

St Peter's Church Hartshorne



St Peter's Hartshorne Tree planting 2016 –

Archbishop of Canterbury with children from Hartshorne School

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 2nd April 2017

Minister – Rev Graham Rutter

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2017

Sunday 2nd April 2017 at 12:00

AGENDA

1. Opening prayers

2. Election of Churchwardens

- I. The Churchwardens report
- II. The election of Churchwardens

3. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- I. Apologies for absence
- II. Minutes of the last meeting
- III. Matters arising from last meeting
- IV. The Electoral Roll
- V. Reports from the Church Organisations
- VI. The honorary Treasurer's report and accounts
- VII. The appointment of honorary auditor
- VIII. The election of Deanery Synod and PCC members
- IX. Appointment of sidesmen
- X. Any Other Business
- XI. Thanks and Closing Prayers

3. The PCC Meeting to Elect Officers

- XII. Honorary Lay-chair
- XIII. Honorary Secretary
- XIV. Honorary Treasurer
- XV. Electoral Roll Officer.
- XVI. Any co-opted appointments
- XVII. Confirm date, place and time of next meeting
- XVIII. Prayers

Minister's Report on 2016

Last year was an encouraging one, with a variety of positive developments. During the last year, after prayer, discussion, hard work and discernment, we developed a Mission Action Plan (MAP) with 3 main aims. These are the things that we believe God is calling us to do next, and seeks to build on all the many good things that we are already doing. We believe that God wants his church in Hartshorne to be Sustainable, Flexible, and Hospitable.

We want to be **Sustainable**, by helping each other in our discipleship. We have set up an evening house group, and we are wanting to explore holding a mid-week service, and other discipleship groups.

We want to be **Flexible**, holding services that aren't on a Sunday morning. We are planning to hold a Songs of Praise service on a Sunday afternoon, particularly for those people who attend Senior Citizens' lunches. We are also looking at holding all-age events or services.

We want to be more **Hospitable**, extending our welcome to other people and groups. We have been serving drinks on the first Tuesday of the month at the weekly Post Office in the Dethick Hall. We have also involved pupils from Hartshorne School in the Senior Citizens' lunches. We also supported the community carol singing outside the Rodney, particularly with the help of our St Peter's Singers. We are now looking at how to open up the church building, to extend our hospitality to visitors, walkers, and people visiting the churchyard.

Early in 2017 we have held a couple of working parties to clean and tidy our church building and churchyard. These have made a noticeable improvement to how our church looks, and I'm very grateful for the hard work of everyone who was able to make it. Hopefully, we will be able to hold more during the year.

As part of opening the church building we also are exploring replacing the brown wooden interior double-doors with glass and wood doors. This will make the entrance to church far more attractive and welcoming, and show when the building is open for visitors and services. It will also make the building less draughty and warmer.

We have had outline estimates of the cost of the doors, and will also need to spend some money on making parts of the building secure. To be able to do this work, we will require funding from charities and grants to make this possible. We will also need the support of the congregation and wider community. This is an exciting project that we will pursue during the coming year.

There have also been many other positive things happening over the year. The worship group has gone from strength to strength, and I'm very grateful for all the people who have worked so hard to develop this. St Peter's Singers have also made welcome contributions to

our worship. I'm also very grateful for those who preach and lead worship. It is a very important and welcome part of the life of our church.

Our special services over Christmas were again well-attended, with our Christingle for Hartshorne C of E school being appreciated by the many people who came. This also highlighted our good links with the school. I'm grateful for the hard work of Debbie Patrick as chair of governors, and also as a member of the Churches Together Assemblies Team, which regularly goes into the school (along with many others in the area). This has led to SDYFC being able to set up an after-school club (Jesus And Me), which is well-attended.

Our links with the school were particularly enhanced by the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to our church during the year. This was a great event, linking our school, our church and our community, and I'm very grateful for all the hard work that a great many people put into making this work so well. This was alongside our on-going activities of the Senior Citizens' meal, the Craft Fair, and especially Little Sparks.

Our online presence, with a well-used website and Facebook page, is also another important part of our outreach, and I remain grateful to Jane Horan and Matt Smith for their continued hard work.

It has been good to continue as a Link Church for Queen's College, Birmingham, with Paul Desborough, whose preaching and leading has been much appreciated. Paul will be ordained in Derby Cathedral on 2nd July and will be starting a curacy elsewhere in the diocese. I'm sure that we will be sorry to see him go. It has, however, been good to encourage Abbey Emery as she has begun her training to be a Reader over the course of this year. Abbey has also been attending services at Emmanuel and has also recently preached there. It is envisaged that her ministry will be across the two parishes, although based here in Hartshorne.

Personally, this has been a busy and challenging year, with a transition to Area Dean that was more fraught than it should have been. However, with the additional support of an Administrator and Assistant Minister in place, I have been able to focus more on Hartshorne, alongside my Deanery duties. I'm very grateful for Rev Alison's work as Assistant Minister, mainly at Emmanuel, but also here in Hartshorne, particularly in taking funerals, of which we have had an increased number.

I remain very grateful for the hard work undertaken by many people in the church, much of it behind the scenes. This is particularly the case for our churchwardens Jane Horan and Bill Morris, who work very hard and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Rev Graham Rutter—Minister

Churchwardens' Report

CHURCH

Various works (mainly electrical) have been carried out in the church:

- Cables on the tower stairway to six of the bulkhead lights replaced with steel wire armoured cable to provide mechanical protection. Electrical sockets installed in the belfry to enable sensors to be fitted to the bells to facilitate silent ringing practice.
- Sensors fitted to bells
- Burglar alarm serviced and main siren replaced
- Light installed in toolstore/boiler house to replace the old one condemned & removed after the Electrical Safety report (2015)
- Additional fire blanket positioned near west door
- Lime wash applied to repair flaking paint on walls near Dethick tomb and near interior door in west wall of tower

TOOL STORE

- Security gate with padlock fitted inside tool store and relevant safety signs fixed to outer door

CHURCHYARD

Regular maintenance work has been carried out including:

- Sunken graves levelled with topsoil and reseeded
- Holly hedge (above wall adjacent to new house in manor house grounds) cut back to improve access to and appearance of nearby graves
- Hedge adjacent to field on south perimeter cut back to fencing to allow overgrown graves to be revealed

Additions in the churchyard (after obtaining faculties) include:

- Memorial bench installed at end of path in new area of churchyard
- English Oak tree planted in SE corner of churchyard
- Memorial bench installed next to oak tree

CHURCH HALL

Work done outside the hall includes:

- New sign fixed to wall in Manchester indicating location of church and car park
- New sign for church hall fitted to wall above entrance to hall

Inside the hall equipment in kitchen has been upgraded. New purchases include: two ceramic hobs, one fan oven, two four slot electric toasters (provided by Little Sparks), one slow cooker and one kettle

CAR PARK

- White lines have been repainted
- Hedge has been cut back

Jane Horan
Bill Morris

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Minutes of meeting held on Sunday April 17th 2016

Rev. Graham Rutter opened the meeting in prayer.

1. Election of Churchwardens

i) Rev. Graham Rutter thanked the church wardens, (Jane Horan and Bill Morris), for all their hard work over and above the standard role of Churchwarden. The Church Wardens report is included in the report, and highlights much of the additional hard work and activities over the past year. The greatly improved churchyard is a tribute to all the hard work which Bill has put in, lots of positive comments have been received from many families visiting. The organised paperwork, creation of the weekly news letter/ notice sheet and greatly improved church website have all been thanks to Jane's hard work.

ii) Election of Church Wardens

The following were proposed and seconded as below:

Churchwardens	Proposed By	Seconded By
Jane Horan	Nigel Worth	Pauline Insley
William Morris	Jane Horan	Pauline Insley

The above were duly elected by the meeting, thanks were expressed for their willingness to stand to take on this vital role within the church.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

• Attendance list for everyone present to sign in, completed & passed to PCC Secretary

ii. Minutes of the last meeting: -

• Acceptance of the previous year's (2015), AGM minutes was proposed by Nigel Worth and seconded by Ayesha Squire. All in favour.

iii. Matters arising from last meeting – none which are not covered elsewhere.

iv. The Electoral Roll

The roll has been checked and updated as appropriate, 2015 it stood at 65. 12 names have been removed and 5 added. The present total is 58. Rev Graham Rutter thanked the Electoral Roll officer – Christine Gardner for managing & updating the electoral roll.

Anyone who is eligible who has not completed a form can still do so and be added at the next PCC meeting.

v. Reports from the Church Organisations

Rev. Graham Rutter started by thanking the Standing Committee, PCC & Worship Committee for all their hard work which is often behind the scenes.

Leaders or members of various church groups have submitted reports outlining what their group has been doing. Reports from the following are included: PCC, Electoral Roll, Churchwardens, St Peter's Care Fund; and all groups which meet on a regular basis, both adult daytime or evening groups and youth and children's groups – Little Sparks / Youth and Sunday school, all of which give us the opportunity for important outreach, thank you to all those involved.

He then went through the group reports in turn, and then summarised it, by giving thanks to everyone for all of the hard work, lots of love and care which are celebrated by all the groups represented in the pages of our report, there is lots of really good stuff going on in this church. This report shows how much is being done here in Hartshorne, we recognise that there is always more to do, but we should all be encouraged God's light is shining brightly. Thank you and be encouraged. Copies of the report for anyone to read have been made available in church.

vi. *The honorary Treasurer’s report and accounts*

The audited accounts were available for all to see in annual report. Graham Rutter started by thanking everyone for their generous giving during the last year, and proceeded to give the highlights of the account activities over the past year. The overall total amount has reduced on the previous year mainly due to a reduction in the number of church members. Main source of expenditure was the Parish Share, we have been able to double the amount we managed to send since 2013. These accounts were accepted by everyone as a true record, and there were no questions relating to the accounts. Rev Graham Rutter, commented that this may be a couple of pages in the report, but they represent a lot of hard work throughout the year, thanked Deb Worth for her hard work in keeping the accounts over the past year. He also stressed the importance of giving regularly.

vii. *Deb Worth proposed Mr Bernard Taylor as honorary auditor, seconded James Johnston. All voted in favour.*

viii. *The election of PCC members, and Deanery Synod members*

PCC

There were 3 positions vacant for the PPC, for which there were three nominations:

	Proposed By	Seconded By
<i>Nigel Worth</i>	<i>Christine Gardner</i>	<i>Carol Hulse</i>
<i>Debbie Patrick</i>	<i>Jane Horan</i>	<i>Pauline Insley</i>
<i>Andrew Howard</i>	<i>Nigel Worth</i>	<i>Christine Gardner</i>

Deanery Synod

Graham Rutter reported that Denise Johnston had decided to stand down from her role on the Deanery Synod. He thanked Denise for all her contributions & hard work over her years in the role. This left a vacancy for 1 representative, for the remaining 1 year, (Deanery synod members are all elected every 3 years), for which there was one nomination.

	Proposed By	Seconded By
<i>Sean OToole</i>	<i>Debbie Patrick</i>	<i>Jane Horan</i>

Thanks were given to all those willing to stand to take on these vital roles within the church.

ix. *Appointment of sidesmen*

Sidesmen are an official requirement. The following people have volunteered, Betty Griffiths, Pete Storer, Gwen Green, Margaret Sidwells, Christine Gardner, Matt and Katie Smith. All were elected.

Graham Rutter then asked for open prayer for all those who have just been elected, to server the church in these important roles, during the coming year.

x. *Any Other Business –*

- Reminder to everyone of the Vision Day – which is to take place on 7th May, this is an opportunity The lent course / group has focused on ‘Everyone Welcome’ – how we can be more welcoming, & the challenges we face in this to be discussed in forthcoming PCC meetings.*

Rev Graham Rutter thanked all those who take on roles and responsibilities within the church, whatever they may be for their hard work and ongoing support. He then closed the meeting in prayer, and said a blessing for the whole of St Peter’s Church.

*Meeting closed 12:45***Christine Gardner -PCC Secretary**

PCC Secretary's Report

Last year's Annual General Meeting was held in church on Sunday 17th April 2016.

5PCC meetings have taken place during the year, chaired by Rev Graham Rutter. Regular standing group meetings have taken place, (attendees PCC Chair, Church wardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary), along with separate groups to focus on worship, mission, Health and Safety, Welcoming etc. which has helped us in reducing the length of time of the main PCC meetings.

All meetings begin and end with prayer. The PCC meet to discuss practicalities of the upkeep of the church, churchyard, church hall and grounds, the financial position and to implement solutions and discuss forthcoming events.

One of the important tasks I have to perform annually is the creation of this booklet ready for the Annual Parochial Church meeting. I would not be able to complete this without the reports etc. from each group, so many thanks to all those who have taken the time to reflect on what has been achieved during the last year, in order to write their reports, and I apologise for being a pain & chasing & hassling some of you. 😊

Christine Gardner

The 2017 Electoral Roll stands at 57

There were 3 deletions from the previous year:

Betty Griffiths, Alice Redfern, Noreen Illsley

There were 2 inclusions:

Rebecca Redfern, Joe Ridout

Christine Gardner – Electoral Office, March 2017

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne

Legal and Administrative Information for the year ended 31 December 2016

Committee of Management:	Rev'd G Rutter	Chairperson
	Mr W Morris	Churchwarden
	Mrs J Horan	Churchwarden
	Mrs CGardner	Secretary
	Mrs D Worth	Treasurer
	Mr N Worth	
	Mr M Smith	
	Mrs A Squire	
	Mrs K Smith	
	MrsD Patrick	
	Mr A Howard	
	Mrs S O'Toole	
		Mr J Johnston

	Mr S O'Toole	Deanery Synod Representative
	Mrs A Emery	Deanery Synod Representative

Principal Address: Church Street
Hartshorne
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE11 7ER

Correspondence Address: 3 Sharpswood Manor
Woodville
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE11 7JT

Charitable status: In common with other Parochial Church Councils
St Peter's Church, Hartshorne is a charity excepted by Statutory
Instrument from registration with the Charity Commission

Independent Examiner: Bernard Taylor FCMA
41, Derwent Road,
Burton On Trent
DE159FR

Bankers: Yorkshire Bank plc
184-185 Station Street
Burton upon Trent
DE14 1DL

Independent Examiner's Report for St. Peter's Church, Hartshorne for the year ended 31st December 2016

This report is conducted under the "Church Accounting Regulations 1997 -2001" (regulations) as amended. – A copy of these regulations have been provided to the PCC for general information and guidance. (If you would like to see a copy please speak to a member of the PCC).

Independent Examiner's statement

I rely on these regulations as the basis of my examination, and that the "council" (PCC) has prepared the "statement of accounts" under these regulations.

The Council should be aware that if the Council's gross income or total expenditure exceeds £250,000 in the relevant year, or in either of the two immediately preceding years, or if the Council so chooses, the report shall instead be a report by an auditor as provided by these regulations.

The review for the year ending 31st December 2016 consisted of an examination of the records as kept by the PCC, relevant questions being asked as to the source and nature of selected items of income and expenditure, and a comparison of the accounts as supported by these records.

Having conducted the examination, no material items have come to my attention, and the method of accounting and accounting records are in accordance with the requirements of the regulations.

In my opinion the Income and Expenditure statement as examined, provides a true and fair picture of the financial activities for St Peter's Church for the year ending 31st December 2016.

Bernard Taylor FCMA
41, Derwent Road,
Burton On Trent
DE15 9FR

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2016
General Fund – Receipts and payments account

	2016		2015	
RECEIPTS				
Incoming resources from donors				
Gift Aid	15034.05		15,721.50	
Collections and other giving	3426.84		3,806.22	
Income tax recovered	3760.23		4,758.25	
		22,221.12		24,285.97
Other voluntary incoming resources				
Grants	1239.30		0	
Legacies	0.00		0.00	
Donations for restricted purposes	1762.31		4,155.82	
Other	2441.62		7,429.25	
		5443.23		11,585.07
Income from investments				
Dividends	949.13		181.38	
Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Fees	5469.00		7,858.00	
Bookstall	0.00		43.00	
Little Sparks	1415.53		1377.08	
		7833.66		9,459.46
Total Receipts		35,498.01		45,330.50
Less payments		36,643.82		46,491.66
Excess of receipts over payments		-1145.81		-1,161.16
Bank Account @1st January		6442.43		7,603.59
Bank Account @ 31 st December		5296.62		6442.43

	2016		2015	
PAYMENTS				
Grants				
Home and overseas missions	3650.55		4,241.96	
Hartshorne St Peter's Care Fund	275.00		411.75	
				4,653.71
Activities directly related to work of the church				
Parish share	16,000.00		18,000.00	
Visiting speakers expenses			0.00	
Rev. David De Pomerai	0		589.27	
Rev. Graham Rutter	316.00		180.52	
Church - running expenses	4633.08		3854.75	
Church - maintenance	90.00		8,287.20	
Upkeep of services	4056.25		974.11	
Support costs - education, training, Sunday School	81.38		215.01	
Rectory			0.00	
Upkeep of churchyard	1049.69		2871.57	
Bookstall			62.87	
Church hall - running costs	564.72		1138.00	
Church hall maintenance	692.15		251.08	
Youth	55.10		430.97	
Other	1181.19		1969.96	
Little Sparks	1181.19		921.54	
Church workers	360.00		360.00	
Funerals and Diocese expenses	1941.10		1685.00	
		32,718.27		41,791.85
Church management of Administration				
Postage and stationary	0.00		33.11	
Printing	0.00		12.99	
		0.00		46.10
Total payments		36,643.82		46,491.66

St Peter's Hartshorne – Care Fund Annual Report 2016

The Fund received £275.00 from the Church as part of its Missionary giving.

The Care Fund continues to help members of the fellowship in 2016 helping three beneficiaries received a total of £400. The fund balance at the end of 2016 stood at £150.43 (Balance sheet below)

The trustees in addition to myself are: Jeff Patrick, Katie Smith and Deb Worth.

If you know of anyone in the fellowship, or lives within the parish of Hartshorne, who has a financial need, then have a word with any of the Trustees or Graham Rutter to see if the Care Fund can help. There is total confidentiality in every case.

Jim Gosden

Administrator and Trustee.

St Peters Church Hartshorne Care Trust Fund Accounts for the Year ending 31st of December 2016

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Brought forward from 2015	274.87	Beneficiary 1	100.00
Hartshorne Church	275.00	Beneficiary 2	100.00
Interest Building Society Donation	0.56 -----	Beneficiary 3	200.00
			400.00
		Excess of income over expenditure carried forward to 2017	150.43
	550.43		550.43

Jim Gosden

Deanery Synod Report 2016

As a new member of the deanery synod, it has been interesting to meet people from the different churches in the area. I have attended two meetings. The first major decision was to change the name of the synod from Repton and Melbourne to Mercia so that it more fully represented the wider location of the churches.

The meetings are held in a variety of churches and halls and seem well attended by a mix of clergy and church members. It is good to see how different churches approach worship and yet there is a sense that people genuinely want to work together to further the kingdom.

Graham Rutter chairs the meetings and ensures that there are opportunities for discussion and debate so that different views can be heard. At the most recent meeting the diocese's missioner shared with us the diocesan mission statement and we were able to discuss in small groups ways that we might make that mission statement a reality. There were many diverse views but a real sense of commitment to growing the work of the church. The main target areas were to do more effective work with older people and youngsters. Many members would like to see more opportunities for personal growth through teaching, retreats and special events.

In order to keep church members up to date with what is happening in the deanery there is a very helpful and informative newsletter. In it you will find accounts of success stories and also guidance on the increasing number of courses available that contribute to personal spiritual development and practical ways of working in the church.

Sean O'Toole

Deanery Synod representatives are James Johnston, Abbey Emery and Sean O'Toole.

Churches Together in Gresley, Swadlincote & District Report 2016

St Peter's is a member of Swadlincote and District Churches Together. We have four representatives: Rev Graham Rutter, James Johnston, Sean O'Toole and Abbey Emery. The main purpose of Churches Together in Swadlincote is to promote missionary unity between the churches in the Swadlincote area. This enables us to achieve much more than we can working as a single church.

The Assembly Team are currently working in nine primary schools with eight people on the team. This includes regular assemblies at Hartshorne school. The Town Centre Chaplaincy has also been continuing its work, although with only a small number of people. Events are planned this year to increase this number, including a special service later in the year.

The website for Churches Together is www.ct-gsd.org.uk This website contains information about all of the churches in the area and the events that are going on.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday was attended by more people than usual, which was very encouraging. The attendance was over 400 people, including many who don't usually attend church. This was partly helped by the newly formed churches together/deanery worship band which is formed of good musicians from the local churches. St Peter's have been able to support this through members and also by hosting rehearsals, which has been gratefully received.

Last April, Churches Together were involved in the Swadlincote town centre wedding fayre. This also has helped cement closer links with the events team at South Derbyshire District Council.

For Pentecost last may we held a Pentecost Praise Evening at St George and St Mary's Church in Church Gresley, the event was attended by about 60 from the different churches. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January was also well supported by the different churches

Churches Together also held a Light Party at St John's Church, Newhall and a Christmas event, The Magic of Christmas at Hill Street Baptist Church. The event was attended by about 150 people. These are also good examples of things that we are able to do together to support our churches and reach out to people in our area.

James Johnston / Rev Graham Rutter

Coffee Club

This is an 'off shoot' of Little Sparks and is made up of Mums who were not wanting to lose contact with each other when they had to leave Little Sparks. We meet at each other's houses on a rotating basis. There are currently about 10 ladies who are on the contact list and about 6 or 7 come each time.

Please pray for the Little Sparks leaders who are leading this club. We very much treat this as an outreach and are constantly looking for ways of bringing our relationship with God into the conversations (without looking weird, pray for balance!) This is also a great opportunity to stay in contact with families who have been impacted by 'Messy Christmas' and many still come back to those events – please pray for fruit in this emerging work.

Debbie Patrick

Hartshorne CE Primary School

Life at Hartshorne school is going well.

The school have adopted the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, which has been written for the Church of England to enable schools to teach Christianity in a very meaningful/theologically based way. *Please pray that this teaching has a real impact on the children as they explore who God is and how to find Him in their lives.*

Graham has become very involved in school life which has begun to have an impact. He has recently undergone a school visit looking at the ways that the children can connect with God in school. This is an ongoing work. *Please pray for Graham as he seeks to draw the school and church closer together.*

Debbie continues her work in school. She is still Chair of Governors and, through assembly team and afterschool club, is very involved in the spiritual life of school. *Please pray for wisdom as Debbie leads the Governing Body and that God continues to speak through her to reach the hearts of children for Him.*

School have started to come along to Senior Citizens lunches to sing and read poetry this is helping the school to connect with the elderly in our community. This has had a great impact on the children and senior citizens alike. Please pray for continued opportunities for school to link up with church life in the future.

There are many potential opportunities for the coming year. There is a possibility of a Messy Church being set up to teach the children, in a very practical way, the love of God. Please pray for willing volunteers to help to run such an event. There is also an opening for a 'church governor' at school. It is important that the church is well represented in the Governing Body. Please, if you are interested in getting more involved in school life, speak to Graham or Debbie to find out more.

Debbie Patrick

Choir/ St Peter's Singers

We have made two changes to the choir this year, one of which was to change our name to St Peter's Singers. This was because we hoped to convey a less formal impression of our group so that people who didn't feel they were good enough singers for a choir might feel able to come and join us. Unfortunately, this hasn't happened but we continue to offer an invitation to anyone who enjoys singing to come along and have a go – although we work hard and try to reach a high standard, we usually have fun as well. (No audition required)

The other change was to start meeting weekly instead of fortnightly, and doing this has helped us to improve and make progress.

We sang in services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday and at the Carol Service. We also led the worship one Sunday morning in the summer when almost all of the worship group were absent.

Sandra O'Toole

Friday Morning House Group

This group continues to demonstrate love and encouragement for each other through prayer, friendship and a desire to grow in our faith.

In the Summer term, we studied the Book of Acts. We were also pleased to welcome Paul Desborough to one of our meetings, which he led. We ended the term with a visit to Dobbies garden centre for lunch and a browse round.

Unfortunately, in the Autumn term, because of illness, holidays and other commitments, we were only able to meet on a couple of occasions, and then only in small groups, so we used those times for sharing and prayer rather than a study. The group was even incomplete for an outing to the Greyhound pub for a Christmas meal together, as one member was too unwell to attend.

The Spring term has been much better, with regular and well attended meetings. I have shared with the group something which I have read and found challenging and we have discussed it together. We have then prayed together, as well as having time to chat.

As part of our commitment to the church, the more physically able of our group are on the rota to help out at Little Sparks. This means missing house group when our turn comes around. Similarly, we clean the church instead of meeting for house group once every 6 weeks. (After cleaning we go out for lunch together, so it isn't all sacrifice!)

I continue to be greatly blessed by every member of the group and I thank them for their support and encouragement.

Sandra O'Toole

Bell ringing at St Peter's 2016

We have managed to continue to ring the bells for the Sunday services – and a few weddings and school services as well. A special occasion was when the Archbishop of Canterbury came and we rang to celebrate his visit and the planting of the tree. We were mightily impressed to find he had rung the tenor at Liverpool Cathedral (4.1 tons in weight compared with ours at 7 cwt) and had a lovely photo taken with him.

It has been harder this year to find enough ringers to ring all six bells every Sunday. Although we regularly get ten or more at Wednesday practices, some ring at other churches on Sundays, some work on Sundays and it only takes one or two to be indisposed or away to limit us.

A quarter peal of July McDonnell Doubles was rung this year to help raise some staggering funds for research into blood cancer but a full peal attempt failed when a rope broke. This was the second rope to wear very rapidly on the 5th bell and the cause remains a mystery but it has not happened since.

Our bells are easy to ring and we can develop bad habits, so visits to more challenging towers are valuable and popular. Our outing in September included the heavy bells at Hoar Cross and some tricky bells at Barton amongst others. We have just rung at four Leicestershire towers including the 12 bells at Lockington. The others were Kegworth, Diseworth and Castle Donnington.

We have finally completed the work covered by the Heritage Lottery Fund grant and are just finalising the installation of the simulator which will enable us to run additional practices without annoying the neighbours. Further work is planned with the fitting of some sound control on the north and west louvres as the bells are mounted high in the tower and the treble is right beside the western opening. This results in a very loud note for anyone in neighbouring properties or the churchyard.

We have been asked to host a training morning for the Diocesan Association in May which should be of value to our ringers and will make use of the simulator.

As always, we welcome new ringers whether experienced or brand new, and members of the congregation will be particularly welcome.

Andy Austen, Tower Captain

Sunday School

Sunday school will always be an important and valuable part of our ministry, our children and young people are our present and our future. Therefore, we want to enable, equip them and give them the teaching that they need as a priority.

At Sunday schools for 3-11 year olds, we vary the sessions as much as possible. We continue to use the Scripture Union light – but are now only using Splash for 5-8yr old at the moment. The sessions consist of songs, games, bible reading, prayer time, crafts together with a drink and a healthy snack. The children are still awarded with a sticker each time they attend Sunday school, & then they receive a small gift everytime they reach ten.

The number of children attending Sunday School at the moment is very few, so I continue to lead most of the sessions in the north aisle.

I believe that the Lord will once again bless us with more children and young people so we need to be ready and prepared for that to happen. If you believe that the Lord is calling you to work with our children and young people, please do come and have a chat with me. Please continue to pray for this work and everyone involved in it.

Carol Hulse

Senior Citizens' Meals

This year we decided to concentrate on providing a hot meal at lunch time instead of an afternoon tea. We held a lunch in February, Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration lunch in May, summer lunch in July, Harvest lunch in October and Christmas lunch in December as well as an Easter tea party in March.

After the summer lunch we realised that the old ovens hobs in the church hall were just not up to the job of cooking large quantities so the PCC approved the purchase of a new fan oven and two ceramic hobs. This has made the task of catering for large numbers more feasible.

It has always been our aim to reach out to older people in the parish who do not come to church. We have seen an increase in local people from the village, who come along for a good meal and companionship. Numbers have grown throughout the year as word has spread. At the Christmas meal we doubled the previous year's attendance – from 30 to 60 people.

We have also provided some form of talk and entertainment at each event. This has included Graham talking about his favourite things; Easter hymns, community singing, patriotic songs for the Queen's birthday; and entertainment by the children from Hartshorne CE Primary School at Harvest and Christmas.

Thanks go to all those who help with giving out invitations and bringing people to the hall; to those who help prepare and serve the food; and last but not least to those who help tackle the mountain of washing up.

Jane Horan

Little Sparks

We continue to welcome up to 25 grown-ups with their children every Wednesday and Friday morning for play, craft, stories, snack and singing. We frequently welcome new families week on week- as well as people returning with another child- which is very encouraging.

We remain thankful to the Lord for this amazing opportunity to meet these families in a familiar, comfortable environment. This is a great way to show them how much God loves them!

We continue to support a child through compassion. We hold a coffee club once a month for parents who have left little sparks to maintain relationships with families.

Our team remain extremely faithful in serving- making lots of tea and toast, washing up, and chatting with parents. We absolutely couldn't function without them!! Thankyou all Suzie, Carol, Deb, Gwen, Jane, Hazel, Pam, Maxine and Sandra.

Lucy Yates

Youth Group

Sunday evening youth group is still going well. We get together with the youth from St Georges and St Mary's plus one from St Peter and St Paul's church. There are, on average, 16 young people who come to youth. Our time is split between 'Study Nights' at our church hall, '4U2' at St Georges and St Mary's and 'Starbuds' organised by Burton YFC. The group are gelling well together and we are able to reach a greater depth in our Study Nights.

Youth in the mornings continues to go well, although we are smaller in number now. Christine Gardner, Jeff and Debbie Patrick share the leading of the mornings and the young people are starting to take a lead which has been very encouraging. Please pray for our Youth Group. They are wonderful young people who face many challenges, finding their way in faith and life is a lot to take on each day.

Thank you. Debbie

Assembly Team

The team are now in 9 schools (with one possible addition soon). The team is made up of members of several churches in Swadlincote. It is a great opportunity to share God's love with schools. We are constantly amazed by the openness of the schools. As we are invited in specifically to deliver a 'Christian' assembly, we are free to be as honest as we want about our faith and the love of God.

If you are interested in finding out more about Assembly Team and maybe being part of the team, please speak to Debbie Patrick.

Debbie Patrick

Social network – Facebook & Twitter

The church has a Facebook page which has been running for around 3 years and the main aim is to connect and reach out to the local community allowing them to see what's going on behind the doors. This page is used as a platform to promote what is going on and up and coming services in the Church.

Facebook has recently attracted a number of local people and the number of “likes” has increased massively since this time last year, we now have 619 people who “like” the page and on average 740 people see each post or photo that is put on the page.

The admin people for the page are: Matt Smith; Graham Rutter; Jeff Patrick.



Annual Camping Trip

A number of us from the Church get together annually to organise a camping trip, we have around 6 families that camp and many come to join us throughout the day for a BBQ, drinks and games. Last year we camped in Rolleston on Dove and this year we are camping at the end of June at the Beehive farm in Rosliston.

Matthew Smith

Flowers

This year Pauline has unfortunately had to step down from her responsibilities in decorating the church at the main festivals. However she made an impressive Easter Garden which was displayed on the table by the Dethick Tomb which provided a focal point for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Thank you, Pauline, for all the hard work you have put in over many years to make the church an attractive place to worship.

The font has been used for flower arrangements at Easter, the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

Val has made sure that flowers are on display behind the communion table every week. Thank you, Val, for your unstinted service which is much appreciated.

Jane Horan

St Peter's Football Academy/ Swadlincote & District Youth for Christ

SDYFCs work with young people in the Hartshorne area has been developing in exciting ways over the last twelve months.

Our work with young people on the Goseley estate has been very positive, with new young people joining the football academy, and from these young people we were able to invite

some of the members to a Youth Alpha course. We have been keen to develop our God Slot within the academy, and this has been well received by the young people.

We have also been developing our work in Hartshorne School. Our input with the assembly team has continued, and we have launched an after school club based on the Bible theme of the weekly assembly, which is popular and well attended. We have also been able to develop our coaching of the school football team, and have built positive relationships with the young people who we see on a weekly basis.

Thank you for your ongoing support of SDYFC, we look forward to seeing how this will develop in the future.

Helen Davis (Centre Director)
Swadlincote and District Youth for Christ

Wednesday Evening House Group

This group started to meet in late Autumn 2016. We have quickly gelled into a group that is increasingly demonstrating love and encouragement for each other through prayer, friendship and a desire to grow in our faith. Everyone contributes and is very open in sharing their needs and responding to the teaching. We are learning from each other as we seek to deepen our relationship with the Father.

We have dipped into a range of Bible passages usually preceded by a time of sharing and prayer. Sometimes we use music to lead us into prayer. Nigel and Sean take it in turns to lead the group. We have studied 1 Peter and also considered the work of the Holy Spirit and how He can empower us to live more Godly lives. We are very open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and sometimes abandon the study to pick up on emerging themes and inspirations. As a group, we visited The Filling Station at Barton to engage in worship and teaching. The food was really tasty especially the cucumber sandwiches!

It has been an amazing few months and we are looking forward to hearing more from God as he challenges and encourages us. We are a lovely group and would love to welcome you to join with us.

Nigel Worth and Sean O'Toole

Post Office Coffee Morning at the Dethick Hall

The Post Office is held every Tuesday from 8.30am – 10.30am at the Dethick Hall, Manchester Lane. The hospitality group, which formed after the church vision day back in

May, made it one of their priorities to provide tea and coffee to the people who used the Post Office.

After meeting with sub-postmaster Richard Aspinall it was decided that we would hold a coffee morning on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Cathy Rogers, from the Manor House, who is strongly committed to bringing the community together, agreed to help run this. Pete Southgate also helps out.

Robert provided an A display board for us to publicise the event and we had a durable vinyl poster printed which would be clearly seen from the main road.

The Post Office has a handful of regulars who come every week, not only for stamps, etc but also for groceries which Robert sells. Customers range in age from 6 months to 80 years. Most now stop for a drink and a chat once a month. Response has been positive and it has been good to get to know some of the villagers.

Jane Horan

Worship Group

Over the last year we have seen a number of changes that have shown how the Worship team have grown.

Our numbers have increased with a wide variety of musical instruments to support our main worship.

We still sometimes struggle with the technical side of music, but fortunately Elliot George (St Georges & St Mary's Church, Gresley) provides us with some technical clarity when needed.

We thank Elliot for his involvement within our practice nights and when he has been able to play on a Sunday.

As a church we are blessed with musicians and singers whose heart is to serve, and that comes through time and again.

The journey we are on is developing as we are, but importantly the whole church is on the same path.

Nigel Worth