

ST MARY THE VIRGIN & ALL SOULS PARISH CHURCH
BULWELL

THE HILL

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St Mary's Parish Church, Bulwell

ONE LIFE MISSION 2019

More than 15 Bishops have so far signed up for the One Life mission taking place in Southwell & Nottingham Diocese

Every church is invited to take part in the mission, which will be a catalyst for a whole range of activities and events designed to share the Good News of Jesus with communities across the diocese.

Led by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, and working with Bishops Paul and Tony, the visitors will support activities planned by local churches – and it is expected that there will be a lot of them.

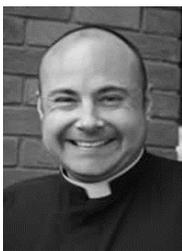
The mission takes place from Thursday 12th September to Sunday 15th September.

The Bishops coming to our Deanery are +Philip North of Burnley and +Paul Bayes from Liverpool. Both have experience ministering in deprived areas, and some of you will know Bishop Philip from when he was the Shrine Administrator at Walsingham.

A prayer for One LIFE

We pray for the One LIFE Mission with the Archbishop of York and all the northern Bishops. Father God help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all. By your Spirit help us grow in unity, grow as followers of Jesus Christ, and grow your Kingdom in Southwell & Nottingham. Amen

YOUR VICAR WRITES



What does Easter remind you of? Chocolate eggs, a favourite holiday destination, perhaps a good rest and fun with the family?

The Easter story tells us of God who made the world, saw it go to pieces, and then proceeded to put it back in shape.

You might have seen the film, *Schindler's List*. It's a moving portrayal of one man's attempt to rescue a doomed race of people. Oscar Schindler made an enormous amount of money in his factory in Kraków, Poland, making plates, mugs, pots and pans for the Nazi war machine. He used the money to buy the lives of hundreds of defenseless Jews with no other hope. To be on Schindler's list was life; to be off the list was death!

Schindler was inspired by the words of an old Jewish Rabbi who said "He who saves one life saves a nation." Schindler saved over 1200 lives from extermination in the death camps. At the end of the film, Schindler's workers present him with a ring made from the gold fillings from the teeth of the Jewish people he had protected. The words of the Rabbi are inscribed on it, given in grateful thanks by the survivors.

The Easter story tells us of Jesus Christ who, through his life, death and resurrection, saved not one life but many; not one nation, but every nation. As St John writes in the Bible, "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die." (*John 3:16, Contemporary English Version*).

As you rest and enjoy your chocolate eggs this Easter, take time to celebrate what God has done for you and for everyone.

With every blessing this Easter

Fr Andrew

**THIS YEAR WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS
TO JOIN ST MARY'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
(PCC) – IS GOD CALLING YOU?**

WHAT DOES THE PCC DO? The PCC is a team made up of members of clergy and lay members of the church. Together they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of their church, the church members, and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community.

The Minister is Chairman of the PCC though she/he may on occasion ask another member to chair a particular meeting. A treasurer, a secretary and vice-chairman will usually be elected to office at its first meeting after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The PCC will also appoint a standing committee, typically the Minister as chair, the churchwardens, the treasurer and two members elected from the PCC.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP Prayer and worship are at the heart of the work of the PCC. The PCC should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for public worship and provide an opportunity for people of all ages to meet for prayer and worship.

MISSION AND OUTREACH The PCC has an important part to play in promoting the mission of their church, amongst the congregation and in the wider community, and members of the PCC should demonstrate their commitment to the Christian ethos, through leadership, by example and by witness in the parish.

PASTORAL CARE The PCC and its members have a duty to support their clergy, prayerfully and personally. They have a duty to support the members of the congregation and to extend a welcome to all who visit the church, to members of the church community and to those visiting the church at other times. The church has a duty of pastoral care to all who live in our communities, whether members of the church or not, and PCC members are expected to take the lead in demonstrating that care.

FINANCE The PCC will appoint a treasurer to manage the day to day finances of the parish. The treasurer does not need to be a qualified accountant but must understand how to maintain books, must have a good knowledge of the parish and the work of the church, and importantly must have the full confidence of the PCC membership. The treasurer will keep members informed on the

financial situation and present a full report to each PCC meeting. PCC members are Trustees of a charity and are responsible for managing the Church's finances. They must ensure that all funds are properly accounted for, the books properly maintained, and the PCC annual accounts inspected or audited, and formally approved by the PCC, prior to the APCM.

BUILDINGS The PCC is responsible for the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church, and any other buildings owned by the church. In practice the PCC may appoint a Fabric Subcommittee to assist them, but the PCC members should be aware of any issues relating to the buildings and they have the responsibility of deciding on them and voting on items of expenditure.

MEETINGS The PCC is required by law to meet at least four times a year (one meeting may follow on from the APCM)

The PCC meeting should be a forum for open discussion with every member feeling able to ask a question or voice an opinion.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE PCC? If you are 16 years old or over, have been on the electoral roll of your parish for at least 6 months and are an actual communicant, YOU can stand for election to St Mary's PCC. Someone interested in becoming a member of the PCC should be:

- A committed member of the congregation
- Interested in and involved with the life of the church and the local community
- Willing to learn and to share ideas, experience and gifts
- Caring
- Able to listen to another's point of view

Your PCC needs thinkers, pray-ers and doers, questioners and listeners but YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A SAINT, A THEOLOGIAN OR AN EXPERT - THOUGH NOBODY WILL MIND IF YOU ARE!



THE CHURCHES' FELLOWSHIP FOR PSYCHICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDIES (CFPSS).



Over sixty years ago a group of Christians, clergy and lay, had become much concerned that they and many others, past and present, were aware of significant experiences to which the Church appeared to have little or no effective response. As a result, they decided to form a society which evolved into the Churches' Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies (CFPSS). Although the Fellowship began its work in that difficult post-war era when people were asking questions about their loved ones and survival of death, there has been a broadening of its studies over the last half century. Many people have come to value the guidance of the Fellowship when they have experienced spontaneous gifts of the Spirit, the pain of bereavement or simply a call to deeper spiritual understanding. The Fellowship offers a safe meeting place where members and enquirers may share and explore these experiences, in an open atmosphere of love and acceptance.

Fr Andrew is the Representative for the East Midlands Region of the CFPSS. The CFPSS is holding two meetings this year to which readers of 'The Hill' are warmly invited:

Sat 11th May 2019 11am – 3pm St. Giles Community Centre, Main Street, Balderton, Newark, NG24 3LL.

A talk by Peta Mellor (CFPSS member) her experiences of the psychical and the spiritual, followed by an open forum in the afternoon where people can 'chip in' and share. This would be an excellent introduction for anybody interested in the work of the Fellowship, and the ministries of healing and deliverance.

Sat 5th October 2019 11am - 3pm Warsop Parish Church, Church Road, Church Warsop, NG20 0SN

A talk by Matt Arnold (CFPSS member and a lay Pioneer Minister in the Church of England). Matt has written on the subject of Hallowe'en from a Christian perspective and works extensively with Pagan groups, as well as working in Mind Body Spirit fairs using the amazing 'Jesus Deck'. Matt's blog can be found at: <https://godofgreenhope.wordpress.com/>.

The cost for both of these events is just £5 (pay on the door). All are welcome!

A PRAYER FOR THE DAY AHEAD

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. AMEN

(Taken from the Church of England website)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Tuesdays 9.45 – 10.45am Church Open and Bible study

Sunday 7th April – Easter Family Fun Party (£1 per person) 3-5pm

Thursday 11th April ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ resources event at St Martin’s Sherwood (Spirituality Working Group) 7.30pm- 9.30pm

Sunday 14th April – Liturgy of Palm Sunday 10am
(with Blessing of the Palm Crosses & Procession)

Tuesday 16th April – Stations of the Cross 7pm

Thursday 18th April – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
(with handwashing, Stripping of the Altar, Vigil)

Friday 19th April – Liturgy of Good Friday 1.45pm
(Children’s activities 12- 3pm, bring own lunch, £1 per person to cover crafts)

Friday 19th April Churches Together on Main Street 10.30am Meet at Our Lady’s Church Brooklyn Road at 9.45am for Procession of Witness

Saturday 20th April - Diocesan Confirmation Service at St Mary’s in the Lacemarket 1.45pm *(rehearsal from 5.15pm)*

Sunday 21st April – Easter Sunday Service 10am
(with Easter Egg Hunt!)

Saturday 15 June. - Summer Fayre at St Mary’s Church

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BESTWOOD & BULWELL FOODBANK...

2010 Anglican and Methodist churches in Bestwood begin a review of how they work together and form the "Bestwood 6"

Decision is made that working together should be mission focused and should be orientated to the needs of our community.

2011 In a largely lay- led initiative the Bestwood 6 explore firstly the needs of the community, and secondly what would be required to set up a foodbank. All denominations in Bestwood are invited to join in.

Trussel Trust are approached for guidance. It is agreed that in order to be viable, both to ensure a sufficient support base and a wide enough population to serve to warrant the efforts required, churches in Arnold, Basford and Bulwell join in (Arnold later drop out, preferring to do their own thing).

2012 With Trussel Trust the Bestwood & Bulwell foodbank is launched as a registered charity. After exploring possible locations, the decision is made to locate the foodbank at St Phillips. As well as the required space and congregation will to sacrificially commit to the project, St Phillips has the advantage of being centrally located, easy access for clients and donors, and served by several bus services.

Churches are asked to donate £200 each to fund.

The foodbank opens 3 times a week and provides an out of hours service to referring agencies.

2014. Bestwood & Bulwell foodbank are one of the busiest foodbanks in Nottingham. Due to the increasing work required to keep it running the decision is made to appoint a paid part-time manager.

2015 The amount of food donations handled requires additional storage space. 3 garages plus a 40ft storage container are obtained.

2016 Another storage container is placed at St Philips

2018 A third container is obtained.

2019 Bestwood & Bulwell foodbank remains one of the busiest foodbanks in the city, although figures remain static over the last few years. This is probably down to the number of other foodbanks established in that time (e.g 5 others serving the greater Bulwell area)

Currently the Bestwood & Bulwell foodbank....

- Feeds over 3000 people a year
- Has over 60 volunteers per month providing up to 164 hours per week or the equivalent of 4 full time employees
- Works with over 20 schools
- Supported by business, community groups, and other faith groups across the whole of Nottingham
- Has the support of 25 churches

- Is the biggest sustained ecumenical project in this part of Nottingham
- Distributes over 30000kg of food a year.
- Hosts drop- in services to provide advice and support on welfare and housing issues.
- Working with 120 agencies across Nottingham to provide support for the community.
- Is supported entirely by donations.
- Supports a number of other projects, including those dealing with homelessness, domestic violence, and debt in the area.
- Works closely with other foodbanks in the city to ensure effective working and adequate coverage.

A number of other projects have sprung out of the foodbank, including a clothing charity and a community eating project.

THE TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP.

This group has been meeting together weekly during the last year to study the scriptures. In mid - November I was asked to head up the group. We have been following a 17-session long Bible study booklet called 'Coming, Being, staying close to God written by a clergyman. We are currently doing the last 5 sessions of the course on 'Seeking', 'Together', 'Holiness', 'Serving' and "Walking' as St. Mary's Lent course.

The group is informal and welcomes visitors. We always start with a prayer to seek God's guidance and inspiration for our time together. There is time for sharing our faith, exploration and prayer. The session includes prayer for personal needs, the needs of families and friends and the wider community of Bulwell.

There will be no Bible Study in Holy Week or Easter week. After Easter we will begin a new study from the Life Builder series called 'Women of the Old Testament.' Everyone is welcome to come and explore this subject with us. Before my foot surgery in early May I will delegate responsibility for leading the weekly group to a member of St. Mary's fellowship during my time of post - operative recovery. Anne Elphick

HOW WE PRAY. (BASED ON REVELATION 4: 6B – 7)

Around the throne and on each side of the throne are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle.

LIONS: Lions use their imagination a lot; they are pictorial thinkers; they, may well find icons helpful. Lions like to 'lie in the sun' and meditate. They do not like too many words. They can find liturgy helpful but are often struck by a phrase or verse which they continue to think on. Lions will sometimes take quite big steps in faith, though not every day. They find periods of extended prayer, such as Quiet Days or retreats helpful. In worship lions like both the 'old' and the 'new', so long as it is not sloppily done! Lions find 'the ravers' a bit much, but can be very relaxed about them – 'if they are happy to worship like that it is O.K.

OXEN: Oxen like regular discipline; they do not like to miss their daily prayers. They tend to have an equal balance of Bible reading and prayer. Oxen probably use a prayer list, though it can get out of date, and oxen often find they can get on quite well without it. Some find Bible study notes helpful, but again they can get on well without them. It may be that Liturgical prayer comes easy. Some oxen like traditional worship, some like new worship, but they rarely like both. They tend to know what they like and are somewhat uncomfortable with other forms of worship. A few can be ‘ravers’ and are blithely unselfconscious about it.

HUMAN: Beasts with a human face are very regular in their worship, but do not get frantic if they miss, as they know they are only human, and God understands that. They like a system, including notes, which they often find too brief. Thinking forms a large part of their Bible reading Prayer is very specific. Beasts with a human face are very methodical; they look for answers to prayer and generally remember to give thanks.

They possibly find a little liturgy O.K. Not a lot of silence comes into their worship, but when there is silence, no images are needed; they find it fairly easy simply to be still and composed. Those who are musical, like music in worship, but with not too much repetition – in fact once is enough to sing most songs! Those who are not musical would rather forget it – for them, intercession and the sermon is the ‘real’ thing. As for ‘ravers’ beasts with a human face cannot take them at all.

EAGLE: At times the eagle’s discipline is very good, at others not. They love music, poetry and occasionally liturgy. Eagles can have an intensity of experience at times, but when things seem low, prayer is very difficult. At other times prayer is full of hope and expectation. In worship eagles prefer sophisticated music and liturgy. Eagles understand the depth of meaning more than the other beasts. Worship often goes too quickly for them; they can get caught up in it and become very annoyed when others continue the service. Eagles can be very unaware of other people around them. They find it difficult to understand those who are constant ‘ravers’. Eagles can be ravers, but not to order.

ANON

Do you recognise yourself? Where do we all fit in, I wonder?

TOWER CAPTAIN’S REPORT FOR 2018

2018 has been a good year for ringing at Bulwell. There have been improvements in the ringing and the number of bells we have rung.

No. of bells	8	6	5	4	3	1	0	Average	Efficiency
2017	20	52	26	11	2	2	1	5.8	72%
2018	46	52	2	4	0	2	6	6.3	81%

We are now reaping the benefits of the 2016 recruiting drive in full. With continued help from Peter England and other visitors our standard of ringing has improved. While we have not introduced any new methods, we have been looking at extending those with which we are familiar and several ‘touches’ have been successfully rung. Our aim now is to introduce more of our learners to the ringing of these touches. The Band has remained stable

throughout the year with no losses of regular ringers. We had 2 recruits during the year but neither has shown any continued interest. We always gladly welcome volunteers.

Wedding ringing has remained at the same, all time low, with a total of 4 during the year. We did however ring for 1 funeral, I tolled for the funerals of Phyllis Bailey and Terry Blatherwick. Extra ringing did take place for St George's Day, a Choral Evensong, Bulwell Christmas Festival, for both St Mary's Christingle and Carol services. Much was made of the Armistice Centenary where half muffled ringing of all 8 bells took place on Remembrance Sunday and a Bulwell Churches Together joint Service of Remembrance finished with the tolling of a single bell once for every name on the town War Memorial.

The tower was open for general visitors on one Sunday during the Bulwell Arts Festival and 16 people visited us. Visits from the 64th Scouts Group, Reading University Ringers, 48th Beavers, St Mary's Nottingham Ringers and the Guild of St Agatha, also took place during the year. During the Summer we held 2 joint practices with Greasley ringers, one in each tower, which were enjoyed and hopefully will be repeated this coming Summer.

Technically our bells are in good order, except for a problem with the 6th clapper, which will require attention in the near future. Following our experience with a reconditioned rope, a second rope has been similarly repaired. The clock, which was causing problems in 2017, was repaired by the fitting of an entirely new winding unit. This was installed by Smiths of Derby, and after adjustments, seems to be working well.

On the social side, we held our usual Ringers' dinner, thanks to Violet for organising this; our usual Summer barbecue and Christmas supper, thanks to Jillian for organising the last two.

I finish by sincerely thanking all our members who regularly attend for Sundays, special services and practices throughout the year to keep our bells ringing out over Bulwell, remember, without you our tower would become silent.

Robert Naylor - Tower Captain



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THE CHURCH ON THE HILL
LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Tuesdays 9.45 – 10.45am Church Open & Lent Course

3-5pm Sun 7th April – Easter Family Fun Party (£1 per person)

10am Sun 14th April – Liturgy of Palm Sunday
(with Blessing of the Palm Crosses & Procession)

7pm Tues 16th April – Stations of the Cross

**7pm Thurs 18th April – Maundy Thursday Service
(with handwashing, Stripping of the Altar, Vigil)**

**1.45pm 19th April – Liturgy of Good Friday
(Children's activities 12- 3pm, bring own lunch, £1 per person to cover crafts)**

**7pm 20th April - Diocesan Confirmation Service at St Mary's in the Lacemarket (rehearsal
from 5.15pm)**

**10am Sun 21st April – Easter Sunday Service
(with Easter Egg Hunt!)**

ST MARY'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM - No Baptisms this month

FUNERALS - We give thanks for the lives of

5 March Dorothy Margaret Chambers (Northern Cemetery Chapel)

22 March Danielle Start

and remember their loved ones in their grief that they may know the peace of God.

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