



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 21st April 2024



Contents

Agenda	Page	3
Incumbent's Report		4
PCC Lay Chair's Report		5
Church Warden's Report		5
Minutes of last APCM		7
Safeguarding Report		9
The Electoral Roll		10
The Annual Accounts		11
Deanery Synod Report		15
Reports from Groups		17 -24

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2024

Sunday 21st April 2024 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 2023.

Dear PCCs and Church Members,

I am currently the Vicar of Gresley and Area Dean (therefore, acting as Incumbent for both Hartshorne and Emmanuel). I have the privilege of being part of a team that works across the wider Swadlincote Area and the group of churches we call Swad Minster. Despite the reality that we are still, legally, 4 separate churches (within in 3 different benefices) we have been increasingly acting as if we have already become that new legal group – Swad Minster.

Last year, 2023, we made changes to how the clergy work and operate as we move towards that 'Minster clergy team' working across all 4 churches - serving, supporting, and leading together. This is a significant change as it means that there is increasingly, in practise, no 'Vicar' who is the same weekly clergy person for any individual church. Change is always challenging, but our aim is to help all our churches to continue to both enjoy their distinct worship, and to grow in their ministries and missions to the wider community – indeed many of our outreach groups are joint endeavours. What's obvious to me is that when we join forces the result is often greater than the sum of their individual parts. Behind coming together as a group of churches is the clear desire to be able to be more and do more in sharing God's love with the wider community. In fact, there is only really one good reason for coming together – and that is to support each other as together we support and love our communities in the name of Christ.

There will be various interesting reports in each APCM that each church has about its own ministry and mission. What's exciting is that since the end of the last Covid lockdown we have, across our Minster group of churches, begun new groups, expanded how we serve the community around us, and seen new people come into our churches. There is much to be up-beat about. If I think back over the various Sundays across 2023 some of my clear favourites have been our Minster services through which we have made new friends and begun to work even closer together.

There are also significant challenges for the Church of England as a whole and some of these challenges will inevitably also affect us in some way:

- there are the financial challenges of a large and growing deficit in our Diocesan budget,
- there is the increasing age of congregations and the struggle to fill a variety of roles,
- there is the growing polarisation of debate around single issues,
- and we all are trying to grapple with and understand the rapid changes in British society – many of them driven at speed by social media.

I do not have the answer to any of these challenges, but then, and this may surprise you, I'm not looking for any. I'm simply resolved to face them, and any other unknown and unforeseen issues, together with you. Together we are, (and this is my modern

interpretation of St Pauls' 'Body of Christ' theology), **greater than the sum of our individual parts**. For me, it's that simple.

Lastly, later this year in 2024 (during August, September, and October) I will take a paid Sabbatical. It's one of the things all stipendiary clergy are offered through their ministry. It isn't something that happens in most vocations or industries and so I'm very grateful to be able to take this. It's a time for rest, for refreshment – but also for considerable reflection. I will be reflecting upon the journey we have been on so far and how I can most helpfully and productively be part of that ongoing journey over the rest of this decade and beyond – across the wider Swadlincote urban area and as part of the Minster clergy team that support, encourage, and lead Swadlincote Minster.

Blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ, Mike Firbank (he/him)

*Mike Firbank (Rev Dr) 07814 033183
Swadlincote Minster/School Chaplain
Area Dean: South Derbyshire*

Lay Chair of PCC's Report on 2023

Another year has flown by. It's been interesting to see how the church has been moving forward over the year.

As you read the reports you'll see that many groups and activities have been exciting and encouraging in your vibrant church.

We have been meeting throughout the year as a PCC at Emmanuel church hall with the whole of the Minster PCC's. We spend the first 30mins catching up with progress of the benefice sharing what is happening in different churches. Then breaking out into our local PCC groups, this then allows us to discuss St Peter's matters. A small group have been meeting to look at ways of funding the repairs and renovation of the Church, more will follow this year as we start to move forward.

Every blessing Nige

Nigel Worth – Lay Chair St Peter's Church PCC

Churchwardens' Report 2023

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 2024

Church

Faculty Applications since last APCM:-

- One application in for the installation of a church bench.

A small working party has continued to work on our Heritage Lottery Fund application.

The team consists of:

Cathy Rogers

Jane Horan

Andy Austin

James Johnson

Deb Worth

Christine Gardener

Nigel Worth

Jeff Patrick

Debbie Patrick

Many thanks to those in this team, each bringing important skills and knowledge.

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. The work to widen the door to the disabled toilet in the church in order for it to offer full disabled access has yet to be completed. This work is not going to be straight forward and we are taking advice as to the best approach.

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

- PAT Test – December 2023
- Church heaters serviced – May 2023
- Gutters cleared in church hall - ... 2023
- Fire Risk Assessment completed – February 2024
- De-Fibrillatory installed on church hall – April 2024

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. We are looking to develop the missional welcome on these days. Prayer cards and a prayer board have been introduced and tea and coffee facilities (still to be implemented) for visitors. Many thanks to Brian for supporting this missional opportunity.

The Churchyard continues to be kept in very good condition and is used frequently by the community. 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.

Church Hall

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.

The grass around the church hall is cared for by Bill and Keith Weaver from Spiderweb Cottage for which we are very grateful.

Full details of works can be found in the Logbook.

Debbie Patrick

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 26th March 2023.

Lay Chair Nigel Worth opened the meeting in prayer at 12:15pm with 16 people in attendance, and 3 apologies for absence (Jane Horan, Jeff 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) There has been no Church Warden's for the last year (2022). Nigel Worth thanked Nigel Worth thanked Debbie Patrick and Sexton Bill Morris), for all their hard work. Nigel announced that the quinquennial inspection is due
- ii) Election of Church Wardens

No nominations were received at this time for the position of Church Warden. If anyone is interested please let Nigel know. If we don't have a church warden we need to get the tasks spread out across church members.

2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- i. Attendance list was completed by PCC Secretary, to record all those who attended or sent apologies.
- ii. Minutes of the last meeting: -
 - Acceptance of the previous year's (2022 pg. 7-9), AGM minutes was proposed by Sean O'Toole and seconded by Debbie Patrick. All in favour.

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

iv. The Electoral Roll

The Electoral roll has been updated and now stands at 61. 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, and so require electing, the number of representatives for our church is currently 2 positions.

There was 1 nomination received:

James Johnston Proposed by Nigel Worth Seconded by Sandra O'Toole

It was declared that James Johnston was elected, James has been asked to report back to the PCC following meetings. If anyone else feels called to take on the role of Deanery Synod representative for our church please speak to Nigel Worth & complete a nomination form.

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>Helen Davis</i>	<i>Katie Smith</i>	<i>Deborah Worth</i>
<i>Paul Brownhill</i>	<i>Nigel Worth</i>	<i>Christine Gardner</i>

Minster Representatives

We have been asked to identify 2 Minster Reps to be part of the new Minster team. The following people were elected to these roles: -

Debbie Patrick and Nigel Worth

Other roles - Churches Together -

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 –*

x. *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

All PCC meetings are held at Emmanuel Church, where the PCC's of the Minster churches join 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, Treasurer and PCC Secretary), along with separate groups to focus on worship, mission, Sunday night Live, 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). All PCC members are up to date with all their mandatory Safeguarding training.

I regularly review & update our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The Dashboard supports parishes in understanding the safeguarding requirements of the Church of England and the Charity Commission, and tracks 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. Regular updating of the Parish safeguarding dashboard helps maintain and implement our 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.

Christine Gardner – PSO

Hartshorne: St Peter Safeguarding Action Summary - Level 2

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

Safeguarding Roles Churchwardens

	Status	Notes
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 2023

Training for Key Roles

	Status	Notes
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 2023.

Church Activities

	Status	Notes
JIGSAW - Sunday School Sunday school takes place during the service in the side aisle. We have a team of 4 who take it in turns to prepare & run the Sunday school		
Risk Assessment The PCC must ensure that an 'activity risk assessment' is completed and reviewed regularly	Action is required.	Needs to be carried out
DBS Checks The PCC must ensure that all eligible leaders and helpers are DBS checked every three years.	Some leaders or helpers need to be DBS checked.	1 Updated DBS is currently going through
Safeguarding Training The PCC must ensure that all leaders and helpers undertake the required safeguarding training.	Some safeguarding training needs to be booked	3 of 4 people - Complete Target all to be complete - 31/05/2024
Little Sparks - Mother & Toddler group meeting in Church Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings		
Risk Assessment The PCC must ensure that an 'activity risk assessment' is completed and reviewed regularly.	Action is required.	Check to be performed
DBS Checks The PCC must ensure that all eligible leaders and helpers are DBS checked every three years.	Action is required.	Check to be performed
Safeguarding Training The PCC must ensure that all leaders and helpers undertake the required safeguarding training.	Action is required.	PSO to visit group and review with leaders

Electoral Roll

The 2024 Electoral Roll remains at 61, (3 people were removed & 3 new people added). Anyone who is eligible who has not completed a form can still do so and be added at the next PCC meeting. The electoral roll will be taken in 2025

Christine Gardner – Electoral Officer, April 2024

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne

Legal and Administrative Information for the year ended 31 December 2023

Committee of Management:	Mr N Worth	Lay Chairperson
	Mrs D Patrick	Lay Minister
	Mrs C Gardner	Secretary
	Mrs D Worth	Treasurer
	Mr M Smith	
	Mr P Brownhill	
	Mrs K Smith	
	Mrs H Davies	
	Mrs S O'Toole	
	Mrs J Horan	
	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 2023

This report is conducted under the "Church Accounting Regulations 1997 -2001" (regulations) as amended.

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 2023 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 2023.

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

St Peter's Church, Hartshorne
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023
General Fund – Receipts and payments account

	2023		2022	
RECEIPTS				
Incoming resources from donors				
Tax claimable giving	18287.71		18553.36	
Collections and other giving	7528.34		4185.84	
Income tax recovered	6103.56		3998.21	
		31919.61		26737.41
Other voluntary incoming resources	1119.35		3880.00	
Grants	0.00		1970.00	
Legacies	0.00		0.00	
Donations for restricted purposes	2569.70		2374.37	
Other	2417.06		280.00	
Bellringers	65.00		1475.81	
		6171.11		9980.18
Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Fees	7699.00		7663.00	
Little Sparks	1764.11		1628.40	
		9463.11		9291.40
Total Receipts		47,553.83		46,008.99
Less payments		51,653.42		48,438.85
Excess of receipts over payments		-4099.59		-2429.86
Bank Account @1st January		18,529.50		20,959.36
Bank Account @ 31 st December		14,429.91		18,529.50

	2023		2022	
PAYMENTS				
Grants				
Home and overseas missions	3565.00		3972.00	
Hartshorne St Peter's Care Fund	2020.00		1400.00	
		5585.00		5372.00
Activities directly related to work of the church				
Common Fund	21197.00		21,197.00	
Rev. Stella Greenwood	00.00		00.00	
Church - running expenses	6424.51		4867.63	
Church - maintenance	0.00		3130.75	
Upkeep of services	3398.64		2303.61	
Support costs - education, training, Sunday School	124.90		23.00	
Upkeep of churchyard	2442.42		546.74	
Church hall - running costs	2684.55		1746.70	
Church hall maintenance	1760.38		4296.67	
Bell Ringers	120.00		240.00	
Other	1032.66		240.00	
Little Sparks	1126.27		1107.20	
Minster Expenses	252.00		252.00	
Funerals/weddings & Diocese expenses	2854.00		2139.00	
Outreach/Evangelism	2155.09		976.55	
Funerals/Weddings	496.00			
		46068.42		43,066.85
Church management of Administration				
Postage and stationery	0.00		0.00	
Printing	0.00		0.00	
		00.00		00.00
Total payments		51,653.42		48,438..55

Deanery Synod Report 2023

St Peter's Church is represented on the Deanery Synod by 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 Sunday Night Live 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

Churches Together - Swadlincote & District Report 2023

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

As a general rule of thumb churches together normally have the following events throughout the year in January they have the Week for Prayer and Christian Unity which culminated in a joint service at the Catholic Church in mid-January. We also have a joint event on the first Friday in March for One World Day of Prayer that includes a joint service of Prayer and Reflections. The next event that we focus on is the Good Friday walk of witness which we haven't been able to have since 2019 due to the Covid restrictions so this year will be our first year back where we are having a silent walk of witness through Swadlincote Town Centre. This year we decided we would be a little bit radical with the way that the witness was going to take place and we decided to hold three separate flash mobs that congregated every half an hour at various points of the Town in the middle of Swadlincote. The third Flashmob was a especially good because we had assistance from the fantastic Gresley Collery brass band who did their own flash mob of starting off with Trumpet fanfares, and then going into Thine be the Glory, and then playing a wonderful brass band arrangement of Amazing Grace, which truly finished the day off in a spectacular fashion.

After that the next event that we have to look forward to will be the harvest which we have not started planning as yet and which we need more volunteers for so anybody who is reading this feels convicted do you want to help the community with food and with the harvest of souls then please get in contact with us or speak to me directly! That will be an event on the last Saturday of September likely to be in Swadlincote Towncenter hopefully within the new performance area that will be an outreach to the people of Swadlincote as a spiritual harvest and also to collect food for the food bank I want to have speakers in the way I'm going to give a talk about the uses of the food and how they serve the community locally.

Our last event of the year is always Christmas again this is still to be totally decided what we are planning to do we have a couple of things in the pipeline the first thing will be to have a Christmas event in Swadlincote again on the Delph and the second thing will be doing our online video again that we did for the previous Christmas hopefully this year we will be recording a full live carol service with a full live congregation in one of the local churches which will be broadcast around the area over the Christmas period.

One very important resource that churches together have been able to provide at Emanuel church. This winter has been the winter warm rooms which have been an absolutely massive success and given the team a massive opportunity to evangelise to

people in the area we have even had support from volunteers of our own fellowship, who would agree that this has been a massive success and definitely something that should be totally encouraged again next winter time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

James Johnston

Friday Morning House Group

Much of the year has followed its usual pattern, the majority of our studies being from the book of James. The Minster Lent Course was led by Jane rather than Sandra, as were the first few studies for our Lent Course. The group very much appreciated her input and we thank her for being willing to step in when she was needed.

We were sad to say our final farewell to Pauline Insley, a highly valued member of our group. Although her health meant that she has been unable to come to the group for a long time, she was still considered to be very much one of our members and we know she continued to pray for us, as we did for her. She was a very special lady with a strong faith.

Sandra O'Toole

Bell ringing at St Peter's

The year since March 2023 has been a good year for the Hartshorne bellringers. We exist to provide a call to worship, but also to provide a worthwhile activity for anyone in the community and help make a connection with the church.

We have been able to ring all six bells for many services thanks to having 4 new ringers - Mel and Luke who have rung before and Carol and Sylvia who were new to it. Service ringing included two carol services and a civic service.

We were pleased to take part in the National Heritage weekend with tower, trips and demonstrations (which is how we gained Mel) and were delighted to ring for the coronation of King Charles III having rung for his mother's funeral and his accession last year.

Fortunately we have had no significant problems with the bells this year and are in the process of starting to replace our ropes. Funding for this comes from fees for weddings and donations from visiting bands so it will take some time, but we were pleased to ring for two weddings and to welcome two bands. We were also able to join with Rev Sam to welcome Beavers Cubs and Scouts to visit the church and the bells.

Ringers have increased in confidence and we have extended our repertoire into more advanced areas. Plain hunt is a regular for service ringing and we have just managed to successfully ring Plain Bob Minimus in addition to various three bell methods.

We are wondering about creating a ringing tuition centre here as part of the bid for HLF funding for the church. The diocese has one in the north of the county in Eckington but there is nothing down here.

Our ambition this year is to find a few more ringers, organise an outing or two and to ring Plain Bob Doubles as well as ringing for services.

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 10 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 around **2900** people. Through these pages we have taken many Wedding, baptism and funeral requested this indicates that we are easily accessible to the local community.

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

Matt Smith

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 and will be prayed over by the recipients. If you would like to be included on the prayer chain, & receive these prayer requests, please speak with Matt or Christine Gardner, who will give you a form and GDPR information for you to confirm how your information is used.

Matt Smith

Worship Group

Our worship group is very fluid as we try to give worshippers time off and ensure we don't over work the team. I see the group continually developing and changing over the next year as we grow together.

This year Sandra stepped back from playing the piano and for her to be able to spend time with her family and concentrate on what God wants for her. Bless you Sandra for all you have and are doing, we truly appreciate you.

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 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 an SSL certificate - a padlock icon on the left side of the URL address bar shows that the connection is secure. I have kept the church and church hall calendars up to date, these are published on the website. Copies of our weekly newsletters can also be found and links to Facebook (St Peter's, Little Sparks and Hartshorne Society of Bell Ringers).

There are also details of burials plots to assist people in finding the whereabouts of relatives' graves. Church information pages are also updated when new information becomes available. Please let me know if you find things that need changing.

Jane Horan

Flowers

Last year Bill was asked to construct a frame to fit round the top of the pulpit. This has enabled the pulpit to be more easily decorated for harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

In May the font and surrounding area was decorated to mark the coronation of King Charles III. In September a harvest display of seasonal flowers, fruit and vegetables around the font provided a cheerful welcome. Posies of flowers were given to mums on Mother's Day. An Easter display marked the return of services to the church after a couple of months in the church hall.

Thank you to those who have made donations toward the cost of flowers and for placing flowers in the church on a regular basis.

Jane

Goseley Coffee, Conversation & Company

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.

Weekly Newsletter

I have been producing the newsletter since 2021. Currently there are 39 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. 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

God has been moving profoundly in SDYFC, with Helen and Becky witnessing many breakthroughs of His light as well as noticing how so many young people are hungry for God.

Lunch Clubs

In the beginning of the 2022 academic year, Helen and Becky were struggling to find a physical location in Granville school to engage young people for their lunch club. The team decided to move to the library one lunch time, creating a space to do craft activities, and within one lunchtime the team went from seeing two young people to twenty! From these weekly drop-in sessions, it has been an incredible time to build fruitful relationships with the young people. With one young person on one occasion asking Becky 'Do you believe in God?' This bold yet daring question enabled Becky to share her faith with the young person, with many young people listening, and hearing the Good News of Jesus.

As well as this, Helen and Becky were meeting with 10 young people in Pingle, bringing in the Youth for Christ family bible and sharing the Word of God with them. Through this opportunity, seven young people asked for a bible, which the team had the privilege to gift them.

Wellbeing Course & Mentoring

Helen and Becky have met over 100 young people through the wellbeing course, helping and supporting them in their mental health. They have seen how many of the young

people have found their voice again after hardships and have engaged in a positive way to creatively reflect.

Helen Davies

Little Sparks

Little Sparks continues to grow with new families joining our number on a regular basis. We open Wednesday and Friday mornings with Friday being our busiest morning 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-up's 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. And to Sharon and Annabelle from the village who are both very faithful helpers.

Debbie Patrick, Karen Alexander, and Carol Hulse

Hartshorne CE Primary School

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

Last year Rev Sam Mackie played an integral part in developing the new school vision and values, which we chose to draw on the creation story for. This is our new school vision that can be found on the school website at [Vision and Values | Hartshorne CofE Primary School](#):

Our vision and values are born out of God's love and nurture of all creation.

***Together we work as a family to see one another grow and flourish:
knowing that we are precious and unique to God.***

***We aim to live out our values in our school and the world around us:
as we play our part in God's wonderful creation story.***

Please pray for the leadership and teaching of the school, particularly that this new vision will become an integral part of the lives of the staff and children.

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.

This year we held both Experience Easter Outside and Experience Christmas in church, giving us a wonderful opportunity to minister directly into the lives of the children and staff attending.

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 and ministry to staff and fellow governors, 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.

Our Assemblies/Collective Worship take on different themes; sometimes our planning is wrapped around seasonal themes such as easter, Christmas and harvest and sometimes we will follow a set of characters such as the disciples, early church leaders or old testament characters and other times we will take on a set of Jesus' parables or Old Testament stories.. the options are endless really.

The important thing is that, 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	Fairmeadows Foundation Primary
St Georges CofE Primary	Pennine Way Junior Academy
Church Gresley Infant and Nursery	Newhall Infant and Nursery
Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery	Netherseal Primary
Belmont Primary	Springfield Primary

Debbie Patrick

Sunday School

This year at 'JIGSAW!' (Jesus Is Great Sunday's Are Wonderful!). It has been an amazing time. We now have more children attending. Each week on a regular basis. Also,

Helen Davis and Katie Smith have recently joined the team. Nat Payne now works alongside Emily as she is that bit older than the rest of the group.

When our services are in church, we have our sessions in the north aisle. At the moment everyone is meeting in the church hall for our Sunday services, so Jigsaw meets there too.

Before we start our sessions, we have a general chat to the children to see what they have been doing during their week. We continue to have a register and the children have their cards on which they place a sticker each week when they attend.

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.

Jigsaw is an important part of our church family and I feel so blessed that we now have more leaders and children too. Please continue to play for Pray for Jigsaw and everyone who is involved with it.

Carol Hulse