

ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

May – June 2021 : Cost £1.00



JESUS MEETING MARY MAGDALENE ON EASTER SUNDAY

MORNING : NOLI ME TANGERE

Tapestry in the church of St Mary Magdalene, Lillington, Leamington Spa, Morris & Co. 1910, probably the work of John Henry Dearle (Photo Peter Rowe)

THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD, NOTTINGHAM

Worshipping in the Church of St Aidan,

Arnold Road, Basford, NG6 0DN

Rector: Revd Fr David Gill 0115-9622351
Priest: Revd Fr Julian Lowe 0115-9780574
Deacon: Ian Thompson 01724-337521

The Advisory Council

Fr David Gill

Fr Julian Lowe

Dn Ian Thompson

Tina Lowe (Church Warden and Secretary to the Trustees)

Katharine Dryden (Secretary, Welfare Officer and Choir Director)

Barry Dryden (Treasurer)

Joanna Spencer

Dominic Pote

The Trustees

Fr David Gill

Fr Julian Lowe

Dn Ian Thompson

Tina Lowe (Church Warden)

Barry Dryden (Treasurer)

Jim Moulton

Newsletter Editor: Frances Thompson

Website: www.nottinghamorthodox.org.uk

Deanery Website: www.thyateira-deanery.uk

registered charity. (#1174715)



FATHER JULIAN'S LETTER

To be writing this piece now, in the middle of Lent, and anticipating Pascha, only serves to highlight just how complacent I have been in the past!

I previously expected so many things to happen just as they always have. Our regular pattern of church services, our refreshments following a liturgy, weekly visits to family and friends, trips out and holidays, etc, etc. If the Covid-19 virus, and these past 12 months, have taught me anything, it is to take nothing for granted and to learn to live with uncertainty.

It is in situations like this that I find reflecting upon the life and writings of Mother Julian of Norwich very helpful. Mother Julian lived in turbulent and uncertain times; a period of history that saw the Hundred Year War, Battle of Crecy, two occurrences of the 'Black Death', the Peasants Revolt, the burning of Joan of Arc and the Lollards Pit. Yet, despite all that was taking place around her, Mother Julian understood that there is need for only one certainty, the hope we have in the love of the Risen Lord, Jesus. Julian understood that it was by love and the Cross that our Lord conquered sin; and by love and His resurrection that He conquered death; by His love and humiliation that the proud devil was conquered. All of our enemies defeated – Oh, what joy!

It is only when we look through the eyes of love, that we can truly understand the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

“Wouldst thou learn thy Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well: Love was His meaning. Who shewed it thee? Love. What shewed He thee? Love. Wherefore shewed it He? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt learn and know more in the same. But thou shalt never know nor learn therein other thing without end. Thus was I learned that Love was our Lord's meaning.”

– Julian of Norwich

And so, as we look ahead, with the hope of liberation from the constraints we have endured, we can be sure that whatever may unfold “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Christ is Risen, Χριστος воскрес

Christos Anesti, Χριστός Ανέστη

OUR LIFE

The Blessing of our Life together.

Eternal Remembrance: With Fr Julian praying beside her, our dear sister Sue (Susanna) Thompson fell asleep in the Lord, peacefully on the 22nd February. Her funeral was conducted by Fr Julian on the 16th March, and burial in the new Orthodox plot in High Wood Cemetery, Bulwell. Only few were able to be at the funeral, but the company included two who had travelled from London and Suffolk respectively. Sue had been bedridden for some time and had experienced failing health for several months. Until then she has always been very positive, meeting all of life's challenges with courage and determination. We remember how she travelled from Beeston to St Leo's by motor scooter to keep up her regular church attendance. She

was always cheerful and good company; we never heard her complain or say wrong words against anyone. May she rest in peace among good things!

We extend our grateful thanks to Fr Julian and Tina who gave Sue unstinting support and loving care over a long period of time.

Eternal Remembrance: George Mitchell, son of Simeon and Ellena, faithful members of our community until their falling asleep. George used to be with us but he continued to worship in Carlton in recent years whilst keeping in contact with Fr David. He died at the young age of 52, suffering from a Covid infection.

Update on Joseph and Sarah Westwood who often visited us for Liturgy until two years ago. They live in East Farndon near Market Harborough and used to have a small-holding with many animals. At other times they worshiped in the Church in Rugby. In April, 2019, Joseph had a replacement left knee and that of the right knee in August 2020. Following this he had unrelated illness which made him very poorly. He is now making good recovery but slowly and with restricted walking. Fortunately, their son, Tim, is able to give daily support and the support of their doctor and experience of the NHS has been very good. They appreciate receiving our newsletter which keeps them in touch. We send our love and assurance of our prayers.

From Olga Hudson

I've just been re-reading your March-April Newsletter which reminded me to let you know how touched I was at your mention of Robin's death and our need for prayer. I am indeed so grateful for all the love and sympathy I've received from this parish: whether in the form of letters, cards, emails or - most important of all - prayer. Thank you all so much. I don't know whether this is too late for your next edition - probably- if so, maybe you'll let people know by word of mouth or else forward this email.

With love, very many thanks and best wishes from Olga

Entry into Great Lent: It has been a great blessing and a source of joy to be able to be together again for Liturgy in St Aidan's. On Sunday, 14 March, Forgiveness Sunday, Fr David was able to serve and Vera with her family of the same household were the Cantors and able to provide lovely singing to lift us up again into the heavenly realms of the Holy Liturgy. After the Liturgy we had the usual brief introduction to Vespers and the act of mutual forgiveness.

The Holy Liturgy is best served when all members of the Community can be together.

On Monday evening, 15 March we were able to meet together again for **Compline and the first part of the Canon of St Andrew of Crete** and our entry into Great Lent. We continued with the Sunday of the Holy Cross on 4 March (Western Easter Day).

On the evening of 24 March, we celebrated the Liturgy of the **Presanctified Gifts for the Feast of the Annunciation**, the following day. Our Parish' celebration of this Important Feast was transferred to Sunday 28 March, the Sunday of Gregory Palamas. This was an appropriate coincidence, St Gregory affirmed more than any other the truth of the incarnation. He was able to emphasise that our whole being, body, mind and spirit, indeed the whole of our soul is engaged in the totality of our spiritual life. This came about because a young virgin, lovely, pure, devout and prayerful, with full attention to God, could become, by God's grace, His mother. She gave Jesus the fullness of human life and now, we, in our turn, every part of us, are invited to sit with Our Lord on the throne of God as we move into theosis.

Leeds Community of St Gregory Theologian: Fr David was able to visit and serve on 11 April. We used the Catholic Chaplaincy by kind and generous permission of Fr Marc, the Catholic Chaplain. The University Chapel is only open for private prayer at the present time but, hopefully, will be open again soon for worship. As with other churches across the land, there has been closure without recognition

that Christian worship is essential for the health and wellbeing of the community it serves. As ever, the Choir directed by Maria Marples was excellent and helped the 15 of us present to be lifted in prayer.

John Moore is having a difficult time as very recently he lost his twin brother. Now his wife Kate has had a small stroke. She is making good progress, so we offer our prayers for a complete and rapid recovery

The Nottingham University Chaplaincy has continued to provide support to both students and staff throughout Lockdown. Much of the work is 'virtual'; with Fr Julian leading a workshop to explore the chaplaincy teams attitudes and views with regard to LGTB+ issues and co-leading a bereavement course. This 'Bereavement Journey' is a course of 5 sessions designed to support those moving through the grieving process.

Nottingham City Faith Representatives meet frequently and are proud to live, work and worship in this multi-cultural and multi-racial city, believing in the intrinsic value of every human being and the dignity that everyone deserves. The 'Representatives', of which Fr Julian is one, are committed to teaching, prayer and the peaceful, but purposeful, pursuit of equality and justice and make a valued spiritual contribution to the work of Nottingham City Council.

Arrangements for Holy Week: We are very grateful to Katharine and Vera who were able to provide, in turn, cover for every service.

His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, passed away peacefully on April 9th at Windsor Castle.

A Panikhida was served Fr Julian on 10th April 2021 at 10.30am, in St Aidan's Church.

The tribute by Prince Charles, spoke for us all: My father Prince Philip has 'given the most remarkable, devoted service to the Queen, the Royal family, his country and the Commonwealth.

We continue to pray for the Royal family in their grief

Eternal Remembrance

Sue Thompson; Funeral Oration (16th March 2021)

I have pondered long and hard about what I should say at this point!

At many funerals it has become customary to present a 'biography' seeded throughout with witty anecdotes. Again, it has become the 'norm' to thank and acknowledge those who have been significant in the life of the dear departed. I am afraid I won't be doing that!

There are far too many people I would need to thank, and I do not want to offend any that do not get named. Friends, colleagues, academics, carers and nurses, both professional and unpaid, spiritual advisors, soul mates, those who provided food, those who provided company and those who provided a listening ear -

You know who you are, and I hope that you realise just how important you have been to Sue.

With a life such as Sue experienced; from her connection to Dominica and Barbados, her family ties with the controversial author, Jean Rhys CBE and the family of Sir Walter Scott (of which she was very proud!)

through to her culinary demands at the care home! Such a eulogy would be very easy to prepare. However, Sue chose to make her life somewhat like a set of books; and very few people, if any, got to read all of the books. A few, very close people, got to read a few of the books, but most were blessed with the opportunity to see just a few pages. I do therefore think that for me to give a potted history of Sue's life and experiences, would be disrespectful to her.

However, on the wall of her room, Sue had me place a laminated copy of a poem. This poem, by Jenny Joseph, entitled "When I am Old". The poem was very dear to Sue and I do hope that you won't mind if I read the poem to you.

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat that doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension
on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals,
and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I am tired,
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells,
And run my stick along the public railings,
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens,
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat,
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go,
Or only bread and pickle for a week,
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats
and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry,
And pay our rent and not swear in the street,
And set a good example for the children.
We will have friends to dinner and read the papers.
But maybe I ought to practise a little now?*

*So people who know me
are not too shocked and surprised,
When suddenly I am old
and start to wear purple!*

I think this poem says more about Sue than any biographical account I could offer.

There is one area of Sue's life however, that was essentially an 'open book' - Her Faith and her love of our Lord!

Sue was always happy to share how important and influential her initial encounter with Fr Benedict Ramsden was and to recount how she 'cold called', knocking on the door of a priest asking him to tell her about the Orthodox Church. You may be familiar with that priest, Metropolitan Kallistos!

Sue would be happy to tell of her time worshipping in Oxford and how she would journey, from her home in Peterborough to Nottingham, to attend the liturgy served by Fr David; eventually moving to Nottingham to be closer to the Church.

Sue's commitment to our Lord and the Orthodox Church was a wonderful witness

And Sue would enthusiastically share her knowledge and understanding with those she felt would benefit. Many a time Sue would explain to individuals that; "When going up to receive communion you do not kiss the icon!" Going on to explain that; "If you are about to meet your lover, you don't bother to kiss his photograph!"

I remember, having just been made "Reader" being told very clearly that it is Alleluia and **NOT** Halleluiah!

Throughout her life Sue showed enormous courage, resilience and faith. Indeed, a friend from her former Oxford parish, on hearing that

Sue had fallen asleep commented that, “She didn’t have to go far to search for her cross!”

Twice in recent years, having been hospitalised, treatment was withheld because it was felt that she would not survive the illness. And twice Sue said that she would decide when she would ‘go’ and not the doctors and nurses!

Despite the difficulties of ‘Lockdown’ I was still able to maintain regular contact with Sue. A few weeks ago, it became very clear that Sue was preparing to present herself to our Lord. It was two days after she had received Communion that, as I began to pray with her, Sue fell asleep in the Lord. I have no doubt whatsoever that Sue knew that God was calling her and that she should use the time remaining to prepare herself.

In the movie “Dead Poets Society” there is a famous scene in which a school master shows the pupils old school photographs. He explains that those in the photographs are probably all long dead, and asks what, if they could, would those former pupils advise the current pupils?

He suggests they would say “Carpe Diem” – Seize the day!

If we could ask Sue what advice she would like to impart to us I would not be at all surprised if it was ‘**Prepare**’. Could there be anything more appropriate for us at this time? We have just begun the season of Holy and Great Lent. A time of preparation and renewed devotion, a time to prepare minds and hearts, a time for us prepare for the feast of the Resurrection; the icon of which stands before us. In it we see Jesus descending and taking the wrist of Adam and Eve to lead them to the heavenly paradise just as He has taken the hand of our dear sister, Sue together with all the righteous departed.

Eternal Remembrance, Sue



News from Andrew Williams now back in the USA

Andrew was a most devoted member of our parish and we were very sorry when his course ended and he had to return to the USA. Whilst here he was studying Creative Writing at Nottingham University.

Hello everyone and warmest greetings from Texas (in more ways than one as it has been about 29C here where I am in Denton). I've missed St Aidan's immensely in the seven months that I've been gone, and was encouraged to write and provide a quick update on my journey since. I'm pleased to report that I'm currently working full-time at a Christian after-school programme that has provided me with the opportunity to teach children about our Lord on a daily basis. I am incredibly blessed to have such a position – I daresay it's the best company I have ever had the privilege of working for – and I think it will be very difficult to leave at the end of August when, God willing, I shall be making preparations to begin a new job in Spain as an English language teacher (location TBD).

My hope is that I will be able to visit Nottingham and St Aidan's again sometime in September, as well as spend some quality time at the monastery in Essex, though of course that depends on the state of lockdown at that time. Friends have been keeping me up to date on the restrictions over there, and I cannot imagine the strain it must be placing on all of you. By the grace of God things will have returned to some form of normality by then.

Although I do feel saddened by the prospect of leaving my ministry here in Texas, it will be nice to live closer to the UK which I have come to consider my spiritual home. It is a dream of mine to serve the Lord permanently here in England if not in Nottingham, but whether or not that comes to pass I will continue to follow where the Lord directs me.

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. I look forward to seeing you all again soon, and will keep you and your families in my own prayers as you persevere through this difficult and uncertain time. In His Love,

Blessings!

James

News from Tatiana Yudina

Yes, Cambridge is amazing, especially in spring and summer. Glad that you are well, and able to go to church! Thanks be to God!!! We, St Ephraim parish, are too doing our best Lots and lots of love again to all in Nottingham!!! Tanya
P.S. I've got ALMOST a tame swan and pet squirrel :-)



Two of Tatiana's new friends

Barbara is our link for news on the work of the St Gregory's Foundation



There can be no better present for parents of children with communication difficulties than seeing their child happy

Andrei and his mother took part in Communication Space's winter camp. But it's not just the camp that has been making Andrei happy. Andrei has been learning how to use his communication book. For a long time, he would only use this at the centre, but now he is using it much more at home. He has really mastered asking for things that he wants. He is getting much better at understanding visual time-tables and at using a timer. Now that Andrei understands that even activities he doesn't like don't last for ever, he can tolerate them much better. For example, Andrei's sensory sensitivity makes touching damp or slimy things deeply unpleasant. Now that he is becoming less sensitive, and able to tolerate a little more unpleasantness, he is able to be much more active in the kitchen, and is learning how to cook chicken amongst other things. Finally, over the last few months Andrei has been learning how to assemble small notebooks with a book-binding machine. We are hoping that this might be a suitable

occupation for him in the future. All these small steps forward add up to a much happier time for Andrei and his family

We are delighted that both in St Petersburg and Moscow, our partners are expanding their reach. In the picture above, the St Petersburg support group enjoy a meal together in the kitchen of Physical Rehabilitation's new premises. We helped the charity to equip their new base. Having more space has meant they can take on more staff and help more families. The pandemic has also proven that it is possible for children to make progress with online support only. They have established a special online programme for families in the provinces, who have no local access to quality services.

In Moscow, our partners have also been expanding online with group counselling sessions for parents of children with communication difficulties. Parents report being able to give themselves permission to take a rest and feeling more at peace with their situation. One mother explained a particular difficulty she had with strangers asking about her son, "Before I used to get cross, but now I understand that people are just curious. Especially children. They used to particularly upset me because they say what they think, and often that is very painful. But I began not reacting crossly, and, when it is possible, I explain why such a big boy is in a pushchair and why he can't talk. They listen, and maybe it will help make our society more enlightened."

Both in St Petersburg and Moscow, we continue to fund online training sessions open to parents and professionals across the country. Communication Space in Moscow have also written a manual to go with Picto-selector, an online source of visual communication aids, which they have translated into Russian. Now Russian-speakers everywhere can create communication books and visual timetables to suit their needs, for free.

It is remarkable, that even amid this year's difficulties, our colleagues and the families they help have been able to make such progress. We are very grateful to all of you who help to make this possible.

Mary of St Gregory's Foundation

The Nine Ranks -Part 15



Removing a particle from this same prosphora and placing it next to the first (thus making the top of a new column), he says: Of our fathers among the saints and hierarchs: Basil the Great; Gregory the Theologian; John Chrysostom; Athanasius and Cyril; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia; Peter, Alexis, Jonah, and Philip of Moscow; Nicetas of Novgorod; Leontius, of Rostov; Patrick Enlightener of Ireland, David of Wales, Augustine of Canterbury and Ninian of Whithorn: and of all the holy hierarchs.

St Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople was born in Nazianzus, the son of a Greek father [who later became a Christian and a bishop] and a Christian mother. Before being baptised, St Gregory studied in Athens with Basil the Great and Julian the Apostate. St Gregory often prophesied that Julian would become an apostate and a persecutor of the Church, as indeed happened. Gregory’s mother, Nonna, had an especially great influence on him.

Upon completing his academic studies Gregory was baptized and later consecrated by St Basil as Bishop of Sasima. He was later summoned by Emperor Theodosius the Great to fill the vacant archiepiscopal throne of Constantinople.

St Gregory wrote numerous works, the most famous of which are those on theology, for which he was given the epithet ‘the Theologian’. St Gregory was especially known, because of the depth of his work ‘Homilies on the Holy Trinity’. In this work St Gregory wrote against the heretic Macedonius, who erroneously taught that the Holy Spirit is a creation of God, and against Apollinarius, who erroneously taught

that Christ did not have a human soul, but that His divinity was in lieu of His soul. In addition, St Gregory also wrote against Emperor Julian the Apostate, his one-time fellow student.

In 381 a debate began regarding his election as archbishop and as a result St Gregory chose to withdraw and issued a statement: “Those who deprive us of our archiepiscopal throne cannot deprive us of God.” St Gregory left Constantinople and went to Nazianzus, and there he lived a life of solitude and prayer, continuing to write books.

Although in poor health throughout his entire life, St Gregory lived to be eighty years old and reposed in the Lord in the year 390. His relics were later transferred to Rome. A reliquary containing his head reposes in the Cathedral of the Dormition in Moscow. He was, and remains, a great and wonderful light of the Orthodox Church, as much for his meekness and purity of character as for the unsurpassable depth of his mind.

THE RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

A question which has been asked before in this Newsletter is why, when people encountered Jesus after the Resurrection, they did not immediately recognize him? For none of them did. Mary Magdalene mistook him for the gardener; the Apostles in the upper room at first thought that he was a ghost; the disciples on the road to Emmaus believed him to be a stranger even after they had walked and talked with him; and at his last appearance by the Sea of Galilee only Peter recognized him, and then only after he had told them where to cast their nets.

The Resurrection appearances have puzzled me for much of my life, and not least because of their consistency. All the witnesses, in their different ways, reported the same thing. They saw someone, or met someone, but failed to recognize that it was Jesus until in some way he disclosed himself. And this is odd because it goes against a well-

known psychological tendency. How often, when a person has been much in our thoughts, have we glimpsed someone and assumed for a moment that it was the person we had been thinking about? I once got the shock of my life when a cyclist passed me in the street and acknowledged me, because just for a second or two I could have sworn that it was a friend who had died some weeks previously! But with Jesus it was the other way around. And it was a comment by the Lutheran theologian Jürgen Moltmann which set me thinking along what I now believe to be the right lines. The Resurrection appearances are all in the nature of *revelations*. The Risen Christ was a reality, yes, but in order to pierce the barrier between this life and the beyond, Jesus had to reveal himself. There is something symbolic here, and it concerns the nature of faith itself. We begin with unbelief, and then, mysteriously, we see what previously we had been unable to see. Whence comes this dawning illumination? Could it be from the Christ who dwells within us? And are we then ‘chosen’ in some way? It may put us in mind of a statement elsewhere in the Gospels, that ‘no man knoweth who the Son is but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him’ (Luke 10:22; Matt 11: 28).

Mary Magdalene at first thought Jesus was the gardener. There is symbolism even here, but of a different kind. According to the bible, the story of our creation began in a garden, and Adam was the gardener. The New Creation also began in a garden (‘Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden was a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid’ – John 19: 41). Mary’s mistake was itself a kind of revelation, or pre-revelation, for Jesus is the Second Adam, and as God, He is the great Gardener, the Creator of the World.

In the Resurrection appearances Jesus not only reveals himself personally to whom he will; he also reveals his attributes. To Mary he is Christ the Consoler; to the Apostles he is the Teacher, their Leader

and Master; at Emmaus he reveals himself as the Lord of the Eucharist – i.e. ‘in the breaking of bread’; and at the Sea of Galilee as the great Fisherman, and, more intimately, as our Companion and Friend.

However deeply we probe the Gospels there are always further layers waiting to give up their secrets.

Deacon Ian.

Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe

Once there was a time when if you were in a big city shopping mall, you could be excused for not knowing exactly which country you were in, let alone which city. Shopping looks to be all set for a change as the big names are gradually disappearing from the high streets. Will this be good or bad? Online shopping has increased with more choice, very prompt delivery and easy returns for clothes if they were not satisfactory. Almost anything can be found on the web.

High Streets now are often deserted at night apart from the odd rough sleeper in a shop doorway. Frodingham Road is different as it has remained vibrant and is in a very racially diverse area.

Most of the shops owners probably live above the shop. This means that the area is still lively in the evenings as eating places and takeaways flourish.

Many of the shops sell everything, so like Wilkos, during lockdown many were allowed to stay open. This road has always pulsed with life plus the occasional stabbing but it has a heartbeat that is not felt in the shopping precincts. Once when walking along Frodingham Road I remember seeing a man banging on a drum whilst sitting on a chair outside a shop. He had a placard with the message: ‘This shopkeeper owes me £50.’ When I came back after about 20 mins the drummer and his chair had gone. I don’t know if he was paid.

I fear for the future of the small privately owned shops and suspect that a fair proportion will stay closed for ever. One of the shops that



will probably not survive is the eastern dress and fabric shop. This shop had a very good supply of both black and white good quality fabric on the roll suitable for burkas and long-sleeved white kaftans or albs and cassocks. Fr Minimus (some of you will know him) was kitted out from this shop. Often the younger Asian women are now wearing western styles and richly embroidered saris are now worn only by brides. Simpler kurta and kameez are still worn by grannies but there is often a mix

between East and Western styles of attire amongst younger women. Elderly men often wear western style clothes plus a white kaftan and an embroidered cap. Another nail in the coffin for local traditional clothing is the internet.

The Muslims are proud of their religion and it is a very important part of their life. Girls who work in Sainsburys can be seen wearing uniforms modified to comply with their religion as do those who work in the Post Office. Our main library, (apart from lockdown) has one male assistant who wears a long white kaftan on Fridays.

We used to see robed nuns going about their business but they changed their attire into shorter skirts and were then regarded as dowdy sad women who now have no impact on the general public. Previously they were respected and were a sure sign that the church was alive and active. Men in cassocks are a rarity. One reason is that they don't live near the church so need to go around in cars but when they are out and about on foot, I am told on very good authority that they are generally treated with great respect. A Coptic archbishop in regalia told me that once he was at Kings X station and a young man with a bolt through

his eyebrow and a safety-pin in his nose said to him, ‘Why are you dressed all funny?’ He replied that he was a priest and had just returned from Cairo and left it at that.

There are three mosques in the Frodingham Road area. The Central Mosque, The United Muslim Mosque and the Islamic Centre. Four terraced houses have had a wonderful sympathetic conversion into the central mosque with a very superior green dome. We were very warmly received at an open day the held quite recently. The local C of E church seems to have turned into a 90 % community space with the sanctuary area now well screened off and out of view. The Methodist church has become a depot for a builders’ merchant and the RC church seems to be surviving but not prospering. It used to stay open round the clock as it catered for steelworkers who worked shifts but now the church is secured by a padlocked gate and metal fence.

The Asian shops sometimes have a boy aged about 12 in action behind the counter; probably the son of the owner who no doubt would be within calling distance. Some might call this child labour but I am convinced these boys are very pleased and proud to be helping whilst at the time they learn responsibility, business skills and where everything is stored in the shop by keeping the shelves tidy.

One enterprising Pakistani opened an exotic fruit and vegetable store with a fascia board stating *The Pakizaar*. We locals thought it an excellent name but the powers that be decided it was racist and it has now been renamed as *The Asian Market*.

Our local newsagent tells me that he is always pleased when Asian children apply for paper rounds as they are all reliable, very efficient and have a good attitude. Room for much thought there....

I got to know Frodingham Road quite well as our garage repair man’s workshop is at the far end and leaving a car or collecting a car always involves an interesting walk.

Frances



On a lighter note.

MAY	CALENDAR MAY - JUNE	
Sat 15 Sun 16	3rd Sunday of Pascha Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus	Vespers 5.00pm Liturgy 10.30 am
Fri 21	Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena, Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Services in Greek Church, Nottingham	see Facebook for details
Wed 26	MID- PENTECOST No services	
Fri 28 Sat 29	5 th Sunday of Pascha	Liturgy 10.30 am
JUNE		
Fri 4 Sat 5	6 th Sunday of Pascha The Blind Man , Fathers of the 2nd Ecumenical Council, Sts Martha and Mary	Vigil 5.00 Liturgy 10.30 am
Wed 9 Thurs 10th	THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD St Columba of Iona STOW MINSTER: To be confirmed	Vigil 7.00 Liturgy
Sat 19 Sun 20th	Saturday of All Souls Time to be confirmed	Vigil 7.00 Liturgy
Covid restrictions should be lifted on June 21st		
Mon 21st	DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT St Alban Protomartyr of Britain	
Thurs 24th	Nativity of St John the Baptist	No Services
Mon 28th	BEGINNING OF THE APOSTLES FAST	Liturgy
JULY 3 July 4	2nd Sunday After Pentecost All Saints of Britain , time to be confirmed	Vigil 5.00 Liturgy



Sue loved dogs and Charlie was very close to her heart