



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)



Sunday 26th March 2023

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2023

Sunday 26th March 2023 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

Acting Incumbent's Report for St Peter's Church, Hartshorne for 2022.

Dear friends,

2022 seems like a year like no other. I am not going to try and pretend that I can do justice to it in a short report, but here is some of what happened – the sad, the tragic and the happy; the good and the bad.

An overview of the public news would have to include the War in Ukraine/the invasion by Putin, three Prime Ministers and the mess that ensued, the death of the most extraordinary and lovely Queen Elizabeth II, on top of a cost of living crisis not seen since just after WWII, many of the public sector going on strike at the end of 2022 (including nurses who really have to be upset to go on strike) and the changing climate which is negatively effecting so many parts of the world.

Locally we have seen the growing ministry at Goseley Estate where there is so much need – slowly folks there are trusting Christians and engaging with discipleship and prayer. It is extraordinary to behold. We've also met a new curate (Rev Sam) ordained deacon over the summer alongside our very own Elliot (Rev Elliot!) – and Rev Bex now a priest. You all, at St Peter's, are key part to their training and you continue to offer them both so much support and love. Thankyou from all the clergy.

We have all also had too much to mourn in terms of loss and bereavement. These have ranged from the death of loved ones to news of serious health issues, to significant changes in personal circumstances. We continue to pray for each other – especially any who are struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

As part of Swadlincote Minster, as well as seeing the re-shaped Little Sparks and enlarged team, we have also responded to local - most noticeably in being part of a joint team at Emmanuel to provide a warm space Monday to Fridays across 3 months. The need grows and we have seen local schools providing breakfast club to many more students, buy them new shoes and coats, and (along with us) wondered how one of the richest countries in the world needs growing food and clothes banks.

Advent and Christmas 2022 gave us all space, I hope, to celebrate the greatest story ever told about God's love and grace. It is that love and grace that I encourage us to focus upon for 2023. Why? Let me share something.

Over Advent alone, as a local Anglican minister in a team of 4 churches and as Area Dean (and therefore as the acting incumbent to Hartshorne, Emmanuel, and other churches in the Deanery), I found myself supporting families who lost children in some tragic circumstances, whilst also leading (for the first time) Christmas assemblies for each year

group at Pingle. I found myself supporting other clergy who were at breaking point and talking to local church members who were getting excited about mission and planning to develop existing projects or plant new ones. If I listed all that happened, unexpectedly, during Advent alone it would fill many pages.

You too will have experienced your own ups and downs – your own challenges. How do we cope with such uncertain times? We do it, and we can thrive, by choosing to focus upon God's love and grace. He is the 'pioneer and perfecter of our faith...' (Hebrews 12). There is no other way.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those at St Peter's Church, both those who are up front leading in any way (especially the Worship Band and those Leading Services), and then those most important people who are behind the scenes beaver away (especially those involved in ongoing Pastoral Care often in small and unseen ways) and also helping to make sure that everything is ready for the rest of us. Bless you all and thanks again.

Blessings of the Lord, Mike (he/him)

Mike Firbank (Rev Dr) 07814 033183

Swadlincote Minster/School Chaplain

Area Dean: South Derbyshire

Lay Chair of PCC's Report on 2022

As Church life has started to look more normal this year, it's been interesting to watch and see how people are feeling and responding in worship. Clearly the restrictions have had a negative effect on each of us individually and as a fellowship. As the year has progressed people are appearing to open up once again, although some folks are still finding it challenging integrating back into society and mixing. Maybe I can encourage you to pray for these lovely people that God will help, lead and grow their confidence once again.

Over the year we have met with our Minster churches sharing a short 20 - 30 min time of prayer, and passing shared information that has helped form and develop our approach as 4 churches becoming 1 benefice. This journey is still at the beginning, but with great opportunity to support and share each other's works. Over the new year more discussions and communication will be sent out. There is a legal process that is moving along to ratify the change from 4 to 1 benefice, and this will probably not be completed until 2024.

Some of the themes throughout the year have covered Safeguarding, Building works, Mission, H&S, Exploring the minster options and more.

Thank you for your support throughout the year, every bit helps the running of God's church.

P.S. If you do have any questions about anything please ask.

Nigel Worth – Lay Chair St Peter's Church PCC

APCM Swadlincote Minster Curate Report 2022-3

This year has seen the four churches that comprise Swadlincote Minster begin to really root in their ministry and missional activities following the impact from the pandemic. Sam and Bex have enjoyed being part of the Worship across the four churches as well as being involved in a number of the missional activities. It has been a year for us that has celebrated community, many groups have focused on fellowship and serving one another.

Goseley Coffee Conversation has enjoyed a productive year, growing as a community and benefitting from pastoral outreach to local families. They have been successfully working in collaboration with the Adult Education Centre in Swadlincote to improve social mobility on the estate. This has included joint ecumenical work with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas presents and food support. There have also been a number of family activity events on the estate during Christmas and half-term with a successful Summer cooking program to be repeated again this year.

This year, Newhall's local art group the Creative Collective has moved from Chrysanthemum Court to St John's. Here, they explore new creative techniques on a weekly basis and have been growing as a group together. The space regularly attracts new people, and builds upon its connections to local artists and other local leaders.

The local community in Church Gresley has grown more connected, and benefited from the work of The Ark. This group meets weekly, offering the opportunity for singing together and bingo, with visits out for meals and trips. It has been invested into by those that lead and those that attend, forming it into a space of prayer and discipleship.

In response to the cost of living crisis and as a Churches Together in Swadlincote initiative, Emmanuel church hall was opened as a warm space. The joy of this for us, outside of supporting this community's most vulnerable, was seeing those from across the Minster getting to know one another. Also at Emmanuel this year was the re-establishment of the ladies social group who have successfully been building on their community spirit by way of learning from guest speakers and engaging in social events.

As a reflection of our churches working together, a group of 20s & 30s worshipping from across the area have put together: Thrive. Meeting twice a month they gather for fellowship and to socialize, as well as Bible study and exploring world issues.

Away from our church buildings, Sam's had the joy from the start of September working with local schools, as a regular chaplain at The Pingle Academy, supporting the

weekly Wednesday Night Project at William Allitt School, and regularly attending Gresley Infant School for assemblies. This has presented new opportunities for working together, such as promoting Messy Church, ecumenical connections with the Methodist Church, and becoming a new Foundation Governor at Hartshorne CoE School.

Alongside the work of the Churches' school assemblies team, St Peter's and St John's had the pleasure of educating local primary school children through a series of experience church events. Such as Experience Eucharist and Experience Christmas with an Experience Easter event planned for the end of March. On one memorable occasion during a visit from Newhall Infant School, we saw classes dressed-up for a wedding ceremony as Bex and Patrick led them through the church's Life Events and communion.

Recently, St Peter's was joined by Gresley Beaver's for a tour of the Bell Tower and to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith in order to complete their faith badges. The Scouts are due to visit next in July for a similar tour and experience. It was likewise lovely to see the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers join St Peter's at their Remembrance Sunday Service; with St John's Church joining the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers for Remembrance celebrations in Newhall Park. Emmanuel enjoyed an active presence at Eureka Park, as did Gresley Church in Maurice Lee Park.

Other services across our Minster have been a blessing to us, in particular a range of Christmas services that attracted many. We saw two successful Christingle services on Christmas Eve at Emmanuel, with a collection taken for The Children's Society. The service built a Christingle together with the congregation, teaching of the God of hope who brought peace, love, and joy into the world through Jesus.

St John's Church had a successful carol service and blessing of the crib during which we saw local residents supporting not just the church but also the foodbank at CVS by adding to the Harvest fund to raise £275!

Alongside the ever-popular occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals, this year has seen the confirmation of two candidates from the Minster. It has been wonderful to see God speak into the lives of these two people, as they witnessed to Bishop Malcolm about the transformative action of God in their lives.

The opportunities through occasional offices this year has been rewarding. The first has been working in collaboration with a local funeral directors to host a community event day. This was the wildlife fun day held in Summer at St Peter's where families were able to explore the wildlife of the church yard, while making bird boxes and bug hotels. Alongside this they also cooked s'mores on an open fire, and engaged in a range of craft activities.

Further collaborative initiatives resulting from occasional offices has seen the establishment of a new toddler and carer support group. They will be based at Emmanuel Church Hall on Thursday mornings starting March 23rd. This group will be known as

Rainbow Rascals and they will be working with the Minster, for the purpose of enhancing community across the Swadlincote area.

There are exciting things in the pipeline that we are looking forward to being involved in. At Gresley, a Minster Prayer Day is being carefully put together and will include contributions from all four Churches; as well as The Ark, Goseley Coffee Conversation and Youth for Christ. There is also a potential monthly Game Night being planned, in addition to new ventures with the Adult Education Centre and the G.P Surgery in Swadlincote to improve social mobility across the area.

It has been a privilege to be part of so much, and yet there remains so much more that can be said about the range of communities, engaging with God and with one another across the Swadlincote area. What a blessing it is to be on this journey!

Rev. Sam and Rev. Bex

(Curate's to the Benefice of Hartshorne and Swadlincote, Newhall and Church Gresley)

Churchwardens' Report 2022

In the absence of any Church Wardens this year, the following report contains many of the items previously included in the Church Wardens report & provides details of jobs carried out during the last year.

Fabric of Church and Church Hall – APCM 2023

Church

The Quinquennial Inspection is taking place on 28th March '23. The last inspection took place in 2018.

Faculty Applications since last APCM:-

- 1 30.09.22 Repair and repointing to tower, Repair to Porch and repointing to various other sections of church. Plus, repair to windows.
- 2 23.11.22 Re-hang door to toilet
- 3 28.03.23 Installation of memorial bench in churchyard

All Applications did not need full faculty and were approved by the Archdeacon. None have been carried out as yet.

Item 1 refers to the full Schedule of works and answers the requirements from the Quinquennial Inspection which took place in 2018.

A small working party has been put together to see this work progresses. So far we have taken advice from the Diocese and started an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund the works. The next stage will be to receive further estimates for the work and further work to complete the funding application.

Be advised this is a long process and it may be some time before we see work begin.

Item 2 refers to widening the door to the disabled toilet in the church in order for it to offer full disabled access. This work is not going to be straight forward and we are taking advise as to the best approach.

Other work recording in the Logbook since the last APCM are:

- August 2022 - Pat Test – equipment and appliances (Church and Church Hall)
- February 2023 - Refurbished Pully on clock winding mechanism

The church is being used weekly for Sunday worship as well as Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. There have also been several meetings across the year that have taken place in the church.

The church continues to be opened for quiet prayer and reflection on Wednesday and Saturday. This is showing to still be something that people are wanting, and we are looking to develop the missional welcome on these days by introducing prayer cards and tea and coffee facilities for visitors. Many thanks to Brian for supporting this missional opportunity.

The Churchyard continues to be kept in very good condition. There has been a lot of work carried out to increase the biodiversity of the churchyard; including a flower meadow for the bees, bug hotel and areas deliberately left to create habitats for small animals. Many thanks to all those who have given so much time into making our churchyard a place of retreat for all of God's creation from tiny bugs to humans. Bill has purchased a new ride-on mower, using money saved in the Churchyard fund (made up of gifts and offerings from users of the churchyard).

Church Hall

There has been a lot of work done to improve the toilets in the Church Hall.

- Walls plastered.
- New flooring (including repair to damp flooring in disabled toilet)
- All toilets painted.
- New doors fitted (no small task! Thanks Nigel!)
- Windows have been adjusted so all now open and close properly
- We now have a green recycling bin, so all recycling can be done on site.
- The water boiler has been fixed.
- All electrics have been PAT tested and are safe. The fire safety equipment has also been checked and is safe and ready to use.

The hall continues to be used by 1st Hartshorne Scout group on three nights of the week. This relationship is managed by the PCC and reviewed from time to time to make sure that it is working for all parties.

Little Sparks continues to go well. The hall making a perfect environment for this group. South Derbyshire Youth for Christ have used the hall for a weekly youth gathering and the

PCC welcome them again in the future, should the need arise. They put on a fabulous 'Afternoon Tea' recently which was a huge success.

The grass around the church hall is cared for by Bill and our neighbour across the road for which we are very grateful.

Please forgive me if I have forgotten something important and add any items at the APCM. Full details of works can be found in the Logbook.

Debbie Patrick

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 3rd April 2022.

Lay Chair Nigel Worth opened the meeting in prayer at 12pm with 16 people in attendance, and 3 apologies for absence (Jane Horan, Debbie Patrick and Jim Gosden).

Nigel Worth started by thanking Christine Gardner for creating the report, & to all those who submitted reports to be included. He reminded everyone present that the APCM is a time to reflect on the past year, and look forward to the year ahead. Nigel 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 warden, (Debbie Patrick and Sexton Bill Morris), for all their hard work. Nigel announced that Debbie Patrick would be standing down from her role as Church Warden. No questions were asked.

ii) Election of Church Wardens

No nominations were received at this time for the position of Church Warden

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 (2022 pg. 7-9), AGM minutes was proposed by Ayesha Squire and seconded by Jeff Patrick. 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 65, with 7 additional members being added. 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.

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

This year we have 2 positions available and 2 people interested in standing; therefore, both were duly elected to the PCC.

The following were proposed and seconded as below:

<i>PCC Members</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded By</i>
<i>Jane Horan</i>	<i>James Johnston</i>	<i>Ayesha Squire</i>
<i>Nigel Worth</i>	<i>Jane Horan</i>	<i>Debbie Patrick</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 – An email has been received from Jim Gosden informing us of his decision to stand down as the Church's representative on the Dethick Hall Foundation. This consists of attending 3-4 meetings a year. Jeff Patrick offered to stand for this position, acceptance of which was proposed by Sandra O'Toole and seconded by Bill Morris. All in favour. Our thanks were given to Jim for his service in this role over the years.*

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

This year all PCC meetings have been held 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 PCC meetings.

5 PCC meetings have taken place during the year, chaired by Lay Chair Nigel Worth. Regular standing committee meetings have taken place, (attendees PCC Chair, Church warden, 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.

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

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is on the agenda at all PCC meetings, where I report on DBS Checks completed, & those required to be renewed, training courses completed & refresher training required (Safeguarding training is required to be refreshed every 3 years). Nearly all PCC members are now up to date with all their mandatory Safeguarding training, I will be catching up with everyone else who needs to complete training courses, within the next few weeks.

Over the last few months, I have been working on updating all of our Safeguarding information, & entering everything onto our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The Dashboard supports parishes in understanding the safeguarding requirements of the Church of England and the Charity Commission, and to track progress in meeting these requirements. There are three levels to complete, with the completion of most questions on one level progressing a parish to the next level. These levels focus on safer foundations, safer activities, and safer practices. The inputting of the safeguarding information within the dashboard will also replace parishes providing safeguarding information within the Articles of Enquiry. Regular updating of the Parish safeguarding dashboard will help with setting and implementing of the Safeguarding Action plan. (See our Action Plan Summary below)

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.

Hartshorne: St Peter Safeguarding Action Summary - Level 2

This shorter version of the Safeguarding Action Plan ignores any completed actions.

Policies and Action Plan

Safeguarding Action Plan		
The PCC must approve an action plan and review it regularly.	The PCC needs to review their Safeguarding Action Plan.	Action Plan to be reviewed at PCC meeting May 2023. Policies are being updated following review at PCC Mar 2023
Recruitment of Ex-Offenders		
The PCC must have a policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders.	The PCC needs to approve a policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders.	Diocese policy for recruitment of ex-offenders to be reviewed by PCC & amended for St Peter's Hartshorne as appropriate

Safeguarding Procedures

Responding to Concerns or Allegations		
The PCC must approve a procedure to deal promptly with any safeguarding concern or allegation (including any suspicion of abuse). This procedure is to be reviewed annually.	The PCC must review this procedure.	Review / update & take for approval at May 2023 PCC

Safeguarding Roles Churchwardens

Churchwardens		
The churchwardens must be made aware of their safeguarding responsibilities	At least one churchwarden needs to be elected.	No Church warden's appointed for 2022

Training for Key Roles

Churchwardens		
The PCC must ensure that all Churchwardens undertake the required safeguarding training.	The PCC needs to appoint at least one Churchwarden.	No Church Warden's in post for 2022.

Reviews and Reports

Review List of Church Activities		
The PCC must confirm that the list of Church Activities on this dashboard is complete.	Action is required.	List to be created April / May 2023, and reviewed quarterly by PCC.

Christine Gardner – PSO

Electoral Roll

The 2023 Electoral Roll now stands at 62. 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, March 2023

Deanery Synod Report 2022

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 also 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 and District 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).

Churches Together normally have the following events throughout the year in

- January - Week for Prayer and Christian Unity which culminates in a joint service at the Catholic Church in mid-January.
- March - the first Friday in March for One World Day of Prayer that includes a joint service of Prayer and Reflections.
- Good Friday walk of witness - which we haven't been able to have since 2019 due to the Covid restrictions so 2023 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.
- 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 centre 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.
- 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.

This winter we introduced a new activity Winter Warm Rooms in Emanuel church hall. This has been an absolutely massive success, and given the team an opportunity to evangelise to people in the area. The team included volunteers of our fellowship, who would agree that this has been a success and something which should be encouraged again next winter time.

Other resources which Churches Together are very involved in are the assemblies team, and the giving of the It's Your Move book to year 6 pupils. 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. 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 know from personal feedback received from some teachers I know, that they speak very highly of the work of the assemblies team. It's Your Move books 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, to provide 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 within 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 said 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

Friday Morning House Group

The Friday house group meets at Gina's home from 9 30am to 10 45ish. Our numbers vary because of medical appointments and other commitments, but we usually average about 6. Our meetings include a time of sharing needs for prayer and a Bible study. (There's also lots of chat!) We didn't have a summer outing this year but still gathered together for a Christmas lunch to which everyone contributed food and other items. In the leadup to Christmas we enjoyed filling shoe boxes with lots of practical goodies for the YMCA to distribute to the homeless. There is a wonderful sense of friendship, caring and support in the group and it's very encouraging to see among them an eagerness to follow God's will and to be good disciples. Many thanks to Gina for her hospitality, and to those who provide lifts for others.

Sandra O'Toole

Bell ringing at St Peter's

We started the last year practising on Thursdays in order to accommodate our youngest ringer's college commitments but when his course finished in July, we moved back to Wednesdays.

After the doldrums of the Covid years, this year has been much more active. We have rung for every service held in the church, including the carol service, and had our practice almost every week with just a couple missed for various reasons.

Although there are six of us registered with the Diocesan Association there are usually only five on a Sunday and sometimes as few as three so we could do with more ringers. People have expressed an interest in joining us, but no more than interest. We have had a number of visitors, including the Derbyshire Association Young Ringers and Woodville Scouts and Gresley Beavers. We hosted the Diocesan Association six bell striking competition in May although we did not take part ourselves.

We have rung for four weddings, but usually have to borrow a ringer from elsewhere to make up the six. Weddings do bring enough income for us to do essential maintenance and contemplate buying new equipment, such as our new muffles and possibly new ropes. We had to get Taylor's in to replace a cracked clapper mount on the 2nd bell and we have finally tracked down the cause of fraying on the rope of the 4th to a fault on the wheel. We also had to get professional help to exterminate a fly infestation in the belfry.

We were delighted to be able to ring for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and honoured, though saddened to ring for her funeral.

The new muffles were very timely because they enabled us to ring half muffled when she died. The next day we had to take the muffles off in order to celebrate the Accession of

King Charles III and the day after had to put them back on again to ring muffled until after ringing for her funeral. We are looking forward to ringing for the Coronation.

We have made progress with our ringing and regularly ring Plain Hunt or Treble Bob on a Sunday now. Our ambition is to be ringing Plain Bob methods this year.

We do need additional ringers, and anyone is welcome to come along and have a go - just mention it to one of the ringers.

We practise every Wednesday from 7.30 to 9pm.

Andy Austen (Tower Captain)

Social network – Facebook, Twitter & Instagram   

St Peter's Church Social media pages have been running for around 9 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" currently stand at **2852** people. Through these pages we have taken many Wedding and baptism requested this indicates that we are easily accessible to the local community.

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

Matt Smith

Worship Group

This year has seen the worship team start to meet again during the week and worship together. Picking up old and some new songs to enhance our worship together.

We have been so, blessed with several new members who have brought a freshness and worshipping heart that is essential to the centre of what we are about... WELCOME you know who you are.

Please pray for the group that we will continue to seek Jesus and move forward together, ever drawing closer to our Lord.

God Bless, St Peters Worship Group

Website

It has been nearly 10 years since I set up the church website. Over the past year there have been some changes in the way that the website has been hosted and I have relied on the help of Jeff Patrick to sort out the related problems. We have recently purchased an SSL certificate - short for Secure Sockets Layer. SSLs communicate to web users that a

connection is safe and secure. When a website holds an SSL certificate, a padlock icon appears on the left side of the URL address bar signifying that the connection is secure. Additionally, sites will display an “HTTPS” address instead of an “HTTP” address. This will give people reassurance when they are searching for information on 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. 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. I have recently updated these spreadsheets. Church information pages are also updated when new information becomes available. Please let me know if you find things that need changing.

Jane Horan

The Prayer Chain

St Peter's Church 'text messaging Prayer chain' is currently 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. 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 meet at Goseley community centre on Hartshill Road in Hartshorne twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays. 10am till Midday. After chatting over tea & coffee, we look closely at scripture each session and this generates a lot of conversation, we also have a dedicated prayer time so we can pray about other things we are all either interested or involved in. We have been very busy socially this year, we went to Calke Abbey last summer for some very much needed rest and relaxation which was very well attended. We also had Christmas dinner at Bretby garden centre. We also have Connections with services provided by the CVS and TLG. Over the summer we as a group assisted with running a cookery class that CVS put on at Goseley community centre and this was very successful.

We are a small group, and we are always looking for new members and new ways to serve one another. Everyone is very welcome to come (no matter where you live). All we ask is you keep an open mind.

Ayesha Squire

Weekly Newsletter

I have been producing the newsletter since 2021. Currently there are 38 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. Thanks go to Bill for printing these; it makes it easier for me to produce the newsletter when I am away on holiday without the worry of making sure that hard copies are in church each Sunday. 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)

Swadlincote and District Youth for Christ

The past twelve months we have seen God move in Swadlincote among the young people we are working with. We were blessed to be able to host Deeper, a follow up course to Alpha, in the Church Hall until the summer, this course enabled us to disciple the young people who had made the decision to follow Jesus on the Alpha course.

We continue to work in Pingle, Granville and William Allitt schools and have seen a huge rise in the opportunities to talk about our faith. In December 2022 we gave one of our lunch clubs the opportunity for young people to follow Jesus. Two decided that they want a personal relationship with him. We were also able to give six Youth Bibles to members of the group.

Thank you to both the Church and the members who give so faithfully to the work of SDYFC, and for holding us in your prayers. We are able to continue what we do because of your faithful support.

Helen Davies

Little Sparks

Little Sparks continues to grow. We open Wednesday and Friday mornings with Wednesdays being our busying mornings overall.

The morning routine remains generally unchanged with Story Time being an opportunity to get the message of God's love across through interactive stories and usually a lot of laughs. But the most important aspect of the sessions will always be the conversations we have with the grown-ups sharing stories of parenthood and hope. Some people have been coming to Little Sparks for several years and those relationships have developed over time.

We continue 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.

Debbie Patrick, Karen Alexander, Rev. Bex Allpress

Hartshorne CE Primary School

School life continues to go well with children receiving a good learning experience in a close nit environment.

Assembly Team continue to lead Collective Worship for the school every other week and school continue to have whole school worship in the church to celebrate the major Christian celebrations such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Each of these celebrations are very well attended by parents and frequently fill the church.

Infants came into church for Experience Christmas which was very successful; special thanks to the Assembly Team members and Rev Sam who supported church members in leading this event. There are more Experience Events in the calendar in 2023.

Important notice: 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 10 schools: keeping the team very busy. Assembly 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 honest about our faith and how much God loves everyone.

Please continue to pray for the Team and for the schools in which we minister.

Hartshorne CofE Primary

St Georges CofE Primary

Church Gresley Infant and Nursery

Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery

Belmont Primary

Fairmeadows Foundation Primary

Pennine Way Junior Academy

Newhall Infant and Nursery

Netherseal Primary

Springfield Primary

Debbie Patrick

Sunday School

At '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. Natalie (Nat) Payne has recently joined the team, which enables both of us 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 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. Nat is studying the bible with the children, & encourages them to bring their own copy, as well as doing various activities. 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