



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**



**Outside Service for Revd. Stella Greenwood's departure  
July 2021**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

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# **Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2020**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 at 12:15**

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

### **4. 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

## Incumbents' Report

Dear friends,

What can we say about 2021? We got through it together and we came out the other end – again, together. 2021 was a tough year for many; but also, a year where churches and families, friends and work colleagues dug in deep as lockdowns continued and drag on beyond what any of us expected. 2021 began quite bizarrely with several families preparing their children for school and after one date back were told we were back into a lockdown that few people were mentally ready for.

Many of us, and many churches, continued to rely upon Facebook and zoom services and gatherings to find some way – anyway – of meeting and worshipping together. A lot of effort went into those services. A lot of thought, a lot of energies – and from people (like everyone else) who were anxious, tired, and weary from the lockdowns. I want to, on everyone's behalf, thank everyone who helped to make any of those online gatherings and recorded services the success they were. Well done and thank you.

As a front-line worker, I was in numerous schools weekly and supporting several charities, I had my first vaccination against Covid in March of 2021 – I remember going into a large hall to be greeted by a nurse and then quietly celebrating that wonderful gift of science and the way so many countries had collaborated to create a vaccine, not in the usual 10 years it takes, but in less than 1 year. Praise God for the wonders of science and the those gifted in its study.

Many of us had a better Christmas at the end of 2021 than the previous year in 2020 and many of us were able to see some of those we love. However, the lockdowns and real fears of catching Covid (and long Covid) have trapped some people in isolation. We continue to pray for any who have experienced this and those who continue to. Lord help us not to forget anyone simply because we don't see them.

As a church, St Peter's, has come through many challenging times. It has come through this one and we see new people coming to worship and enjoy its welcome. There are new challenges ahead at St Peter's, as like every church going forward it won't continue to have its 'own' vicar. Vicars are a thing of the past. All parish priests are being asked to provide support and leadership for their local churches, but in a very different way. I liken it to being an ex-football player who now stands on the edge of the pitch encouraging and enabling everyone else. As we move forward as a Minster (the 4 town churches working together) I and the other clergy are here to provide that support, encouragement, and leadership – alongside and on an equal footing with the other local leaders already at St Peter's.

We know that we simply need to entrust ourselves to the Lord who always walks alongside us and in front of us. Praise the Lord for His love endures forever

Mike Firbank (Rev Dr)

God bless.

### **Lay Chair of PCC's Report on 2021**

It's been another difficult year as we all look to different ways to serve and worship in our church and wider community.

We continued to meet via zoom every other month, discussing the church business and how we move forward.

2021 has brought about changes within the area with regards to Ministers. We are now looked at opportunities to partner with the other 3 Anglican churches, sharing 2 Ministers across the Minster. All of the detail are yet to be worked out and will be shared as soon as possible.

**Nigel Worth – Lay Chair St Peter's Church PCC**

## **Churchwardens' Report 2021-22**

Church has resumed its normal pattern of worship and attendance is averaging at between 30-40.

The Church Hall continues to be used regularly by Little Sparks, 1<sup>st</sup> Hartshorne Scout Group and South Derbyshire Youth for Christ. We are thrilled to see the hall being put to such good use.

Work carried out are as follows:

### **Church**

#### **Various works have been carried out in the church**

- LED lights fitted
- Broken panes replaced where needed
- P.A.T test completed
- Lightning Conductor tested

Works to church tower, porch and windows which will begin, all being well, in 2022. We are currently waiting to have the Survey which will inform a Schedule of Works and there will provide the information needed for Grant Applications.

Many thanks to Jeff Patrick who is driving this work.

The church is being kept in a reasonable working state.

- The church is cleaned by a team of volunteers. Many thanks to Nigel Worth for maintaining this rota and for everyone on the rota who are faithfully keeping the church in a good, clean state for use. Many thanks also, to Sean and Sandra for being the Toilet cleaners on a weekly basis.
- There have been a number of funerals and interments this year.
- There has been an increase of infant Baptisms. Mike has been taking these services after Sunday worship.

### **Church Yard**

- A new memorial bench has been installed
- A Prayer Tree has been installed
- Gas tank installed and old gas bottles removed
- Flagpole erected
- Two sections of footpath repaired
- Wildflower garden planted

Many thanks to Bill Morris who, as Sexton, drives the practical work in the Church Yard and around the church building.

## Church Hall

- LED lights fitted
- Low energy heating installed in main room
- Heaters installed in toilets
- Loft insulation put into loft
- Men's and Disabled toilet floors replaced – we are currently waiting for builders to plaster the toilets and box in the pipework – funds are in place to pay for this work.

Many thanks to Jeff Patrick who has successfully applied for the grants for this work and driven the work team for this work. Thanks also to everyone who have given up their spare time to see this work done.

It is now a much more pleasant building to work in.  
Full details of works can be found in the Logbook.

Debbie Patrick

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

*Lay Chair Nigel Worth opened the meeting in prayer at 12pm with 17 people in attendance, and 3 apologies for absence (Matt & Katie Smith and Debbie Patrick).*

*Nigel Worth started by thanking Christine Gardner for creating the report, & to all those who submitted reports to be included. He also explained that there are 3 parts to the meeting 1. The Election of Church Wardens 2. The APCM and 3. PCC meeting (elected PCC members only).*

#### **1. Election of Churchwardens**

*i) The Church Warden's Report 2021 highlights were shared on slides so everyone could see them, and included details that during the year we had opened the church on Wednesday's and Saturdays for private prayer, following risk assessments, and that lots of jobs had managed to be completed, including the preparation of replacing the old gas canisters, with an external gas tank. Nigel Worth thanked the church wardens, (Debbie Patrick and Bill Morris), for all their hard work over and above the standard role of Churchwarden. He went on to share that Bill Morris was stepping down as Church Warden, although he would continue to support the church in the role of Sexton. No questions were asked.*

#### *ii) Election of Church Wardens*

*The following were proposed and seconded as below:*

| <i>Churchwardens</i>  | <i>Proposed by</i>       | <i>Seconded By</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Debbie Patrick</i> | <i>Christine Gardner</i> | <i>Nigel Coupe</i> |

*Debbie Patrick was duly elected by the meeting, thanks were expressed for her willingness to stand to take on this vital role within the church. Prayers were said for Debbie*

#### **2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

*i. Attendance list was completed by PCC Secretary, to record all those who attended of sent apologies.*

#### *ii. Minutes of the last meeting: -*

- *Acceptance of the previous year's (2020 pg. 7-9), AGM minutes was proposed by Bill Morris and seconded by Sean O'Toole. All in favour.*

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

iv. *The Electoral Roll*

*The Electoral roll new roll has been updated and now stands at 57. 2020 it stood at 58. It was also mentioned that 2 additional forms have been received after the cut off for the updates to the roll, but that these will be made next month. Nigel Worth thanked the Electoral Roll officer – Christine Gardner for 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*

*Nigel Worth started by thanking everyone, whether mentioned or not, for working hard often in the background. It has been a difficult year and has involved us all learning different ways of working, but we can look forward & see where we are lead in the future. He especially thanked Rev Stella Greenwood for everything she has been doing. The Curate's report and the Churches Together report both show the amount of work achieved during the last year, including the Online services, which have been viewed by our local none church community, and the activities to provide food to those in need. Revd Stella Greenwood will be leaving us from 18<sup>th</sup> July to take on her new role.*

*Leaders or members of various church groups have submitted reports outlining what their group has been doing.*

*He then went through the group reports in turn, and then summarised it, by giving thanks to everyone for all the hard work, lots of love and care which are celebrated by all the groups represented in the pages of our report.*

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

*The audited accounts were available for all to see in annual report. Nigel Worth started by thanking everyone for their generous giving during the last year. He then proceeded to give the highlights of the account activities over the past year.*

*These accounts were accepted by everyone as a true record, and there were no questions relating to the accounts. Thanks were given to Deborah Worth, for all her hard work throughout the year in maintaining the church accounts.*

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*

**Deanery Synod**

*Nigel Worth explained that Deanery Synod representatives are elected every 3 years. The current representatives were elected in 2020, so no election is required. Our representatives are Abbey Emery and James Johnston who have been asked to report back to the PCC.*

**PCC**

*In 2020 since we had 2 positions available and 3 interested people, and we were unable to have a vote due to the meeting being virtual, it was agreed that all 3 people would be co-opted on to the PCC for a one year term, and that any election could hopefully be possible at 2021 APCM.*

*So this year we have 6 positions available and 7 people interested. I was therefore suggested that we elect 6 people and co-opt the 7<sup>th</sup>. This was proposed by Gwen Green Seconded by Ed Emery, all those present in favour.*

*The following were proposed and seconded as below:*

| <i>PCC Members</i>       | <i>Proposed by</i>  | <i>Seconded By</i>       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Sandra O'Toole</i>    | <i>Nigel Worth</i>  | <i>Brian Redfern</i>     |
| <i>Sean O'Toole</i>      | <i>Nigel Worth</i>  | <i>Brian Redfern</i>     |
| <i>Deborah Worth</i>     | <i>Sean O'Toole</i> | <i>Nigel Worth</i>       |
| <i>Christine Gardner</i> | <i>Sean O'Toole</i> | <i>Sandra O'Toole</i>    |
| <i>Katie Smith</i>       | <i>Nigel Worth</i>  | <i>Christine Gardner</i> |
| <i>Matthew Smith</i>     | <i>Nigel Worth</i>  | <i>Christine Gardner</i> |
| <i>Ayesha Squire</i>     | <i>Abbey Emery</i>  | <i>Edwin Emery</i>       |

*Thanks were given to all those willing to stand to take on these vital roles within the church, and prayers said for the PCC for support and for new gifts to be given as we start to develop our vision.*

*ix. Any Other Business – None notified*

*Nigel Worth 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.*

***Christine Gardner - PCC Secretary***

### **PCC Secretary's Report**

Last year's delayed Annual General Meeting returned to its usual place in Church, after the Zoom version in 2020.

5 PCC meetings have taken place during the year, chaired by Lay Chair Nigel Worth. Regular standing committee meetings have taken place, some of which took place via zoom (attendees Curate, PCC Chair, Church wardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary), along with separate groups to focus on worship, mission, Health and Safety etc. which has helped us in reducing the length of time of the main PCC meetings.

We have also held some of our PCC meetings at Emmanuel Church, where all the PCC's of the Minster churches joined together for the first 30mins, to discuss activities which affect us all, before splitting up to hold our separate meetings.

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.

**Christine Gardner**

The 2022 Electoral Roll now stands at 64 - Increase of 7 from 2021 Christine Talbot, John and Sarah Sharratt, Helen Davis, Paul Brownhill, Carmen Seys and Nathan Worth

Anyone who is eligible who has not completed a form can still do so and be added at the next PCC meeting. Christine Gardner – Electoral Officer, April 2022

## St Peter's Church, Hartshorne

### Legal and Administrative Information for the year ended 31 December 2021

|                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Committee of Management:</b> | Mr N Worth<br>Mrs D Patrick<br>Mrs C Gardner<br>Mrs D Worth<br>Mr M Smith<br>Mrs A Squire<br>Mrs K Smith<br>Mrs D Patrick<br>Mr A Howard<br>Mrs S O'Toole<br>Mr S O'Toole<br>Mrs J Horan | Lay Chairperson<br>Churchwarden<br>Secretary<br>Treasurer    |
|                                 | Mr J Johnston<br>Mrs A Emery   | Deanery Synod Representative<br>Deanery Synod Representative |
| <b>Principal Address:</b>       | Church Street<br>Hartshorne<br>Swadlincote<br>Derbyshire DE11 7ER  |  |
| <b>Correspondence Address:</b>  | 3 Sharpswood Manor<br>Woodville<br>Swadlincote<br>Derbyshire DE11 7JT  |  |
| <b>Charitable status:</b>       | In common with other Parochial Church Councils<br>St Peter's Church, Hartshorne is a charity excepted by Statutory<br>Instrument from registration with the Charity Commission           |  |
| <b>Independent Examiner:</b>    | Bernard Taylor FCMA<br>41, Derwent Road,<br>Burton On Trent<br>DE15 9FR  |  |
| <b>Bankers:</b>                 | Lloyd's Bank plc<br>High Street<br>East Ham  |  |

## **Independent Examiner's Report for St. Peter's Church, Hartshorne for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

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

**St Peter's Church, Hartshorne**  
**Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**  
**General Fund – Receipts and payments account**

|   | <b>2021</b> |                  | <b>2020</b> |                  |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                     |             |                  |             |                  |
| <b>Incoming resources from donors</b>               |             |                  |             |                  |
| Gift Aid  | 17992.96    |                  | 17345.18    |                  |
| Collections and other giving                        | 9872.74     |                  | 5214.07     |                  |
| Income tax recovered                                | 4410.85     |                  | 5495.61     |                  |
|   |             | <b>32,276.55</b> |             | <b>28,054.86</b> |
| <b>Other voluntary incoming resources</b>           |             |                  |             |                  |
| Grants  | 3861.00     |                  | 0.00        |                  |
| Legacies  | 0.00        |                  | 0.00        |                  |
| Donations for restricted purposes                   | 2688.73     |                  | 1547.91     |                  |
| Other   | 507.00      |                  | 317.00      |                  |
|   |             | <b>7056.73</b>   |             | <b>1864.91</b>   |
| <b>Income from investments</b>                      |             |                  |             |                  |
| Dividends   |             |                  |             |                  |
|   |             |                  |             |                  |
| <b>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</b> |             |                  |             |                  |
| Fees  | 10327.00    |                  | 6269.00     |                  |
| Little Sparks                                       | 422.95      |                  | 292.63      |                  |
|   |             | <b>10749.95</b>  |             | <b>6561.63</b>   |
|   |             |                  |             |                  |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                               |             | 50083.23         |             | 36,481.40        |
| Less payments                                       |             | 44436.90         |             | 37,551.96        |
| Excess of receipts over payments                    |             | 5646.33          |             | -1070.56         |
|   |             |                  |             |                  |
| Bank Account @1st January                           |             | 15313.03         |             | 16,383.59        |
|   |             |                  |             |                  |
| Bank Account @ 31 <sup>st</sup> December            |             | 20959.36         |             | 15,313.03        |

|  | 2021     |                  | 2020      |                  |
|--|----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>  |          |                  |           |                  |
| <b>Grants</b>  |          |                  |           |                  |
| Home and overseas missions                               | 3958.00  |                  | 3771.91   |                  |
| Hartshorne St Peter's Care Fund                          | 100.00   |                  |           |                  |
|  |          | 4058.00          |           | 3771.91          |
| <b>Activities directly related to work of the church</b> |          |                  |           |                  |
| Common Fund  | 21008.00 |                  | 20,820.00 |                  |
|  |          |                  |           |                  |
| Visiting speakers expenses                               |          |                  |           |                  |
| Rev. Stella Greenwood                                    | 894.30   |                  | 754.72    |                  |
| Church - running expenses                                | 4486.88  |                  | 5387.19   |                  |
| Church - maintenance                                     | 2190.21  |                  | 496.29    |                  |
| Upkeep of services                                       | 864.90   |                  | 1543.82   |                  |
| Support costs - education, training, Sunday School       | 67.38    |                  | 404.42    |                  |
| Upkeep of churchyard                                     | 1298.16  |                  | 214.62    |                  |
| Church hall - running costs                              | 927.33   |                  | 486.19    |                  |
| Church hall maintenance                                  | 2744.14  |                  | 767.67    |                  |
| Youth  | 0        |                  | 0         |                  |
| Other  | 963.66   |                  | 327.00    |                  |
| Little Sparks  | 473.94   |                  | 1153.42   |                  |
| Minster Expenses   | 231.00   |                  | 0.00      |                  |
| Funerals and Diocese expenses                            | 3921.00  |                  | 474.45    |                  |
|  |          | 40070.90         |           | 32,829.79        |
| <b>Church management of Administration</b>               |          |                  |           |                  |
| Postage and stationery                                   | 0.00     |                  | 0.00      |                  |
| Printing   | 0.00     |                  | 0.00      |                  |
| Outreach/evangelism                                      | 308.00   |                  | 950.26    |                  |
|  |          | 308.00           |           | 950.26           |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                    |          | <b>44,436.90</b> |           | <b>37,551.96</b> |

## Deanery Synod Report 2021

St Peter's Church is represented on the Deanery Synod by Abbey Emery and James Johnston along with Rev Dr Mike Firbank (Area Dean) and Debbie Patrick (Deanery Administrator). Since we have been a much larger Deanery, the chair ship of the committee has been delegated to the Lay Chair Maggie Femby-Taylor (Ticknall Church). This is to help to alleviate some of the work pressure that would be on the shoulders of the Area Dean with meetings. At the meetings they are always very interesting and it's always a great opportunity to meet all the Christians from all the churches within the deanery and I've made some wonderful friendships with other representatives some of these representatives were coming along to Cafe Church as they all enjoyed fresh expression of faith.

The Deanery covers most of South Derbyshire apart from the Western parishes of the District which fall within another Deanery. The meetings are held three to four times a year, they are generally held at the church hall in Hartshorne but sometimes we do get to go out to other churches which is always a nice experience to enjoy the hospitality that the other churches provide for us. The meetings are always well attended by a mixture of clergy and laity members. It is always refreshing to see how different churches approach their worship and yet there is always a sense that people genuinely want to work together to further the kingdom of God.

At the meeting we generally get split into little groups so we can discuss the matters that need to be discussed and so that a good cross section of different styles of churchmanship can work together and explore how we go forward with things like the new Diocesan Vision that we have heard so wonderfully from Bishop Libby Lane over the last couple of years. We've also had discussions about how we can empower laity to take on a bigger responsibility within our churches due to the lack of clergy and with the increasing work roles on the existing clergy.

In order that church members are kept fully up-to-date with what is happening in the deanery, There is a very helpful and informative newsletter that is produced by Debbie Patrick that has lots of information about a events and what other churches are doing culturally too. Within the contents you find accounts of success stories and guidance on the increasing number of courses available that contribute to personal spiritual development and practical ways that the church can work more effectively.

Obviously due to Covid there has been affects on the way that meetings have been carried out particularly over the last two years with a lot more meetings having to go onto zoom I do feel personally that this has had a little bit of a negative effect on the way which discussions take place but I do also feel that it's given us a chance to still reflect on what can be achieved even though we cannot physically be together in a meeting and it is still enabled us to make progress with furthering the Diocesan Vision.

James Johnston/Abbey Emery

## Churches Together - Swadlincote & District Report 2022

Churches Together in Swadlincote Are represented by James Johnston and Abbey Emery With the committee currently being chaired by Rev Dr Mike Firbank. For anybody who doesn't know churches together in Swadlincote is a body made up of all the Anglican Churches of the Minster, the Methodist circuit locally, Hill Street Baptist Church, the Catholic Church and the Salvation Army. They joined up to become a complete committee in 2000 as a way of promoting unified evangelism within Swadlincote and the rest of the urban core area (Hartshorne, Newhall, Woodville, Church Gresley and Linton).

As a general rule of thumb churches together normally have the following events throughout the year in January they have the Week for Prayer and Christian Unity which culminated in a joint service at the Catholic Church in mid-January. We also have a joint event on the first Friday in March for One World Day of Prayer that includes a joint service of Prayer and Reflections. The next event that we focus on is the Good Friday walk of witness which we haven't been able to have since 2019 due to the Covid restrictions so this year will be our first year back where we are having a silent walk of witness through Swadlincote Town Centre because we feel that there has been so much noise over the last few years that people need to feel some peace in their lives so this is why we are having this peaceful walk of witness. The next event that we have planned is Friday, the 3rd of June where we are holding a Messy Church picnic on Eureka Park which we will also be providing picnic ingredients for those less fortunate to make their own picnic and to come along and enjoy the day!

After that the next event that we have to look forward to will be the harvest which we have not started planning as yet and which we need more volunteers for so anybody who is reading this feels convicted do you want to help the community with food and with the harvest of souls then please get in contact with us or speak to me directly! That will be an event in September likely to be in Swadlincote Town enter hopefully within the new performance area that will be an outreach to the people of Swadlincote as a spiritual harvest and also to collect food for the food bank I want to have speakers in the way I'm going to give a talk about the uses of the food and how they serve the community locally. Our last event of the year is always Christmas again this is still to be totally decided what we are planning to do we have a couple of things in the pipeline the first thing will be to have a Christmas event in Swadlincote again on the Delph and the second thing will be doing our online video again that we did for the previous Christmas hopefully this year we will be recording a full live carol service with a full live congregation in one of the local churches which will be broadcast around the area over the Christmas period.

All the things that churches together have had a massive impact in all the meals that we're going out as an outreach on a Friday to families locally there was approximately 140 to 160 meals going out every week and also included in that were food hampers which were to help the less fortunate who were struggling with buying food during the lockdown periods. The wonderful thing about this was that we were contacted directly by the local authorities who had confidence in churches together to see us being able to deliver a large

project and that is built confidence in those people that churches together is a very serious organisation in the local area!

Another resource that churches together are very involved in are the assemblies team which was the original vision of the Rev Dr Graham Rutter back in 2012. The assemblies team regularly goes into many of our local primary schools to lead assemblies and to tell the children about God's love for them in an accessible way please assemblies are usually fun and often involve the children dressing up or holding up props many of the children and the staff look forward to the assemblies provided by the assemblies team. I even know from personal experience from some teachers that I know that they speak very highly of the work of the assemblies team. On a second note another vital resource that churches together is involved in is the it's your move book that are provided to year six pupils when they leave primary school to make their way up to secondary school this book is provided by Scripture Union and this is normally given to the children on their leaving assembly And this is to give reassurance to the pupils going to secondary school about what secondary school life will really be like because sometimes they can feel very daunted making that transition from primary school to secondary school.

As churches together we have a very strong vision for evangelism in Swadlincote and the local area.

Prayer - For all our endeavours they need to be underpinned by prayer, Please pray that our people will be fully empowered to declare the love of Jesus Christ to all the people that they meet and pray that people will meet with God through the power of the Holy Spirit through the witness that we bare to those people.

Funding - In order for churches together to keep running the wonderful events that we do and keep all the activities going that we are involved in like the summer camps and the baseball camp that we had a few years ago we need to have constant funding. This funding will be even more important as we are hoping to run a Christians against poverty centre with Inn Swadlincote somewhere. We ask each other churches to provide funding through annual subscriptions and potentially through other donations. Please would you consider prayerfully how much your church or even as individuals within your church you are able to give in order to carry on with all the evangelistic work that we do.

Resources - In order for people within Swadlincote and the local area to encounter a relationship with Jesus Christ, we need to have people who can show them that way. All our people are volunteers and feel that God has called them to be involved in churches together and that could be a variety of roles whether it be leading worship, planning events, discussing funding, dealing with administration roles and of course the most important to providing prayer support. However this being sad we always need more assistance and more members to join the churches together committee. If you feel that God is calling you to be involved with any aspect of churches together or any strong aspect of evangelism then please get in contact with us because we have a very passionate heart for continuous evangelism within Swadlincote and the local area.

I personally want to thank all the members of our churches and all the representatives from those churches who support the work that is given to churches together and Swadlincote and district and thank the very continued hard work of our deputy chair and leader Rev Dr Mike Firbank for all of his dedication and diligence

James Johnston/Abbey Emery

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is on the agenda at all PCC meetings, where I share the number of DBS checks completed, & those required to be renewed, training courses completed & refresher training required (C1 & C2 training required every 3 years). The majority of PCC members have completed the Basic and Foundation online training courses during this year.

The rules regarding DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks have now changed again, and certificates are valid for 3 years, (previously 5 years). I am now trying to catch up with all of those members of the church who require checks, & get new ones completed.

If you have had a DBS certificate arranged through St Peter's Church, please contact me, and make sure I have a record of when your certificate expires, so that we can arrange for new certificates in plenty of time.

The recruitment process for both paid & voluntary positions, now require – code of conduct, interviews, probation, contract, probation, job description. Conditions of employment are required for all roles, along with a signed role & responsibilities. This is taking time to put in place for all roles, but we are making a start. There are a couple of members of the church awaiting the upcoming Safer Recruitment training, which is provided by the Diocese. Over the next year, I will be asking for assistance in checking / updating the job roles and responsibilities for all of the roles within our church & will then ask everyone to acknowledge & sign the documents for their roles.

A church Safeguarding email address & my details are on the church notices, website & posters. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact me.

We use the details provided on the Data privacy consent sheets, as a method for keeping in contact with everyone within the church family, providing prayer chain messages and notice sheets. If you have not completed a data privacy consent sheet, & you are happy for the church to have your contact details, please complete a form, to clearly indicate how we can use your data, or speak to me for more details.

Copies of St Peter's data privacy notice & the consent form are available from the rack behind the sound system in church, or from myself.

Christine Gardner – PSO

## **Friday Morning House Group**

After Covid prevented us from meeting for a while, we restarted in September, meeting on Fridays as this suited the majority of the group better than Mondays. Our meetings were based in the church because it was easier to socially distance there than in a private home. However, as I write this in February, we haven't got together as a group since our Christmas lunch in December, because it is too cold in the church, even with the heating on. We will begin to meet again when the weather warms up. We have been studying the book of Philippians and will continue with this when we get together again.

Our Christmas lunch was held in the church hall, which wasn't in use at that time, and was much warmer than the church.

As you can see, we all enjoyed ourselves.



Our group gives us fellowship, friendship prayer support and fun. We are thankful that the Lord brought us together.

Sandra O'Toole.

## **Wednesday House Group**

Throughout the year we have not met together in our housegroup but have kept in touch 1 to 1 where possible.

Nigel Worth

## **Bell ringing at St Peter's**

During the pandemic, we rang when we could with limited numbers of bells until June, when we managed to restart Bell ringing properly with 5 regular ringers on both Sundays and practice nights. We were re-joined by Jake in August, but this needed us to move to a Thursday for practices. It did mean we had 6 ringers but, due to work commitments, only 5 on a Sunday. We reduced our ringing time, kept the tower outside door open, wore masks, sanitised our hands and tested before coming.

We have been pleased to ring for services and for weddings but have needed help from Melbourne ringers sometimes.

We are financially sound – having a small income from weddings and visitor donations. Our purchase of a grease gun and a stool to help reach the grease nipples plus muffles to enable us to ring half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday and other solemn occasions, means we made a small loss this year. We have now transferred the funds to the church accounts where it is “ring fenced”.

We would love to recruit more ringers to help us on a Sunday with service ringing – the call to worship.

Andy Austen.

### **Senior Citizens' Meals**

Our Easter lunch was planned for the beginning of April and invitations had been given out. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled because of lockdown and since then a whole year has passed without any Senior Citizens meals taking place. As well as the fellowship with those attending there has been no contact with the school which was an integral part of the events. We may have to rethink how we reintroduce these opportunities for fellowship, perhaps smaller more regular gatherings when circumstances allow.

Jane Horan

### **Social network – Facebook, Twitter & Instagram**



St Peter's Church Social media pages have been running for around 8 years. Our aim is to connect and 'reach out' to the local community allowing them to see the up-and-coming services and what's going on behind the Church doors. Our Facebook audience "likes" have increased massively over the last 12 months to **2852** people.

The admin people for the page are: Matt Smith, Jeff Patrick and Rev Mike Firbank.

### **Matt Smith**

### **Worship Group**

Due to the Covid restrictions we were not able to meet to pray and practice and be involved in leading the services. Through the year we had to use different media to meet the needs of our community - backing track CD's, You tube videos.

God Bless,

St Peters Worship Group

## **Website**

It has been 8 ½ years since I set up the church website. While there has been not a lot of change in the last year as church activities have been on hold, I have kept the church and church hall calendars up to date and provided information relating to COVID and links to online services. Copies of our weekly newsletters can also be found and links to Facebook (St Peter's, Little Sparks and Hartshorne Society of Bell Ringers). There are also details of burials plots to assist people in finding the whereabouts of relatives' graves. Church information pages are also updated when new information becomes available. Please let me know if you find things that need updating.

Jane Horan

## **The Prayer Chain**

St Peter's Church 'text messaging Prayer chain' is managed by Matt Smith. The Prayer Chain was set up not only to support our church family, but to help us live out our God-given mandate to pray for one another and to provide immediate confidential prayer support. During the Pandemic we saw a large increase in people joining and using the prayer chain. We have witnessed countless answers to prayer. As a church we believe that this plays a significant role in keeping people connected. We would like to continue to encourage our church family to send requests no matter the situation and trust that requests are always kept confidential.

Matt Smith

## **Goseley Coffee, Conversation & Company**

We have general chat as we arrive with COFFEE/TEA. Come 11am we have a time for prayer and a short topic or scripture. From 11:30 we pray for local and worldly issues. We finish at midday. We have just a small group mostly women and one man who regularly attends but men/women are very welcome. We are an expanding group, all are welcome. Feel free to invite others. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday each month at Goseley community centre on Hartshill Road. Invites can be printed on demand available by Ayesha Squire.

Ayesha Squire

## **Weekly Newsletter**

I have been producing the newsletter since last summer since Stella left us. Currently there are 40 people on the newsletter mailing list. Others can access a copy via the church website or pick up a copy in church on a Sunday morning. Our current format is for the person preaching each week to write something to include in the newsletter which is linked

to the scripture reading for that Sunday. This seems to be working well and we've had the opportunity to read the thoughts of all those who preach at Hartshorne.

If anyone would like to write something for the newsletter, please let me know by the Thursday before.

Jane Horan ([jane.horan52@gmail.com](mailto:jane.horan52@gmail.com))

### **Swadlincote and District Youth for Christ**

A big thank you for all your support both in prayer and financially, as well as allowing us to use the hall firstly for our Youth Alpha, and then for our Deeper, discipleship group.

We launched Youth Alpha in September 2021, and spent a number of weeks exploring who Jesus is and how we can have a relationship with him. We were very encouraged when two young people made the decision to follow Jesus for themselves. At the end of the course, we asked the attendees what they wanted to do to follow on from the Alpha course and they all said that they wanted to find out more. In January we launched a follow-on course, Deeper, which runs weekly in the church hall. We are now working through the Gospel of Mark each week, and equipping and empowering the young people to grow in their relationship with Jesus using the Bible.

Elsewhere we are now working in all three of the local secondary schools each week, running lunch clubs and groups which support young people with their Mental Health and Self Esteem. These groups are well attended and schools are regularly asking us if we can do more.

Please pray for the young people we work with each week that they have a hunger to know Jesus for themselves.

Helen Davies

### **Little Sparks**

We are thrilled to be back! We run sessions on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Since starting back in September we are going from strength to strength. We have had many new families and are often full, especially on Wednesday's.

As a leadership team: Debbie Patrick, Karen Alexander, Bex Allpress - we are continuing to explore how to develop the ministry of Little Sparks into a Fresh Expression of worship. This

may take time to develop but please pray that we hear the Lord and that, over time, we see this work become a little worshipping community of families.

We would like to especially thank all the folk from church who play such an important part in delivering a warm welcome to the families. A special thanks to Carol Hulse for the important part she plays in the team.

### **Hartshorne CE Primary School**

Due to Covid restrictions it has not been possible to visit the school during this academic year.

Debbie has been attending the Governor meetings which have just began meeting in person.

The School leadership team have done a tremendous job of leading the school through the most challenging time yet. The whole school have pulled together in the most impressive way.

We anticipate increased involvement in the year to come with 'Experience' events and church visits. Taking up where we left off.

Please pray for our school and for continued opportunities for school to link up with church life in the future.

***Important notice: Now that Stella has left, we have a space on the Governor body for another Foundation Governor. If anyone from church would like to get involved in the Leadership of the school, please speak to Debbie Patrick.***

### **Assembly Team**

The team are going strong we are currently delivering assemblies in 8 schools. The team is made up of members from the Minster churches. It is a great opportunity to share God's love with the schools. We are so amazed by the openness of the schools and by the many opportunities we get to be a part of the school community. 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 how much God loves everyone.

Debbie Patrick

## Sunday School

The Sunday School has recently changed its name to 'JIGSAW!' (Jesus Is Great Sunday's Are Wonderful!). We are still small in the number of children that attend, so we continue to have our sessions in the north aisle. Rachel Coupe has joined the team in the last year, which enables me to spend some weeks in church.

Before we start our session's, we have a general chat to what the children have been doing during their week. We then have a register, and the children have cards on which they place a sticker each time they attend 'JIGSAW!', once they have a multiple of 10 stickers, they can choose a small gift from the gift box.

In 'JIGSAW!' we continue to use the Scripture Union books, we do a number of activities:- small games (depending upon the lesson); a reading from the bible, craft activity, have a healthy snack and drink and prayer time. I feel that JIGSAW is an important part of our church, & I feel that in God's time we will be blessed with more Children.

If you feel that the Lord is calling you to work with the children and young people, please feel free to speak to me. Please continue to pray for our group and everyone involved in it.

Carol Hulse