, to listen and to try to understand them better. It means remembering that we are all children of God, and that God wants the best for all people, regardless of how far they may have strayed from God's path and purpose. It may not always be easy to turn the other cheek, however, and this should not be a reason for lapsing into weakness and vulnerability when we should instead be standing firm in the face of evil. Nonetheless, loving our enemies should mean learning to forgive those who do wrong to us, just as Jesus said about those who had crucified him, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'.

As members of two churches whose neighbourhoods are very diverse and sometimes quite demanding, we should regularly ask ourselves whether we are being neighbourly enough to those around us. The Parochial Church Council has recently resolved that this parish should formally become members of the 'Inclusive Church' network; this will mean that we should look afresh about we relate to various groups in society such as those with disabilities or mental health problems, and all those who tend to be especially prone to discrimination, prejudice and stigma on the basis of factors such as age, race, income level or sexual orientation. As the year progresses, we will need to do some further work on this.

'Who is my neighbour?' This question is also one we should keep before us as we reflect upon how we engage with others within our two worshipping communities. Whilst it is good each Sunday to keep up with our friends within the congregations, why not introduce yourself to someone whom you don't know particularly well? Let's all do our best to reach out to newcomers and visitors, in a ministry of welcome and hospitality which involves each one of us. If we see someone standing or sitting alone after the Sunday service, don't just walk by on the other side, but break the ice in whatever way seems right and help them to feel at home.

We can never tell just how valuable such small but important gestures can be. Who can say what may have drawn someone to church for the first time on that particular day? We should not make a big thing of being a 'good Samaritan', of course, but acts of kindness which may seem small to us may mean much more to those who benefit from them.

Community environmental initiative

Meeting God in Creation

Liz Marsh

Climate change is something that is ever-increasingly present in the public consciousness; almost everyone now agrees that it is happening, but there is much less consensus as to exactly the scale of disaster that we face, or how we might best address the problem. One thing that unites most approaches to the problem of climate change, however, is that the focus is on the practicalities of sustainable living, and how we might adjust our lifestyles and patterns of consumption in order to reduce emissions and minimise our impact on the world around us. Sometimes this means doing many of the same things we already do, but just doing them more sustainably; sometimes the focus is instead on reducing consumption and learning to live a simpler life that demands fewer natural resources.

It is, of course, important to carefully consider the practicalities of how best to address climate change. Without significant, rapid and concrete action, we face the likelihood of rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events and the extinction of vulnerable species and the search for how to avoid the disastrous consequences of climate change must therefore include concrete suggestions as to how this might be achieved. In all of this, however, our relationship with the rest of creation remains primarily one of use: we consider the planet in terms of the resources that it offers us for sustaining ourselves and enjoying a certain standard of living and want to do all we can to preserve these things for future generations. In so doing, it seems to me that we often succumb to a temptation to seek mastery over the rest of creation, bringing it under our control so that it may meet our needs and satisfy our desires.

There is, however, something insufficient about understanding our relationship to the rest of creation in this way, despite the importance of focusing on practical solutions to the problem of climate change. In my own exploration of this issue, I have found some helpful insights in the theology of the Eastern Orthodox tradition, especially in the work of twentieth century theologian Alexander Schmemmann. Schmemmann sees creation first and foremost as a place of meeting with God, and argues that the 'material' functions of the world around us cannot be separated from the spiritual ones. He tells us that behind their hunger for food, and the other things needed for us to sustain and enjoy our lives, is a hunger for God. Though we can continue to look to the rest of creation to provide resources for food, shelter and leisure, we must also go beyond this and understand that the earth is not just a resource, but something that is sacred.

It seems to me that this way of thinking challenges us to engage differently with the world around us. In the busyness of a city like Nottingham, it is easy to become disconnected from the rhythms of nature, and to forget that the world around us can be a place of meeting with God - I know that this is a problem that I run into when I am rushing for place to place. The challenge to all of us is to rediscover ways in which we might meet God in creation, whether in the city or the country. And if we learn to do this, I wonder how it might change the way that we approach the problem of climate change.

Coffee room recycling: plea for help

Please can we have more volunteers to help sort and take away the coffee room recycling? Please ask or email for more information, or just take a bag away with you!



Other recycling at St Peter's and All Saints':

- Foil: metal foil/foil trays only, not silver plastic film or foil coated plastic e.g. tablet packs. We have also been advised that this should be compacted into 'golf-balls' to get them through the sorting process. Otherwise, your local Sainsbury's may well have a hopper for metal, also tetrapacks (e.g. juice cartons), if that's easier for you.
- Plastic bottle tops
- Dental: toothbrushes, paste tubes and packaging, but not pumps, bamboo brushes or electronic toothbrushes. For recyclable e-toothbrush heads: <https://www.livecoco.com>.
- Baby food pouches: St Peter's only.

Can you do at least one of these other things?

- Repair rather than buy new at a Repair Café: 4th April 2-5pm at Sherwood Methodist Church. For details of the kind of things to bring look up NottinghamFixers on Facebook.
- Follow a new simple, sustainable living blog by Lizi Beevor: <https://plotandlane.com/>.
- Ask your MP to protect the oceans: <https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/protect-oceans-ty>.
- Sign a petition to protect oceans: <https://www.sas.org.uk/petition/generationsea>.
- Sign a petition to protect rainforests: <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1199/stop-the-depletion-of-forests-in-cameroon?t=362-66-8392-1>.
- Sign a petition to scrap the Energy Charter Treaty: <https://actions.sumofus.org/a/the-energy-charter-treaty-gives-fossil-fuel-companies-power-over-governments-it-s-time-to-end-it>.

Want to comment but not online? Please drop a note to Stephanie Lax c/o the Parish Office.

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Prayers for March

Reverend James Saxton

Two quotations for reflection as we journey through Lent:

George Herbert: *The Agonie*

Philosophers have measur'd mountains
Fathom'd depths of seas, of states and kings,
Walk'd with a staffe to heav'n, and traced fountains;
But there are two vast and spacious things,
The which to measure it doth more behove:
Yet few there are that sound them; Sinne and | Love.
Who would know Sinne, let him repair
Unto mount Olivet; there shall he see
A man so wrung with pains, that all his hair,
His skinne, his garments bloudie be...

And also from Elizabeth Templeton:

In your loving is your Knowing...

Prayer is grounded in theology, and she writes 'My whole vision of theology is a convivial, energising conversation, engaging every aspect of the self, and open to every partner from every quarter. That it is so often experienced, inside and outside the Church as a dry, remote, eccentric and restrictive discipline is tragic and needs remedy'...

Lent is both reflective and energising, and is a journey, with Christ to the cross and what lies beyond:

You Lord Jesus, knew great power,
To heal, to transform,
To proclaim the reign of God,
So you met great temptations,
The wrong way glittering and possible, was open,
You could rule if you chose,
In majesty, and wonder... But you said No,
Simply decisively, for ever, for us.

We pray for the Church during this time,
For those who seek political power,
For the Church when it wanders from the way of sacrifice,
When the church listens to the call of cheap grace.

Holy Spirit of God, enable us to respond to temptation
With the strength of your Word within us,
So that we may hold firm to your calling
And take your better way in faithfulness.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sunday 1st	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Matins* Responses <i>plainsong</i> 'Dorian' Te Deum <i>Tallis</i> Lord, let me know mine end <i>Greene</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Holy Communion with prayers for healing	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'
	1.00pm	Fragile Earth: Learn, Reflect, Act	St Peter's
Thursday 5th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 6th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	6.30pm	Light Night	St Peter's
Saturday 7th	11.00am	Coffee Break Concert Liszt: Via Crucis	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>Plainsong</i> Purcell in G Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei <i>Purcell</i>	St Peter's
Monday 9th	1.15pm	Meditation	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'
	1.00pm	Fragile Earth: Learn, Reflect, Act	St Peter's
Thursday 12th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 13th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 15th	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> Wash me throughly <i>SS Wesley</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Gospel Choir Rehearsal	All Saints'
	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
Wednesday 18th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	1.00pm	Fragile Earth: Learn, Reflect, Act	St Peter's
Thursday 19th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 20th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Saturday 21st	10.30am	Mothers' Union	All Saints'
Sunday 22nd Mothering Sunday	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Kyrie & Agnus Dei in F <i>Darke</i> The Lord bless you and keep you <i>Rutter</i>	St Peter's
	5.00pm	Compline* Stabat Mater <i>Pergolesi</i>	St Peter's
Monday 23rd	1.15pm	Meditation	St Peter's
Tuesday 24th	10.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	10.30am	Community Coffee morning (Places of Welcome)	All Saints'
	1.15pm	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Wednesday 25th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	1.00pm	Fragile Earth: Learn, Reflect, Act	St Peter's
Thursday 26th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
Friday 27th	9.00am	Morning Prayer	All Saints'
Sunday 29th	8.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	All Saints'
	10.45am	Sung Eucharist* Missa Brevis <i>Ives</i> Solus ad victimam <i>Leighton</i>	St Peter's

Lent Discussion groups: 'Who is my neighbour?'

There will be a series of five discussion group meetings for Lent on Monday evenings beginning on 2nd March, starting at 6.15 pm and finishing around 8.00 pm, in the Coffee Room at St Peter's. These will be on the theme 'Who is my neighbour?', and will use materials from the 'Inspired to follow' course which has been prepared by St Martin in the Fields' Church for the HeartEdge network of churches. Each discussion will consider a different aspect of what it means to love our neighbour, using paintings from the National Gallery. Coffee and tea will be provided, but bring light refreshments to share if you wish. All welcome.

Pergolesi 'Stabat Mater'

Peter Siepmann

Following (a slightly shortened) service of Compline on Mothering Sunday 22nd March, the upper voices of the church choir will perform Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's 1736 setting of the Stabat Mater - an ancient sequence that graphically depicts the suffering of the Virgin Mary during the Crucifixion of Christ. Pergolesi's setting was first printed in London in 1749 and became the most frequently published single work of the 18th century. The work was composed during the last few months of Pergolesi's tragically short life, which he spent in a Franciscan monastery in Pozzuoli. The musical approach is largely operatic in nature, indeed some of the melodies gave rise to considerable criticism because they were thought to be too cheerful. Nevertheless, Pergolesi's setting of the text is sensitive and powerful. The choir will be accompanied by our resident instrumental ensemble, saraBande.



Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Overseas Committee

Dorothy Mountford

Dates for your Diary

- The annual Easter Breakfast will be hosted by the Overseas Committee at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan on Easter Monday, 13th April, from 10am onwards. Donations in aid of Mercy Ships, the floating hospitals which work off the coast of West Africa offering free medical treatment to some of the world's poorest people.
- Beom Jin and Marie Lure Shin, our CMS partners in South east Asia, will be making a visit to the UK this year with their boys. We hope to welcome them at St Peter's. Please continue to remember them in your prayers.
- Raising the Roof Concert: There will be a concert in church on the evening of Saturday 4th July in aid of the Church Roof. Although we hope to have gained lottery funding to replace the lead, we still need to have a certain amount of 'match funding' before we are given permission to progress. Catherine and Martin Vindelis and associates will entertain us in the first half; Freddie Kofi and his Gospel Choir will perform in the second half. We are still in the process of putting the programme together so please look out for further details in due course as well as putting the date in your diary.

New Sound System for St Peter's Church Launch of Appeal

Christopher Harrison

Many readers will be aware that we have been experiencing more and more frequent problems with the sound system at St Peter's. The PCC has therefore decided that the time has come to replace it, since it is not economical to keep repairing it; modern systems, moreover, are considerably more advanced than the present system, which is around thirty years old.

The company which supplied the current system, Hilltop Audio Visual Ltd, and which has also maintained it over the years, proposes a new digital system which will be compatible with devices such as tablets, smart phones, etc. It will include 12 speakers in the main body of the church, as well as two speakers mounted on the rood screen, supplying sound to the choir, and also speakers in the corridor and St James' room. There will be a new loop system for those who use hearing aids. The new system will give high quality audio with increased clarity, and will have controls located just behind the rood screen.

The total cost of the system will be around £10,400. We are therefore launching an appeal for contributions towards this cost, and would be very grateful for your support. Cheques should be made payable to 'St Peter & All Saints PCC', and sent to the Parish Office. If you can Gift Aid your contribution, this will enable us to claim back the tax which you have paid on your donation.

Please do consider whether you can help with this important project, which will benefit worshippers and other users of St Peter's church for many years to come.

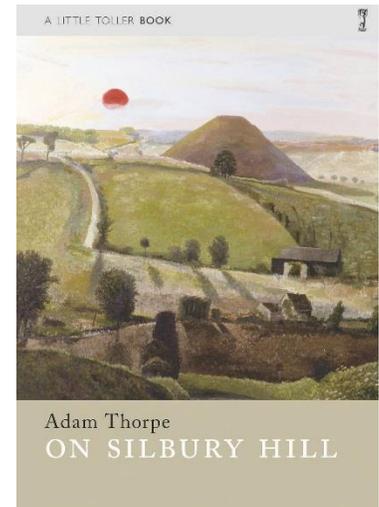
Book of the month

By 'Bramcote Book Worm'

'On Silbury Hill'

By Adam Thorpe

The most popular reviews in this column in the past have been of books about nature. The evidence for this is the number of people who have told me that they have not only read a certain book but bought it for friends. A heavy responsibility! The 'Bramcote Bookworm' cover wears thin as fellow bookworms track down congregational members resident in the village. 'On Silbury Hill' is very much about nature and the way we as human beings have interacted with her over the millennia. It is about how, from time immemorial, that most enigmatic and mysterious of counties, Wiltshire, has been home for people whose livelihood and culture were deeply rooted in the land and about the enigma which is Silbury Hill, the largest artificial mound in Europe - unexplained and perhaps for ever a mystery. The book is also about Adam Thorpe himself and his fascination with this place, and with art and archaeology and education. It is also about life and love, spirituality and philosophy, poetry and theatre. It really defies definition.



In his book 'The Universal Christ' (reviewed here last year) Richard Rohr makes the striking point that 'the Christ' has been part of creation since the beginning. Thorpe shares something of this sense of the almighty and the immortal and the eternal when he writes about 'a powerful and often bewildering nature, a nature we screen off through a distorting technology at the very time we are penetrating matter's innermost secrets, but which is in no way diminished in actual power.' He goes on to reflect on how the economic principles established on individualism have been nurtured by the greedy and reckless, a mere handful compared to the numbers who will and do suffer 'from our tryst with the Devil'. His is not a theological treatise by any means but comparing our 'now' with the 'then' of Stonehenge and Silbury Hill, Thorpe says: 'we need the gods back. We need to sacralise the planet' - he asks 'was it so naïve of our ancestors to personify nature, to fill it with spirit, if it taught us to honour her and even fear her? Because she is fearful'. We readers know this all too well from the rapid climate change which has taken place since Thorpe's book was published. He goes on to say: 'Nature needs to be appeased, not with bloody sacrifices but with another kind of sacrifice: the killing of our blind arrogance. We can then learn to love her in all her majesty and intricacy'.

Thorpe has carried Silbury with him throughout his life, he constantly refers to the hill as she and there is a sense of an almost romantic entanglement. He sees the great works of those ancient people as an honouring, an acknowledging of the greater powers of nature. He sees God in everything, as he tells his young son when he asked where God stood. 'She or he is in every leaf' he told his child but, as he tells us, 'we still need special places where we can focus and intensify and channel'. Those prehistoric people of Salisbury Plain covered their landscape with such places not least Silbury Hill.

Like all the best reads 'On Silbury Hill' has inadvertently recommended further reading: 'Ulverton' Adam Thorpe's first novel published in 1992 and 'The Inheritors' William Golding's much overlooked masterpiece of 1955 which tells the story of how the extinction of the Neanderthals came about at the hands of Homo Sapiens.

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Coronavirus

Following the reports on the spread of the Coronavirus around Europe this week, it has been decided that we will take temporary precautions during Eucharist services in this parish - the Peace will be said without the shaking of hands, and wine will not be offered at communion. We hope that this will help people to feel more at ease in church, and we continue to hold all those affected, around the world, in our thoughts and prayers.

LENT TALKS AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

A series of four talks for Lent at
St Peter's Church, Nottingham
(next to M&S)

Thursdays at 1.00 pm
(Coffee/Tea & Biscuits available from 12.30 pm)

'My work, my faith'

A series of four lunchtime talks for Lent in which local speakers will speak about the relationship between their Christian faith and their work:

- How does faith inform the decisions we make in the workplace?
- How are we guided and strengthened by our faith in a world where religion is often seen as irrelevant?
- How do we make our faith visible to others when we are at work?



5th March:	David Bagueley	<i>Professor of Hearing Services, University of Nottingham</i>
12th March:	Cllr Debbie Mason	<i>Rushcliffe Borough Council</i>
19th March:	Stewart Vandemark	<i>Partner, Nelsons Solicitors</i>
26th March:	Andrea Shea	<i>Nottinghamshire YMCA</i>

Please note that the Bible study group will not meet on these dates

The Parish Churches of
St Peter and All Saints
Nottingham



NOTTINGHAM
WORKPLACE
CHAPLAINCY

0115 9483658 / office@nottinghamchurches.org
www.nottinghamchurches.org

Poem

Philip Hobson

The little man in the fridge

There's a little man lives in our fridge,
he lives there all the time,
every fridge has got one,
I'm sure there's one in mine!

He's put in there to do a job,
that is sure to please,
so look out for little teeth marks
when taking out the cheese!

It must be very cold in there,
good job he's very hardy,
glad it isn't me!
I'm a bit too mardy!

I'm afraid he doesn't know if it's day or night,
it really is a crime,
for when the door is closed
it's dark there all the time!

He's put there at the factories,
when the fridges are made.
Make sure to have the lid on,
if storing your marmalade!

He's got a simple job to do in there,
because he's not too bright!
It's every time we open the door,
he turns on the light!

We all own fridges these days,
to keep our food all fresh.
But I couldn't live inside one,
because I am well nesh!

What a silly poem Phil, I hear you say!
You must be off your head,
And it really is no wonder,
I wrote this poem in bed!

Mothers' Union

2nd March

Archdeaconry Meeting at St Jude's Church Hall, Mapperley
10.00 for 10.30am.

21st March

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

Speaker: Lina & Wilfred Morgan speaking about Sierra Leone.

25th March

Lady Day Service at St Peter & St Paul, Warsop
2.00pm followed by refreshments.



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 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

ST PETER'S CENTRE

ST PETER'S SQUARE

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