Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(APCM)

Sunday 20th June 2021

Church – Coffee & Chat via Zoom 2021

Curate – Revd. Stella Greenwood

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2020

Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 19:30

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. Any Other Business
    X. Thanks, and Closing Prayers

4. **The PCC Meeting to Elect Officers**
    XI. Honorary Lay-chair
    XII. Honorary Secretary
    XIII. Honorary Treasurer
    XIV. Electoral Roll Officer.
    XV. Any co-opted appointments
    XVI. Confirm date, place and time of next meeting.
    XVII. Prayers

Lay Chair of PCC's Report on 2020

2020/2021 has been and is a very challenging year on many fronts; 2 lock downs, isolation, face coverings, social distancing, sanitising, closing the Church and moving all our services on-line. For all those people who have been involved in the online services and the people phoning around checking on each other I'd like to say thank you. That's what family does for each other.

We were blessed with our Curate Stella Greenwood, who admirably stepped up to the challenges. Many thanks for your guidance Stella and we are praying for you and your family in your new adventure.

Last year we held our APCM on Zoom which certainly changed the functionality and access for many people. Hopefully this year is starting to look a little more normal.

Back in 2018 as a Church we decided to become part of the wider Swadlincote area "Minster Churches". This comprised of 4 Anglican Churches - Emmanuel, St. George and St. Marys, St. John and ourselves St. Peters. This is now becoming more real as we move forward as a Church body in unity. The deanery has started to make changes and consult with church leaders and PCC's on the way forward. Although there is no definite decision made yet on who will be our minister going forward, in the interim we will get counsel and support from the Minster church clergy when needed. Our team here at Hartshorne is still in place and we will continue with our vision of reaching and serving the community. As more information becomes available to share, we will keep you informed.

As you read this, today we have started to return to Church, gently moving forward as a fellowship with opening under strict guidelines to keep us all safe and well. As more changes occur, we will adjust to the government and church guidance.

Our prayers and thoughts

God bless,

Nigel Worth – Lay Chair St Peter's Church PCC

Curate's Report 2021

The final year of Curacy is expected to be one of consolidation. When the Curate can use the knowledge, they have learnt over the previous three years in a safe environment before taking on the challenge of leadership themselves.

This was how Graham sold it to me just before he moved away in late 2019. Neither of us, at that time, could have imagined the year that was to follow.

Not so much using what I have learnt, but in fact learning a whole new set of skills as almost everything that we knew about church and community was turned on its head and we had to learn to do things differently.

But what a lot we have learnt.

Our services have been online for a year now (the first was Mothering Sunday 2020) and while they are perhaps not as slick as some of the big churches, we are able to speak into our own context and our own community and with average viewing figures of around 50 for a standard Sunday and over 1000 for our Christmas services they are obviously well used and appreciated. Thanks must go to our team of preachers, Sandra, Sean, Debbie, Nigel, Bex, Patrick and Mike and our media team of Jeff and Matt for all the work that is done in putting these videos together and making them available to people.

Our weekly newsletter, with information from the Parish, the Minster and the Diocese continues to be delivered each week either by email or in hard copy. Thank you to all those who contributed information, to Debbie for producing the sheet and to those who deliver them. It is important to ensure that those not on electronic media can still feel part of our church family.

In the same vein we have sent letters to our care homes at regular intervals to remind them that while we are unable to visit, we continue to pray for them.

Perhaps the biggest activity that the church has been involved in is Meals 4 U, our hot food delivery project headed up by Churches Together. This has also been ongoing for year now with up to 140 meals delivered each week to 40 families in need in our community. We have also delivered food hampers to these families over the school holidays and extra gifts for Christmas and Easter. A huge thank you to all those involved in cooking and delivering the food, to those who have donated money or treats and to all who have been praying for this activity.

Over lock down, our Minster team has been extended and we now have a team of 11 people who are working to define and bring about our Minster vision of 4 churches supporting and resourcing each other so that the Kingdom of God grows in this place. I encourage you all to read the information that this team is producing, to pray for them and

to ask questions about how we can all be involved in building this new way of being church together.

I started this report by talking about my last year of curacy and that year is almost up. I will be leaving Hartshorne and Swadlincote in the summer to take up a post as Priest in Charge of Etwall, Eggington, Sutton on the Hill, Trusley and Dalbury. It will not be easy to leave a place and people I have grown to love but it is the downside of a life in ministry that at regular points God calls us forward into new adventures. I know that I leave a church and a congregation that is confident in its identity as God's people and excited about its future. I pray for you all that you will find your calling within that new framework.

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Stella

Revd. Stella Greenwood

Churchwardens' Report 2020-21

Church has had to change its normal pattern of worship over the year in order to come in line with National Covid restrictions.

March-July - Church closed for public worship.

Church opens for private prayer on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Much thanks to Brian Andrews for looking after the church during these days by opening and locking up the building and maintaining an area for people to light a candle.

July-November - Church Open for a restricted number of people.

Following the Covid guidelines and the Risk Assessment for our church, we opened for public worship on Sunday mornings. Due to restrictions, only up to 30 people were able to attend and we kept a record of people's attendance, in accordance with guidelines.

November-May - Church closed for public worship.

Although the Government had not called churches to close during this time, it was agreed by PCC that it would be both unwise and insensitive to open for public worship. This was supported by the Bishop and many churches in our Deanery also chose to remain closed during this period.

May 23rd 2021 - Church opened for a restricted number of people.

Whilst church is open it is still necessary to follow the Risk Assessment until further notice. This will involve a limit of 30 people being able to attend, a record of people's attendance,

face coverings being worn by attendees (unless medically exempt) and hand sanitisers being used.

Online presence

During the past year, the church has been posting a short sermon along with some worship and prayer. These have been posted on the church Facebook page and are available to view. These have attracted, on average, about 30 views per week. It is expected that these will continue as there are several people who watch the online sermon who are not able to attend church due to ill health or work commitments. The plan, currently, is that the sermon will be recorded and uploaded onto the Facebook page after the service each Sunday.

Church

Various works have been carried out in the church.

- New lightning conductor earth installed at base of tower.
- Height Safe Systems
- Repaired small leak to men's toilet roof.
- Replaced broken windows in church.
- Fitted outside front porch light with LED.
- Fitted handrail to left side of balcony stairs.
- Fitted temporary handrail to front of balcony.
- Lightning conductor tested Height Safe Systems
- Decorated North Isle & Chancel
- Two new LED lights have been fitted over the balcony, the rest are to follow.

Church Yard

- Overhanging branches removed from trees/shrubs adjacent to east boundary wall (next to former rectory)
- Repaired western boundary wall Removed soil from east end of churchyard to make room for another row of burial plots.
- Removed dead Oak tree in churchyard.
- Dead Oak used to make bench and positioned at old yew tree to replace previous bench.
- Removed fallen dead birch tree in churchyard (Wind damage)

Church Hall

- Fitted high level handles on toilet doors in hall.
- Fitted Church ladies and gents' toilets with LED lights.
- Fitted Church Lobby with LED light

There were **two Faculty applications** during the year.

- Instillation of Gas tank
- Handrail on balcony

Both of these works are to comply with requirements highlighted in the most recent Health and Safety report.

Both faculties have been approved, the Gas tank also needing planning consent which was granted. The work on the handrail is completed. The foundation and channel have been completed and made ready for the instillation of the gas tank. The gas tank will be installed on 24th June after which arrangements for pluming can be made.

Full details of works can be found in the Logbook.

Debbie Patrick

Bill Morris

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2021.

Lay Chair Nigel Worth opened the meeting in prayer at 19:30, and by sharing Romans 12 v 3-8. Meeting was held virtually (via Zoom), and was attended by 14 people, with 1 apology for absence (Jeff Patrick).

Nigel Worth explained how the meeting would work, and how it would differ from usual APCM meetings.

1. Election of Churchwardens

i) The Church Warden's Report 2020 (pg6 of booklet) was shared and highlights much of the additional hard work and activities over the past year. Nigel Worth thanked the church wardens, (Debbie Patrick and Bill Morris), for all their hard work over and above the standard role of Churchwarden, especially in the current Covid environment in which we find ourselves, he went on to say how well they complemented each other with their different skills. No questions were asked.

ii) Election of Church Wardens

The following were proposed and seconded as below:

Churchwardens	*Proposed by*	*Seconded By*
Debbie Patrick	*Jane Horan*	*Christine Gardner*
William Morris	*Nigel Worth*	*Deborah Worth*

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

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 (2019 pg. 7-9), AGM minutes was proposed by Debbie Patrick 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 58. 2019 it stood at 60. 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 8months 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.

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, Hartshorne School – he thanked Debbie Patrick for her hard work with the school. Also all groups which until March met 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, some of which has been changed is'. 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. (pg. 13-15) Nigel Worth started by thanking everyone for their generous giving during the last year, and that thanks to so many people making their giving via the Parish Giving scheme which was set up last year, This has made a big difference to our finances over the last 8 months, since this money was still coming in, although our expenses are down, so we are blessed. 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.

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 2017, and so require electing, the number of representatives for our church has been reduced from 3 to 2 positions.

There were 2 nominations received: Abbey Emery and James Johnston

It was declared that both of the nominated people were elected.

PCC

Two PCC members have reached the end of their 3 year term Ayesha Squire and Sandra O'Toole, both of whom wished to stand for positions on the PCC. Sean O'Toole previously Deanery Synod representative, was also interested in starting.

It was therefore suggested by the standing committee that since we have 2 positions available and 3 interested people, and due to the fact that we would not be able to have a vote, due to the meeting being virtual, it was suggested 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.

It was therefore proposed by James Johnston to co-opt all three members for a term of 1 year, this was seconded by Debbie Patrick. All in Favour.

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

ix. Appointment of sidesmen

Appointment of sidesmen has now been moved to become the responsibility of the PCC.

x. Any Other Business –

I. Provision for Children – What provision can we make for children in the current covid climate? Nigel Worth explained that rules for worship are different for children. We should think about how we can take this forward to encourage those with young families to take part. Debbie Patrick will be talking to those with children, anyone who has any thoughts on what we could do should feedback to Debbie. Stella to add it to the notice sheet.

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. Meeting Closed at 20:20

Christine Gardner - PCC Secretary

PCC Secretary's Report

Last year's delayed Annual General Meeting was held for the first time via Zoom, rather than face to face in church, also taking place in the week, on Tuesday October 2020, rather than a usual Sunday.

5 PCC meetings have taken place during the year, chaired by Lay Chair Nigel Worth. Regular standing committee meetings have taken place, recently these have been 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.

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.

We have been able to restart PCC meetings, via Zoom.

Christine Gardner

Electoral Roll for St Peter's Church Hartshorne

(Due to GDPR only the names are shared full list containing addresses are kept secure)

Entry	Surname	Christian Names	Resident or non-resident		Entry	Surname	Christian Names	Resident or non-resident
1	**Boulter**	Lois Elizabeth	R		29	**Lawlar**	Zoe Jean	NR
2	**Brealey**	Hazel May	R		30	**Loring**	Melody Louise Bernadette	NR
3	**Brodribb**	Nigel Tony	R		31	**Morris**	William Thomas	NR
4	**Coates**	Susan	NR		32	**O'Mahony**	Caitlin	NR
5	**Coupe**	Andrew	NR		33	**O'Mahony**	Charlotte	NR
6	**Coupe**	Nigel David	NR		34	**O'Mahony**	Megan Hope	NR
7	**Emery**	Abbey Mary	NR		35	**O'Mahony**	Robert	NR
8	**Emery**	Edwin	NR		36	**O'Toole**	Sandra Elisabeth	NR
9	**Evans**	Joan	R		37	**O'Toole**	Sean Michael	NR
10	**Gallagher**	Maxine Ann	R		38	**Patrick**	Debbie Louise	R
11	**Gardner**	Christine Elizabeth	NR		39	**Patrick**	Jeffery Nigel	R
12	**Gosden**	Alec James	R		40	**Redfern**	Brian	R
13	**Gosden**	Audrey Elizabeth	R		41	**Redfern**	Jean Elizabeth	R
14	**Green**	Gwendoline Angela	R		42	**Redfern**	Rebecca	R
15	**Horan**	Andrew	R		43	**Ridout**	Chantelle Carroll	NR
16	**Horan**	Jane Lesley	R		44	**Ridout**	Joseph	NR
17	**Horton-Kirkby**	Natalie Jayne	NR		45	**Sidwells**	Margaret Olive	R
18	**Horton**	Regina Betty	R		46	**Smith**	Katie Marie	NR
19	**Howard**	Andrew	NR		47	**Smith**	Matthew Reginald	NR
20	**Howard**	Valerie Jane	NR		48	**Southgate**	Pete	R
21	**Howard**	Wendy Ann	NR		49	**Squire**	Ayesha Gweneth	R
22	**Hudson**	Pamela	NR		50	**Squire**	Ian Edward	R
23	**Hulse**	Carol Ann	NR		51	**Storer**	Peter	NR
24	**Insley**	Pauline June	R		52	**White**	Jason Dean	NR
25	**James**	Carol	NR		53	**Worth**	Deborah Carmen	R
26	**Johnston**	James Peter	R		54	**Worth**	Nigel Vincent	R
27	**Joseph**	Christine Janet	NR		55	**Young**	David William	NR
28	**Joseph**	John Maurice Henry	NR		56	**Young**	Hilary Jane	NR

The 2021 Electoral Roll now stands at 56 -

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, June 2021

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne

Legal and Administrative Information for the year ended 31 December 2020

Committee of Management:	Mr N Worth	Lay Chairperson
	Revd. S.Greenwood	Curate
	Mr W Morris	Churchwarden
	Mrs J Horan	Churchwarden
	Mrs C Gardner	Secretary
	Mrs D Worth	Treasurer
	Mr M Smith	
	Mrs A Squire	
	Mrs K Smith	
	Mrs D Patrick	
	Mr A Howard	
	Mrs S O'Toole	
	Mr S O'Toole	
	Mr J Johnston	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
DE15 9FR

Bankers:
Lloyd's Bank plc
High Street
East Ham

Independent Examiner's Report for St. Peter's Church, Hartshorne for the year ended 31st December 2020

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 2020 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 2020.

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

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020
General Fund – Receipts and payments account

	2020			2019	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Gift Aid	17345.18			16983.00	
Collections and other giving	5214.07			9547.30	
Income tax recovered	5495.61			6040.75	
		28,054.86			**32,571.05**
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants	0.00			0.00	
Legacies	0.00			2000.00	
Donations for restricted purposes	1547.91			3629.72	
Other	317.00			1787.63	
		1864.91			**5417.35**
Income from investments					
Dividends					
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees	6269.00			6081.00	
Little Sparks	292.63			1233.18	
		6561.63			**7,314.18**
Total Receipts		36,481.40			45,302.58
Less payments		37,551.96			41,405.62
Excess of receipts over payments		-1070.56			3896.96
Bank Account @1st January		16,383.59			12,466.83
Bank Account @ 31st December		15,313.03			16,363.79

	2019			2019	
PAYMENTS					
Grants					
Home and overseas missions	3771.91			4364.15	
Hartshorne St Peter's Care Fund				300.	
		2771.91			4664.15
Activities directly related to work of the church					
Common Fund	20,820.00			20,632.00	
Visiting speakers expenses					
Rev. Stella Greenwood	754.72			1215.24	
Rev. Graham Rutter	0.00			238.85	
Church - running expenses	5387.19			4652.18	
Church - maintenance	496.29			1484.35	
Upkeep of services	1543.82			1538.04	
Support costs - education, training, Sunday School	404.42			65.56	
Upkeep of churchyard	214.62			742.88	
Church hall - running costs	486.19			1073.63	
Church hall maintenance	767.67			411.21	
Youth	0.00			208.95	
Other	327			1272.69	
Little Sparks	1153.42			609.85	
Church workers	0.00			87.30	
Funerals and Diocese expenses	474.45			1511.00	
		32,829.79			35,743.73
Church management of Administration					
Postage and stationery	0.00			90.00	
Printing	0.00			58.49	
Outreach/evangelism	950.26			849.25	
		950.26			997.74
Total payments		**37,551.96**			**41405.62**

Deanery Synod Report 2020

The bulk of Deanery work has been focussed on the Bishops Vision for the Diocese. Parishes have been assured of support in implementing the new Vision, the bulk of this support will come from the Mission and Ministry office.

Matt Barnes who is the Director of Discipleship, Mission and Ministry and Acting Continuing Ministerial Development Officer attended the April Synod to report on progress of the Vision. The Bishops Vision is coming along well. The full details of the new Diocesan Vision are available on the Deanery Website on the Deanery Synod page.

· This is the link to Matt Barnes' presentation to Synod:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfY487YuqeE

Deanery Finance - Mercia Deanery Synod currently have £22364.15 in it's current account of which £20913.13 is the loan account (this money is available to churches for emergencies).

Safeguarding - As we come out of lock-down Mike recommends that everyone, including all volunteers does their C0 online course. This is just for a refresher because of having had such a long break over the past year. Here is the link for the online safeguarding training - https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/

The Deanery Synod Leadership Team are:

- Area Dean: Mike Firbank, Church Gresley
- Secretary: Debbie Patrick
- Lay Chair: Maggie Fenby-Taylor, Ticknall
- Treasurer: Liz Ballinger, Winshill
- Leadership Team Lay member: Jon Whiten, Church Greasley
- Clergy member: Steve Short, Melbourne
- Mercia Deanery currently have 6 Lay seats and 5 Clergy seats on Diocesan Synod.

· Further information on Mercia Deanery Synod are available on the Deanery Website:
https://merciadeanery.wordpress.com/deanery-synod-pages/

St Peter's Hartshorne is represented on Deanery Synod by James Johnston, and Abbey Emery, and Rev Stella Greenwood.

Churches Together - Swadlincote & District Report 2020-2021

Last year I wrote that 'it has been a strange year, so this review reflects very different activities than we originally expected' but I did not, at that time expect the changes to have lasted so long!

In the last year, we have not been able to carry out any of our events in the usual way. Instead, we have learnt to be innovative and effective in social media.

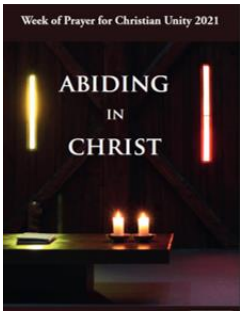
Meals 4 U

Our Hot food project – Meals 4 U began on 22nd May 2020 providing 49 hot meals to 18 families in our area. By May 21st 2021 we were delivering 145 meals to 44 households. We have also managed to support these families with food hampers each week of the school holidays and presents and treats for Christmas and Easter. In a very real way, we are sharing God's love with our community.

On-line services

We set up a Churches Together Facebook page to allow people in our community to ask for prayers or help from our church families. This page was also used to support those unable to attend our church buildings, by linking our on-line to the page, allowing more people to access these services.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



As we could not get together for week of prayer, we were unable to hold our usual mix of events. Instead we recorded a meditation for each day of the Week of Prayer and released it via our Facebook page. These were well received.

Walk of Witness

As we, for the second year running, could not hold our annual walk of witness we re-released the virtual walk of witness we created in 2020 which highlighted the words of Jesus from the cross.

Assemblies Team

The Assemblies team also took to recording assemblies for the schools in our area. While children returned to school in September, and then again in March, the team were still unable to go into school so they created a monthly assembly, recorded it and sent it into school. These were well received, as were the cards and gifts sent in to encourage and thank the staff in the schools who have worked extremely hard to support our children.

Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy team were also restricted from attending schools, businesses and care-homes for much of the year but continued to keep in touch with those they support in other ways. As things are opening up, our Chaplains are again visiting business, schools and care-homes in our area to support those working in these places.

Church Support

Everything that we do within Churches Together aims to allow Christ to be encountered by the people of our town. In order to do this, we need support from all our local churches. This support comes in three ways:

1. Prayer – all our endeavours need to be underpinned by prayer, prayer that our people will be empowered to declare the love of God to the people they meet and prayer that people will meet with God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Funding – in order to run the events and activities that we do, we need funds. In particular the Covid support funding that we have used for the Meals 4 U project is coming to an end, but the need is still there. While we are applying to other organisations for grants, as Churches Together, we ask each of our churches to provide funds as they are able. This may be through one off annual payments or through regular giving. Please consider prayerfully how much your church or even individuals within your church are able to give.

3. Resources – In order for people within Swadlincote to encounter Christ we need to have people who can show them the way. All our people are volunteers and feel that God has called them to be involved in Churches Together, however we always need more help. If you feel that God is calling you to be involved in any aspect of Churches Together please be in touch.

Thank you to all our member Churches and all our representatives for the support that you give to Churches together in Swadlincote.

Rev Stella Greenwood

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is now an item on the agenda for each PCC meeting, where I share the number of DBS checks completed, & required to be renewed, training courses completed & refresher training required (C1 & C2 training required every 3 years). The members of the PCC have been using their time over the last 6 months to ensure that all of us have completed the Basic and Foundation online training courses.

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 going to take 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. As we are coming out of lockdowns & things are slowly beginning to return to some form of normality, 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 myself or Stella.

During lockdown, and continuing to date the church has been able to use the details provided on the Data privacy notices, as a method for keeping in contact with everyone within the church family, and providing updates and notice sheets. Some people have been added to the contact list, at their request but just a reminder that everyone should have filled in a form, to clearly indicate how we can use your data. 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.

If you happy for the church to have your contact details, please complete a form, or speak to me for more details.

Christine Gardner – PSO

Monday Morning House Group

Unsurprisingly, our group have not been able to meet over the last 12 months, and have missed our close fellowship and the love and laughter that there is between us.

We have shared our needs and concerns through our house group prayer chain, and have been in touch with each other through texts and phone calls.

When church was opened last summer, a number of the group were shielding and still unable to attend. To compensate, we started a Sunday Service by text. Members sent in a Bible verse, or words of a song, hymn or thought which had encouraged them in the week,

and these were collated and sent out to every group member. From the responses received, they have been a source of blessing.

We will meet again as soon as it is allowed, even if we continue to wear masks and socially distance. We look forward to that day.

Sandra O'Toole.

Bell ringing at St Peter's

In February 2020, the pandemic was officially recognised and we started to act accordingly. It was no longer possible to bring the youngsters over from Newhall and the more vulnerable withdrew from ringing. As the virus took hold, all ringing ceased and even after the first lockdown, strict rules came in. To achieve social distancing, we could only ring 3 bells and there have been no practices since early March. There were a couple of occasions when the Coupe family came to ring and that meant we could safely ring 4 bells. It was our intention to try to ring at least one bell for services, but eventually even they were stopped.

It is greatly to the credit of the ringers, who are relatively inexperienced, that even without the support of the Tower Captain, they were able to ring safely and gradually improve.

We have kept in touch with weekly Zoom sessions on practice nights and even tried on-line ringing using the Ringing Room software. However this takes a different technique and some find it more difficult than ringing proper bells. We are very grateful to George for his continued support and ideas and for keeping us in touch with the rest of the ringing community.

I am very grateful to Cathie, Jane, Chris and Sean (Bullock) for continuing to ring when possible, to Sean for ringing the tenor for special occasions and for all the work to remove the clapper from the 2nd bell and get it repaired at Taylors and re-installed. Sean has now taken on the role of Steeple Keeper. We are also very grateful to Simon Adams from Taylors who helped Sean remove and replace the clapper.

As the vaccination programme rolls out, we hope that this summer of 2021 we may be able to start ringing again - calling the congregation to services and reminding the village that the church is very much in business.

Andy Austen, Tower Captain

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 Facebook page has been running for around 7 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 18 months to **2745** people. During the pandemic all services have been uploaded to our YouTube channel and a link shared to the church Facebook page. In order to show the popularity of these uploaded services, I have taken a 'snapshot' of a service preached by Rev Stella on 30th May 2021 - This service reached **3192** people and was watched by **352** with **42** people sharing to their friends and family.

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

Matt Smith

Flowers

For much of last year the church was closed for worship. Easter flowers were absent because the church was locked. The harvest service for which the church would normally be decorated was held outside so there were no displays of flowers and fruit and veg in the church. Remembrance Sunday was a quiet outdoor event for a small group so the church wasn't decorated with the usual display of poppies.

During Advent and Christmas, although the church building was closed for public worship, the Christmas tree and Advent crown featured in online services.

Thanks go to Gwen for keeping the wooden planters outside the church filled with seasonal flowering plants that brighten the entrance to the church.

Jane Horan

Post Office Coffee Morning at the Dethick Hall

The coffee morning hasn't been held for over a year now. I have popped in from time to time to post parcels and had a chat with Robert, the sub post master. Robert and his wife succumbed to Covid in January and have only recently felt almost back to normal. Hopefully

we will be able to recommence serving refreshments before too long - the relaxed atmosphere of chatting freely over a cuppa seems to be a distant memory.

Jane Horan

Worship Group

The worship group have developed and have become better equipped to play a large range of church music that encourages the fellowship to enter into Sung Worship. It amazes me how God has chosen such a group to lead our worship, it's a privilege to do so. Since March 2020, we have stopped meeting together to practice and lead in our services due to Covid 19 restrictions. We look forward to a time in the not too distant future whereby we can meet, lead, and sing our worship together.

Don't be disheartened by the difficulties we face, explore new ways of expressing your worship. Allow God to move in new ways in your home, or safe places. Matt 1:23 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). Don't forget GOD is with you!

God Bless,

St Peters Worship Group

Heritage Open Days

In September we took part in Heritage Open Days. Because of the pandemic we could only participate by putting on an outdoor activity. The churchyard trail was updated and made available online with paper copies available in the porch. The church was open for private prayer as usual on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Hello Heritage, an initiative set up by North West Leicestershire and South Derbyshire, gave us the opportunity to create a large information board for St Peter's. This was positioned at the bottom of the drive so that passers by could read about the history of the church.

These events were advertised nationally and locally.

Website

I have continued to update the website with weekly newsletters that Stella has produced throughout the pandemic. I have provided the latest information on the website's Welcome page about what is happening in the church regarding services and the church diary is kept up to date and current events displayed.

Jane Horan

The Prayer Chain

St Peter's Church 'text messaging Prayer chain' was originally established By Sandra O'Toole and is now 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 have seen an increase in people joining and using the prayer chain and 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

While we have not been able to meet together in the community centre, we have continued to meet twice a month via zoom, sharing scripture and praying together for the Goseley community and wider issues. Recently we have begun to discuss options for when we can meet together and ideas for additional ways share God's purposes for Goseley.

18+ Bible Study Group

Prior to the Covid restrictions. A bible study group of older youth/young adults had been meeting weekly. The format of these evenings had been to have a meal together and invite a visiting speaker from the area, on the whole, this was a church leader from the surrounding parishes). We regularly got about 10-12 young people along to these evenings.

It is unsure whether this group will start up again after Covid restrictions have been eased mainly due to many of the young people moving away. This will be reviewed in September.

Little Sparks

Whilst we haven't been able to meet in person over the last year due to Covid restrictions, Debbie and Bex have been posting weekly 'story times' on the Little Sparks Facebook page. These have been well received and gone some way in maintaining a link with these wonderful families.

Debbie distributed Messy Christmas craft bags to families before Christmas which was a wonderful opportunity to see some familiar faces.

More recently, we have started meeting families in the park in Hartshorne on Friday mornings. This has been with a small number each week but those who have come along have enjoyed seeing familiar faces and sharing their stories of the difficult year gone. Please continue to pray for the families of Little Sparks. Many have found the last year extremely

difficult and isolating, this is going to take time to heal and come back to any kind of 'normal' both for the adults and children.

As a team, which now includes Karen Alexander from Church Gresley church, we are starting 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 worshiping community of families.

Hartshorne CE Primary School

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

Stella and Debbie have been attending the Governor meetings which have been taking place over Teams.

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, leaving the children secure and in a state of readiness to learn and thrive despite the great challenges of home learning and then returning to school under difficult circumstances.

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.

Assembly Team

During the past academic year it has not been possible to visit schools to lead assemblies due to the Covid restrictions.

However, the team have been sending a monthly assembly to the schools for them to use in whatever way best suits their set up.

These have been very well received by the schools which has encouraged the team greatly.

In addition to the assemblies, the team have sent gifts of chocolates to the staff in each of the schools for Christmas and then Easter along with a card with a message of encouragement.

The Church is represented on the Governing Body by Stella Greenwood and Debbie Patrick. Please pray for our school and for continued opportunities for school to link up with church life in the future.

Debbie Patrick