

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are now just a few weeks away from the visit of our dear Chief Apostle.

The divine service, which commences at 10:00h on April 1st, will be held at the East Midlands Convention Centre, Beeston Lane, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RJ.

It is always special when we come together. Already, some have gathered for local choir practices, others have planned their journeys and some have booked local hotels. A great preparation is underway. Of course, travelling that weekend is not without challenges. The distance, the fact that we have to negotiate Bank holiday traffic, and the costs are all factors that many have to struggle with.

Way back when, Moses was instructed by God, he told the people to prepare for a great journey, they were leaving their homes, that place which had become their 'comfort zone' (Exodus 16) and were going to a land, far away that was promised to them. It wasn't going to be easy, even before the journey began, they were faced with being held back by the Pharaoh of Egypt. He said No, No and No, several times.

Maybe for this journey we have to fight against our own inner Pharaoh and depend upon a few 'miracles' to help us get to where we want to be.

By the way, my favourite plague is the 2nd one with frogs. Pharaoh was asked by Moses, 'when do you want me to get rid of these frogs', Pharaoh says 'tomorrow'. Personally, I would have said 'There's no time like the present,' so as we prepare to travel to Nottingham, let us plan to do it today, as tomorrow may present other challenges (plagues) and we don't want to be defeated.

Here's a good maxim, 'Don't tell God how big your problems are but tell your problems how big your God is'.

See you in Nottingham!

Greetings to you and yours,

David Middleton