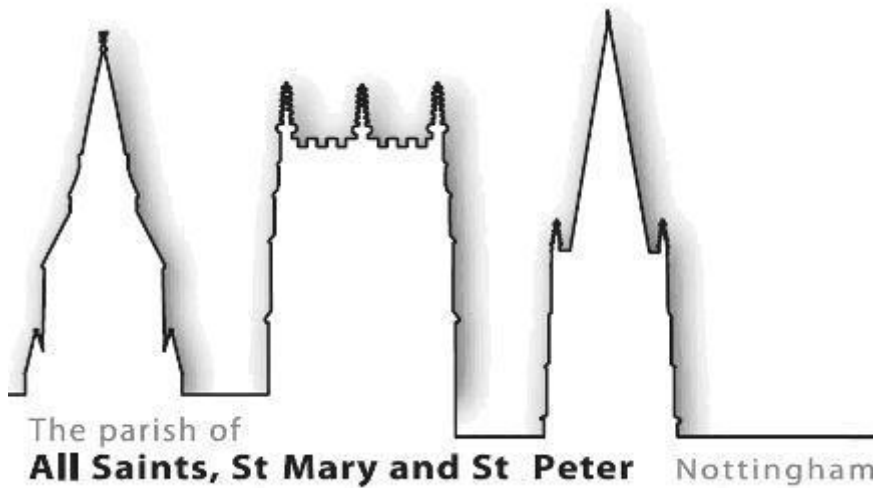


# Annual Report 2015



# The Parish of All Saints, St Mary & St Peter Nottingham

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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# Vicar

## The Reverend Christopher Harrison



2015 was a year of mixed fortunes in the life of our parish. Amongst the highlights, I was delighted that we were chosen as one of the venues for welcoming our new Diocesan Bishop, when the Right

Reverend Paul Williams came to St Mary's and was greeted by large numbers of people from our parish and beyond. It was also most rewarding to see how well we have done in raising a very generous sum of money towards the work of Emmanuel House, in an appeal which is continuing to progress strongly. Following our success in attracting substantial grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from a number of other donors in order to carry out essential repairs to St Mary's nave roof, this work was undertaken in a manner which, thankfully, did not involve major disruption to the life of the church. St Peter's has continued to offer a valuable ministry to a wide range of individuals and groups, many of whom have acute needs of various kinds. All Saints' has developed its pastoral and community work, with the much-appreciated Tuesday coffee mornings continuing alongside the beginnings of a lunch project involving local asylum seekers and refugees. All of this reinforces the importance of keeping our churches open during the week, for the many people who come to pray, to seek support, or

to visit as tourists.

We have made good progress on the framework for enabling St Mary's to be used more extensively for events of various kinds, including the massive attendance at Light Night, schools events and dinners, conferences, etc. On all levels, the musical life of the parish continues to be very strong, and is a key factor in drawing people to our worship and to other events. Our commitment to the wider world is an important element of our ministry, led by our very active Overseas Committee. We have also been developing a collaborative ministry of pastoral care, in particular through a strong and active pastoral care group at St Peter's. It has been good to see that for the most part, congregational numbers have held up and, in the case of some services, actually increased, in spite of all the pressures on people today which make it harder to give time to Sunday and weekday worship.

All of these achievements have involved considerable dedication and commitment on the part of many people, not least our office staff, music staff, churchwardens, vergers and all those who enable the churches to be kept open, and those who offer hospitality and pastoral care.

Alongside these positive points, however, the deterioration in the parish's finances is extremely worrying. A priority for 2016 will have to be a serious attempt to address and reverse this. Our Treasurer and Finance Committee have continued to devote considerable energy and thought to these

matters, but the challenge is not an easy one. The Coffee Room staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to maintain customer levels, but competition is fierce. The costs of maintaining our churches and their ministry are inevitably a major element of our challenge, but arguably the level of our parish share – which is widely agreed, within the deanery, to be too high – is a massive part of our difficulty.

We have benefited enormously from the ministry of clergy and readers, both stipendiary and non-stipendiary, and indeed I do not know how we could have maintained our services and a good level of pastoral care without all of these. However, we continue to face problems in making an appointment to the vacant 0.5 post, and we await further guidance from the bishop in this respect. It was good news, however, when Jo Tatum was appointed to the Workplace Chaplaincy post, which had been made up to full-time with the help of a contribution from the St Peter's Trust Funds.

All in all, though, there is much about our parish for which we should give thanks, and which could not have been achieved without the contributions of a considerable number of people. Maintaining and developing our mission and ministry in the complex environment of the centre of Nottingham is never going to be easy, but we should never lose heart. We must always remember that what we do is not for ourselves, but in order that others may benefit – as well as for the glory of God.

## All Saints' Church Wardens

### Arthur Bennett & Sanjay Brown

This year has been an encouraging one for All Saints Church, with many highlights but also challenges, particularly with the belfry and fabric of the building, but we face the future with optimism and a renewed spirit of engagement for the year ahead and beyond. Although staffing issues are still a concern, we are looking forward to working with Rev Dr Helen Hall, who will be joining our parish clergy team on a non-stipendiary basis in 2016.

We have welcomed new members to our congregation as well as the new Bishop of Southwell, Paul Williams. There was a fantastic welcome service at St Mary's and

Bishop Paul has played an on-going and active role in getting to know our parish and city, in a most encouraging display.

The Mothers' Union has gone from strength to strength, increasing its membership and engaging with high-profile speakers from both within and beyond the parish. We have 38 members, 10 of which are men. Meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, and members support baptisms through a welcome card and a baptism anniversary card. A member is also responsible for praying for the child and family on a regular basis.

We celebrated our summer with another

garden party, raising £120 for the Big Wheels appeal and continued to forge deeper links with our Iranian sister church 'The Source', who use our building on Sunday afternoons. We had several joint services and events, getting to know each other better and experience some wonderful food to boot. Our work as part of the parish's Emmanuel House appeal was also a great success with the total closing in on the target of £10,000. Our thanks as always to our clergy team led by Christopher, Richard and James, our readers Clarence and Chris and our visiting priest Chris Wheaton, and everyone who has been a part of our church in the last year.

# St Mary's Church Wardens

Paul Sibly & Martyn Jewers

Beyond the regular and faithful worship of the church and care for people in its community, St Mary's again played host to a large number of events in 2015.

3750 people visited the church on Light Night to view exhibitions, to listen to the ethereal singing of the choir and to donate over £1000 to the Parish appeal for Emmanuel House. The early part of 2015 also brought three concerts run by the university, an evening with St Mary's Choir, the Orchestra of the Restoration and the High School, a Fashion Show organised by the Creative Quarter and 'The Roses of Eyam', a moving play on the theme of self-sacrifice presented by the TV Workshop to capacity audiences over four evenings during Passiontide. Good Friday was marked by the sound of half-muffled bells and Bach's St John Passion.

In June St Mary's hosted celebrations for the Mothers' Union and in September visitors enjoyed the annual Heritage Open Day

before a great framework of scaffolding began to grow in the aisles in preparation for renewal of the roof cladding high above. Weekday working was inevitably noisy, but on a pre-agreed quiet day in November 120 primary school children attended 'Living Stones' to learn about the history of the church. The programme was meticulously prepared by our Heritage Mentor, Louise Hodder, and many of the leaders came from our own congregations.

Louise also led a team that developed the 'widening access' aspect of our Heritage Lottery Fund award. Much preparatory work on a new guidebook and other publications was completed before Louise's contract expired and she moved to a permanent position at the Castle.

As always, St Mary's hosted many concerts and a stream of carol services and celebrations of Christmas, including, at the very special Lord Mayor's Carol Service,

groups of children from city schools and the Nottingham Deaf Choir.

During the year the Events Development team led by Ron Glen completed its detailed assessment of use of the building without compromising its central purpose as a place of worship and prayer. In July Cloud9 Event Management were appointed to carry this work forward.

Once again St Mary's has been wonderfully supported by Head Verger Michael Scott, Duncan Purves and the excellent and hugely loyal teams of volunteers and Friends of St Mary's. We are also most grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to the national and local Trusts that have provided much needed and much appreciated funds for restoration and renewals. We offer our most sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved.

# St Peter's Church Wardens

Keith Mountford & John Burr

Life at St Peter's continues to be busy with the usual opportunities for ministry to a broad spectrum of the population of Nottingham and surrounding area. We continue with the normal range of Sunday services throughout each month. Mid-week services include Communion services on both Tuesday and Thursday, after the latter we join together for tea and coffee and a selection of biscuits. When the birthdays of core members of the Thursday group come round we celebrate with chocolate biscuits! On Monday lunchtimes there is a time of quiet meditation. On Wednesdays we host a group for homeless people and also the Gateway group which welcomes and supports people with varying levels of mental health problems.

All of this, of course, does not happen without a great deal of input from members of staff and volunteers alike. Special thanks are due to all three Vergers, Michael, Duncan and Ian who ensure that St Peter's remains

open throughout the week and to Wendy and Adele, the office staff, who provide our service sheets and pew slips, in addition to many other tasks which keep both St Peter's and the parish running smoothly. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support, large or small, throughout the year. As well as the weekly events we have continued to host the usual range of carol services leading up to Christmas with the final church one on Christmas Eve which was once again very well attended. Although the church was closed after Christmas we did manage to open up for Holy Communion on New Year's Eve. This service was also well attended. We hope to continue this provision during Christmas in 2016.

Here at St Peter's we continue to support the Mount Zion food bank and we have to thank Christopher and Harriet Ward who deliver the donations.

We were sorry to hear that the Diocese were unable to appoint anyone to fill the role of

City Missioner (0.5) and Commercial Chaplain (0.5) in 2015 but look forward to better things in 2016.

As Church Wardens we continue to represent St Peter's on the PCC, the Standing Committee, the Finance Committee, the Overseas Committee, the Safeguarding Committee and the Site Committee. In respect of the latter as reported last year this committee had applied for a grant from the Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund to refurbish the Nave roof. Unfortunately, due to the large number of applications we were unsuccessful. However, we have applied for the second portion of this type of grant and we look forward to 2016 and hearing the result.

Finally, we would like to thank all the clergy and readers who have worked throughout the year under difficult conditions. In particular we would like to express our grateful thanks to Revd James Saxton for his support here at St Peter's.

# Workplace Chaplaincy

Len Simmonds

It has been an eventful year for the Chaplaincy despite the fact that in the calendar year of this Annual Report of the parish no new .5 Chaplain was appointed - although several attempts were made to find the right person for this important role.

However, we were fortunate that Revd Jo Tatum, curate at St Nic's, was able to be seconded to be the 0.5 acting Workplace Chaplain. Jo has fulfilled her responsibilities with a great deal of enthusiasm.

With the help of Jo and the voluntary Chaplains, support to city organisations and businesses was strengthened and the monthly INSIGHT meetings continued to attract a wide range of people. Indeed, we have had record attendances. The database of people receiving the 'Interesting to Know' news sheet also grew by 25%. The Chaplaincy supported the annual St Peter's Lecture given by Bishop Peter Selby in October. He spoke on issues arising from his latest book, 'An Idol Unmasked: a Faith Perspective on Money' and the lecture was very well attended. The Chaplaincy made the most of the Bishop's day in Nottingham and organised for him to

meet with 12 of the city's movers and shakers at a lunch hosted by Nelson's Solicitors. After the lunch the Bishop visited Capital One and Nottingham Credit Union.

December's 'Carols After Work' had the best attendance so far. As usual it was supported by the Salvation Army Band.

During the year the Chaplaincy arranged for the Archdeacon of Nottingham, Sarah Clark, to visit eight city organisations and to have a discussion with their senior executives. We were really encouraged that Sarah made the time to gain an insight into these major employers. She is continuing to do this during 2016. Towards the end of 2015, and after a great deal of consultation, it was agreed that the role of Workplace Chaplain should be re-advertised but as a full time position. Following the interview process Revd Jo Tatum was appointed Nottingham Workplace Chaplain effective from 1st April 2016. Her costs will be financed by the diocese and from the Workplace Chaplaincy Council's funds. Council funds are derived from a contributions made by the St Peter's Trust and businesses in the city.

We are now in a position to be able to take the Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy to the next stage of its development. There will be a deanery dimension to the work of the Chaplaincy in addition to the work that already goes on in the city centre. We will be wanting to increase the number of voluntary Workplace Chaplains so that it is then possible to engage with more businesses and organisations.

I could not finish this report without mentioning Wally Huckle, the first Chaplain, who died in September 2015. Wally was instrumental in setting up what was then the Commercial Chaplaincy in 1989. Prior to his ordination Wally was a managing director of Pork Farms. Under his wise and knowledgeable guidance and in collaboration with the then Rector of St Peter's church, the Chaplaincy quickly gained a high reputation for the quality of care being offered to people in their workplaces. Wally retired in 2001 but he left something that was so embedded that 2016 is the Chaplaincy's 27<sup>th</sup> year.

# Music at St Mary's

John Keys

The Choir's first major event of the calendar year is the Epiphany Procession. I am always grateful to student members who return before the start of term in order to sing on this occasion.

In February, Light Night attracted more than 3000 visitors to St Mary's, the choir providing music during the course of the evening; a lot of singing, a lot of music but fun, nonetheless.

Sunday evenings in Lent saw a series of post-Evensong concerts on the theme of Suffering and Sacrifice, brilliantly devised by Jon Stork. The retiring collections were in aid of Emmanuel House.

The major concert in March was a joint-venture with the Music Department of Nottingham High School in memory of Kendrick Partington who was not only Director of Music at St Peter's but also Director of Music at Nottingham High School for many years. Stefan Reid directed a wonderfully varied programme in which Part 1 featured talented pupils as soloists in concerto movements. Good Friday saw a

performance of Bach's Johannes-Passion with Musica Donum Dei playing on period instruments. It is remarkable that all the solo items are taken by current or former members of the Choir. Andrew Abbott directed with great aplomb.

On June 6, Noriko Ogawa made a welcome return as soloist in the Greig Piano Concerto. His Peer Gynt Suite No.1 saw the innovation of adding dance, choreographed by Eleanor Keys, to complement the music. The Choir sang two motets written for the Choir by the world-renowned organist, Lionel Rogg. Later that month The Scholars gave their summer concert with great panache.

In September we welcomed Tom Edwards, David Huskinson and Celia-Jayne Matthews as new Choral Scholars. From Japan we welcomed Junzaburo Iwasawa who is studying for a Masters Degree in fashion design at Nottingham Trent University.

The October concert included a stunning performance of Shostakovich 'cello Concerto No.1 by Sheku Kanneh-Mason. Holst's evergreen St Paul's Suite began the

programme which concluded with Haydn's joyous Paukenmesse.

The Viscount chancel organ has proved its worth at every service, especially as the Marcussen organ has been wrapped in plastic since the start of work on the Nave roof in October.

All of these are in addition to the regular Sunday, Wednesday and High and Holy Day services for which the Choir regularly sings. Immense thanks are due to voluntary members of the choir who give of their time and talent so freely; to Philip Sherratt who plays for several services as does Paul Sibly; to our principal concert sponsors, T. Bailey Assett Management; to Bill and Karen Crampin for their support and hospitality on June 6. The support of the Choral Scholarship Trust supported by incredibly generous donations by individuals to our scholarship scheme, is invaluable.

Last but certainly not least, is my personal appreciation of the indefatigable help, support and musicianship of Andrew Abbott; a wonderful colleague for many years.

# Music at St Peter's & All Saints'

Peter Siepmann

For me and the Choir of St Peter's, 2015 was a year shaped in particular by the continuing and developing tradition of choir visits. The year began with Choral Evensong at Ely Cathedral on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Though something of a challenge due to little rehearsal time and a difficult acoustic, our contribution to the cathedral's pattern of worship was met with positive feedback from both clergy and congregation, and it was lovely to have such a strong 'support team' with us from our own congregation. In May, the choir enjoyed a wonderful long weekend residency at the extraordinarily beautiful cathedral in Salisbury. The quality of singing during this inspiring trip was often some of the best I have experienced in my thirteen years at St Peter's, indeed it feels that (with the invaluable assistance of our excellent team of deputy choristers) a high quality of music is now all but guaranteed during these visits; variety is given instead, I think, by the singers' collective experience of different places and their associated buildings, acoustics, organ, liturgy, traditions, history, etc., and each member of the choir will have their own favourite destinations. The 'top spot' of my own list was replaced during the choir's October visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, which was a memorable occasion indeed (not least because as I conducted the choir, one foot rested on the grave of Henry VIII!).



Ely Cathedral, January 2015 (Photo: GM Leuty)

Life-affirming both musically and liturgically though these visits are, of course the principal responsibility of the choir is to the regular *opus Dei* of St Peter's. It was good in the Lent Term to add two new pieces to the choir's repertoire, Tippett's *Go down, Moses* and Tallis's *Salvator mundi*. The upper voices of the choir also learned Disraeli Brown's fantastic set of accompanied responses. Holy Week was a particular highlight (despite the disappointment of not being able to field a choir for the Diocesan Chrism Eucharist at Southwell this year),

with the choir's singing of Sanders' setting of *The Reproaches* during the stripping of the altars on Maundy Thursday a particularly powerful moment. It was a delight to welcome Oscars Stämmor - the Voices of Oscars (pronounced "Os-cash", we learned!) from Stockholm during a weekend in September; this enthusiastic and wonderfully friendly group of singers gave the Saturday morning 'coffee break' concert, and joined St Peter's Choir for the Sunday Eucharist, singing Haydn's *Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo* accompanied by our ever-wonderful instrumental ensemble, saraBande. Further highlights of the church year included a record choral turn out for October Matins (with some thirty singers in the stalls), extracts from Duruflé's incomparable setting of the Requiem on Remembrance Sunday (with myself at the organ and the choir under the sensitive direction of Richard Ward), a feast of Bach on Advent Sunday, a further addition to the repertoire in MacMillan's *O radiant dawn*, and one of the best Christmas Eve carol services I can remember. Though maintaining a quorate choir for each service from a field of volunteer singers is a continual challenge, one of our deputy choristers was kind enough to suggest that St Peter's Choir was enjoying a "golden period" at present; writing this report and reflecting upon the activity of 2015, I am tempted to agree. However, the year also brought great sadness. Shortly after Easter, we learned of the tragic loss of John & June Lord - both former choristers themselves and exceptionally ardent supporters of the music at St Peter's. Their thanksgiving service on 12<sup>th</sup> May was appropriately memorable, with the size of the choir and the quality of their singing to a full church surely a perfect tribute to the choir's undisputed number one fans.



John and June Lord (photo: GM Leuty)

Later in the year, members of the choir were also privileged to sing at the Memorial Service for the Reverend Wally Huckle - formerly Workplace Chaplain and

latterly faithful member of the church congregation and firm supporter of our musical tradition.

The difficulty in assuring a quorate choir for each service to which I alluded above means that we try to keep more singers 'on the books' than we strictly need. There are currently thirty-five members of St Peter's Choir (11 sopranos, 8 altos, 7 tenors and 9 basses). This means that, accepting that all choristers cannot always be present (though many are, and their extraordinary commitment and dedication to the choir is a continual inspiration) we should have at least 3.2.2.2 on each side of the choir for each service. Though this logic only holds during full term time (and crucially remains subject to the wide ability range within our ranks), it is a healthy position in which to find ourselves.

One of the great delights of recent years has been the increasing strength of our links with the University of Nottingham, and during 2015 we were very pleased to welcome to the choir sopranos Rebecca Rimmington and Niamh Corcoran, and bass Tim Stratton. The 'critical mass' of university students and recent alumni now in the choir led this year to the formation of the St Peter's Scholars, whose debut outing was a performance of Buxtehude's passionate cantata *Membra Jesu Nostri* with saraBande on Palm Sunday. A subsequent engagement singing for the Friends of Southwell Minster at their Festival Evensong in June was exceptionally well-received, as was a recital of renaissance polyphony at the Voice Box in Derby on 13<sup>th</sup> October. The Scholars ended the Michaelmas Term with a performance of Handel *Messiah (Part I)* again accompanied by saraBande.

We were sorry to say goodbye to students Pippa Grayson and Lucy Whitlock after a relatively short time in the choir, and also to Tim Selman as he moved to be Junior Organ Scholar at St Barnabas RC Cathedral. We also said a heartfelt farewell to Liz Cresswell who after six years of particularly committed and enthusiastic service to the choir moved to Australia to further her career as a veterinary surgeon. Results of the worship survey conducted during April 2015 were carefully considered by the St Peter's Music team. We were greatly heartened to see that the general message seems to be that the musicians are doing a good job! To the question "what factors influence your choice of which service to attend?", 'the music' was the second most popular

response (second only to 'the type of service'). This is a useful reminder of what a responsibility the musicians have. To the question "what did you like most about this service?", it was most rewarding to see music and the choir high up in the list of most frequent responses. The balance between choral and congregational participation is, as ever, a hot topic, but in general one that the St Peter's liturgy balances well (at the Eucharist, for instance, the congregation sing four hymns, a psalm, the Gloria and the Sanctus, whilst the choir sings the Kyrie, Agnus Dei and an anthem at Communion). There was some concern that the organ was occasionally played too loudly, and this is something over which my organist colleagues and I must take care. Another oft-raised issue was that of hymn choice. This is surely a perennial problem in all churches, and arguably an unsolvable one: St Peter's congregation has a diverse background – one of its great strengths – but that does mean that what is a well-known hymn to some will be unknown to

others. I would like to assure members of the congregation that this is at the forefront of my mind when I choose the hymns for each term; I try to strike a good balance between regular use of well-loved hymns and maintaining a wide and extensive repertoire, indeed I try not to repeat a hymn during the course of a term, which is equivalent to almost one hundred hymns - an impressively sized repertoire of which the congregation should be very proud! I don't want our repertoire of hymns to seem stagnant, however, and so every so often will introduce a hymn that I believe might not be as well-known, but one which people may like if it were to become so! In these cases, I try to only introduce such a hymn when the choir is present, and to repeat it after not too long a time to 'solidify' it in people's minds. The Saturday morning 'Coffee Break' Concerts continue to prove a great success and to be very well-received by our large and appreciative audiences. Proceeds received at the door continue to fund all non-salary running costs of the St Peter's

music department. In addition to those already mentioned, performances in 2015 included those by the organists of St Peter's, pianist Ed Hodgkinson, Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir, Tempore, Trio Dionysus, Viva Voce, baritone Stephen Cooper, the Newstead Abbey Singers, flautist Wendy Hancock, baritone Geoff Williams, pianist Julia Wallin, singers Susan Jolly, Avalon Summerfield and Maria O'Connell, Essentially Brass, Nottingham Bach Choir as well, of course, as the church's resident instrumental ensemble, saraBande.

My heartfelt thanks, as ever, go to Keith Charter for his support and advice; to the many and varied concert artists; to the players of saraBande; but most of all to the music team - Michael Leuty, Lee Rooke and Richard Ward for their wise counsel and reassurance as well as their assistance with organ playing and choral direction - and to the singers of the church choir who maintain the weekly round of worship and contribute so much of their time to the vibrant musical life of our parish and City.

## St Peter's Centre Coffee Room

Brian Dunn

Our coffee room in St. Peter's Centre has continued to be very popular, particularly at peak times, and Lynne, Mary, Krystina, Peter and Stevi-Leigh have all worked extremely hard throughout the year, supported by our excellent team of volunteers. We welcome hearing from any member of our congregations who would like to join us in this quite rewarding work on behalf of the parish. We were very sad this year to lose June and John Lord who have been stalwart volunteers ever since we opened in the

Centre in 2000. June used to manage it and has been a director of St. Peter's Centre Catering, which is responsible for the coffee room operation, until her death in March 2015. She and John both spent many hours cooking, shopping and serving – a huge contribution for which we are very grateful. The turnover has fallen by about 10% this year, which after meeting our costs, food and salaries mainly, has led to a contribution to the PCC of £48K as compared to £61K last year.

Equipment has been renewed regularly, and this year we had a few tables outside in the warmer weather, which worked well.

Security has been a concern, and we had a helpful visit from the Diocesan Security Adviser to review the risks we are inevitably exposed to, and this is being kept under review.

We have many competitors close by, but we offer a friendly and welcoming Christian environment which is different, and we face the future with confidence.

## Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

Adele Siepmann

Following the extension of the Fairtrade & Christian Book shop in the summer of 2014, the shop has gone from strength to strength. Takings increased by 45% in 2015 – a fantastic achievement.

As ever, Easter and Christmas sales were instrumental in this increase. Sale of the 'Real' Easter Eggs & Advent Calendars, Easter & Christmas cards, gifts and books all proved hugely popular. The increased space has allowed us to hold a much wider variety of stock, and customers are ordering items that we aren't able to keep in the shop. In September 2015, the Sunday morning coffee after the main service at St Peter's

transferred to the Coffee Room, so we took advantage of this and began opening the shop. This has certainly been advantageous, not least in allowing members of the congregation (who wouldn't normally come into Nottingham during the week) to use the shop. Many thanks to the new volunteers, who have taken on the task of keeping the shop open on Sundays – Cynthia, Harriet, Chris and Dorothy.

Huge thanks must also go to our committed band of weekday volunteers, who keep the shop open throughout the year – Ian, Jean, Heather & Elaine. We were also thrilled to welcome two new volunteers in 2015. Phil &

Sara Bramhall moved from Cardiff to Nottingham last year, and enthusiastically offered to continue their tradition of promoting Fair Trade by working in our shop. They, along with all our volunteers, give not only their time but their loyal support, and for this, we are very grateful.

As with the Coffee Room, any profit made by the shop goes straight back in to the parish, so please do 'spread the word' – no other shop in Nottingham is committed to the sole sale of Christian Books and Fairtrade products, so we fill a very important niche in the city centre.

As always, we are proud to promote

Fairtrade, and to support organisations such as Traidcraft. Traidcraft are still struggling financially as a company, but remain the UK's leading Fair Trade organisation. They pioneer

new areas of fair trade, go beyond the fair trade mark, and seek the most vulnerable producers to trade with. Please support our shop, and help us to do our bit in helping

Traidcraft to realise their vision – “A world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just, and people and communities can flourish.”

## All Saints' Bell Ringers

Chris Field

2015 has been another good year for the University of Nottingham bell ringers. As always, we have gone on several ringing tours, including meeting up with bell ringers from other universities around the country. Recruitment has been very successful this year, as we have gained three new members who can already ring and are also currently teaching new learners. Hopefully these numbers will remain steady as we move forward into 2016. This year we have also seen a slight increase in the number of

groups of ringers that have wanted to visit All Saints', all of whom have made good comments about the bells. The total number of quarter peals (for both local and visiting bands) on the bells has been 6 this year and there have also been two peals. Since September we have struggled to ring for Sunday services however there are now being improvements made on this and we hope to be ringing most weeks of 2016. In the coming year we also hope to work with the church regarding the work that needs doing

to the floor above the bells but I would like to thank the church for all the support we have received this year, in every aspect of what we do. I would also like to thank my committee for everything they have done and Paul Mason and Simon Telford for helping with the upkeep and maintenance of the bells. I also wish this year's committee good luck and am sure that 2016 will be just as good as 2015 has been.

## St Mary's Bell Ringers

Peter England

During 2015 the bells were rung for 103 Sunday services, all possible, with 12 bells being rung on 29 occasions. We rang 10 or more bells for over 60% of Sunday services and this shows a very high level of commitment by the ringers, most of whom live some distance from St Mary's. We had weekly practices on Mondays, our regular practice night, on 49 occasions with an average of 11 ringers attending, some of whom were visitors. Unusually there were no successful peals

rung during the year, two attempts being unsuccessful. Quarter peals, which usually have a high proportion of local ringers, numbered 8 with one lost. We rang the bells for 8 weddings. This appears to be the average number of weddings per year for which we are asked to ring considering the last few years. Three other occasions are worthy of mention. The High School Service on 13th June for which we rang prior to the service and the Heritage Open Day on 12th

September which attracted about 80 people visiting the tower. We also had a request from a small group of local people to visit the top of the tower. This resulted in a very kind donation to the bell fund and a painting of St Mary's Church which now hangs in the ringing chamber. Bell maintenance has been minimal during the year with some machine rope splicing and painting to part of the ringing chamber wall damaged by a leaking drain pipe.

## St Peter's Bell Ringers

Emma Jones

The St Peter's band has had a reasonably productive year, successfully ringing the bells on over 40 occasions for practice nights and Sunday ringing, with a fairly even split between the two. There has been an average of 8 ringers for Sunday services and 13 ringers for practice nights. This is quite a feat given that most of the ringers at St Peter's are members of other towers and split their time between them and St Peter's. However, numbers have dwindled on Sunday evenings,

due to a combination of the early service time and other commitments preventing ringers making the trip into town for Evensong. Conversely, the numbers at practice nights have increased throughout the year, and although the focus is still on eight bell ringing rather than higher numbers, the standard has improved both in terms of striking and complexity.

I am pleased to report that we have two new recruits in the St Peter's band, both of whom

have been learning since the autumn and are making steady progress. The St Peter's band has also scored several quarter peals for significant occasions over the year, including St George's Day, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta. It was also a pleasure to be able to ring for morning service on Christmas Day, with the help of the St Mary's ringers.



# St Mary's Fabric Committee

Paul Sibly

In 2015, the main focus of work at St Mary's was on making the structure weatherproof. In July we were awarded £212,400 by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost and this money, along with £55,000 in grants from other Trusts, enabled us to embark on major roof and associated works in September. The ongoing project includes replacing the metal covering of the nave roof, replacing the ridge of the chancel roof, repairs to the south-east turret, new access arrangements and some repairs to the transept roofs. The work is directed by

architect Peter Rogan and the contractor is MSM of Normanton on Soar. Unfortunately a funding shortfall has left the tower roof still in need of significant attention.

Several panels from the West Window were removed for conservation in 2015, the work being undertaken by Derek Hunt of Limelight Glass Studios.

The 5 year test of the electrical installation throughout the church was conducted by Box Electrical in September and all recommendations arising were implemented.

A Health and Safety consultant, James Corbett, was appointed to a one year contract in February, with a brief to carry out a full review and implement any recommendations.

Through its architect, the committee has again reported the poor state of some areas of the external paving, churchyard railings and retaining walls to the City Council.

During the year Brian Miller stood down from the Committee after a long period of much appreciated service.

# All Saints' & St Peter's Site Committee

Trevor Davys

The committee is responsible to the Finance Committee keeping a watchful eye on the buildings and surroundings both at St Peter's and All Saints' and meets four times a year to discuss, inspect and further any required action. During the past year there were fewer significant matters, improvements and repairs than in 2014 but as in previous years there has been the annual round of general maintenance, clearing and cleaning gutters and down pipes as well as keeping the buildings secure and safe with alarms, locks and ensuring all checks are carried out at appropriate intervals. Added to which, heating checks, boiler servicing and fixed wiring surveys also feature as a necessary annual expense.

## All Saints'

Various minor repairs have taken place (main entrance door) whilst safety rails have been fitted around the cellar entrance at the behest of our insurers. Volunteers have again used their skills to fit ceiling hatchments and carry out repairs as well as install a new and attractive server and storage unit in the after service assembly area. Many thanks to Philip and Ian and their co-workers.

Major work to the Belfry ceiling and the tower sound louvres is still required. Due to the high cost of the proposals, funding for this is still in the process of being sourced.

## St Peter's

Major repair work to all the roofing remains a necessity. Keith Mountford is working hard in leading the various appeals and applications for funding of these projects (see his Church Warden report). Further work of levelling and repointing of flagstones has been carried out. Improved lighting in the West Porch and outside the main entrance is now approved by faculty and will shortly go ahead. Choir stalls and chancel lighting is also soon to be improved. Thanks also to volunteers who keep the gardens at both churches tidy and attractive - more help with this work is always very welcome.

# Parish Overseas Committee

Dorothy Mountford

## Our Purpose

The purpose of the Overseas Committee is to bring together, in an organised structure, various aspects of the mission of the parish. Its remit is to raise funds in support of overseas projects in the life of the Church and other deserving religious and non-religious groups in need of financial assistance. The Overseas Committee also supports international disasters with humanitarian needs. The essence of the work of the committee culminates in our faith as Christians serving our community and the world family of Churches in fulfilling our mission.

The Overseas Committee has been active over the past year in a variety of ways reflecting this purpose. The 10 committee members meet every two months to review and plan support.

## Our links with West Africa

In 2014-15 the Overseas Committee continued their support for post-Ebola West Africa and Sierra Leone in particular as they strove to return to normality. The daily vigil held in St Peter's church came to end at Easter 2015 as the numbers of deaths in West Africa fell dramatically.

In January 2016 Wilfred Morgan, on behalf of the Sierra Leone community, spoke very movingly of the support given during this crisis and presented a plaque expressing the thanks of the Sierra Leone Community. The plaque is to be installed in the church in due course.

## Our Mission Links:

### Goodbye to the Kennedys

In 2015 the Parish bid a fond farewell to Andrew and Kate Kennedy our CMS mission partners as they moved back to the UK from Kuala Lumpur. We were pleased to welcome Andrew at the morning service at St Peter's

on 28<sup>th</sup> June when he was able to join us for the Petertide patronal festival and a shared lunch.

## Hello and Bon Voyage to the Shins

We are looking forward to meeting our new CMS mission partners Beom-Jin and Marie Laure Shin and their baby Jonah on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016. Rev'd Beom-Jin Shin will preach in St Peter's we hope to share an international lunch with them in the coffee room after the service.

The family journey to South East Asia in June where they will begin their work in the field of education. Our prayers and support go with them.

## Fund Raising Events 2015-16

### Go MAD Concert: 21st February 2015

The Overseas Committee supported Felicity Scott in raising fund for the charity Go Make A Difference with whom she worked in 2014. £449.69 was sent to the charity in March.

### Easter Breakfast: Easter Monday 2015

On Easter Monday a goodly number gathered at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan for a hearty cooked breakfast. Donations and a raffle raised over £330 for Mercy Ships.

**Mercy Ships:** This organisation is run by a team of nurses, doctors, surgeons, and other crew-members from all over the world, who donate their time to help on board the world's largest non-governmental floating hospital. As such they can sail directly to some of the world's poorest people to deliver life-saving medical care and provide safe, state-of-the-art facilities in which to treat them. As supporters we are a vital part of the team, paying for essential medical supplies and ship repairs. Mercy Ships have helped transform the lives of more than 2.42 million people in the poorest countries of the world since 1978.

### Our Three Churches: April 2015

Retiring collections took place in each of our churches in response to requests for help in the wake of Nepal earthquake.

### St Mary's: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May CARF UK



Alex Hannay came to talk to us about the work of CARF UK. The overseas committee and was presented him with a cheque for £250 towards the work with Street Children in Sao Paulo

### Christian Aid week 2015

Donations at St Peter's for 'Proper Coffee' and cakes served after the morning service coupled with funds raised for refreshments at St Mary's and collection tins in the coffee shop were sent to CA in addition to our annual donation of £1000.

### Summer Garden Party, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015

A Summer Garden Party: An Italian Evening with a programme of music and songs, food and wine was held on the evening of the 13th June, at the home of David Nunns and Ed Davys. Despite torrential rain the event was well supported and over £2,000 was raised in aid of PHASE Nepal and the Ebola crisis.

PHASE Nepal specializes in improving health, education services and livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged populations in very remote and resource poor Himalayan mountain villages in Nepal. PHASE aims to support the most vulnerable people to break the cycle of poverty; by assisting communities and local authorities to lay the groundwork for a self-sufficient future.

### CARF UK: Afternoon Tea and Concert

#### 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015

A concert was held in St Peter's Church following afternoon tea in the coffee shop. Alex Hannay Director of CARF UK (Children At Risk Foundation), the charity working with Street Children in Brazil which we support, was able to be in attendance and share his

experiences with visitors to the church. A cheque was presented to Alex for the work of CARF on behalf of the Overseas Committee and a further £550 was raised by the concert.

### Finances

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

#### Income

Donation	608.97
Income tax recovered	42.38
Gift aid envelopes	289.52
Fund raising activities	2,590.30
	<b>3,531.17</b>

#### Expenditure

Use of St Peter's	110.80
PRS charges	21.20
Bank charges	22.00
<i>Grants made</i>	
Mercy Ships	330.00
Go MAD	445.69
PHASE Worldwide	1,000.00
CARF UK	800.00
Mission Aviation Fellowship	250.00
MAD	250.00
Save the Children	250.00
Refugee Crisis	
Soroptimists Sierra Leone	1,000.00
	<b>4,479.69</b>

Net expenditure in the year 948.52

Balance brought forward  
1 January 2015 1,688.77

Balance carried forward  
31 December 2015 740.25

## Friends of St Mary's

### Rachel Farrand

The committee has continued to raise funds for St Mary's and to co-ordinate support for church activities throughout the year. Some 30 enthusiastic Friends from a membership of over 100, many of whom do not live locally, can be relied on to regularly support fundraising activities and assist at church functions.

2015 was a special year for the Friends who in July celebrated their 40th anniversary with a delicious 'bring and share' lunch held in St Mary's. As befitted such an occasion, there was also champagne and birthday cake.

In the twelve months of this report the Friends served interval refreshments at seven performances by the Orchestra of the Restoration and the Nottingham Bach Choir and provided hospitality at many events including the choral scholars' annual concert,

the 'Living Stones' educational project, the Lord Mayor's Carol Service, the annual Legal Service and the confirmation service in Easter 2016.

Heritage Open Days in September 2015 attracted many local as well as overseas visitors and the Friends were kept busy hosting visitors as well as serving refreshments.

St Mary's was again a popular venue during the City Council's 'Light Night' in February 2016 when over 3,000 visitors made their way into the church in the space of five hours. The hot drinks and home-made soup and cakes served by the Friends proved very welcome on a cold night.

We were privileged to hear the sculptor, Peter Ball, in conversation with Reverend Dr Richard Davy in a new look to the Friends'

annual lecture. Held for the first time on a mid-week evening it attracted an appreciative audience.

The Friends enjoyed a pleasant summer's day for their visit to Sheffield's Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul. Of particular interest to everyone was the chancel roof where medieval angels had been gilded in the late twentieth century. The impact of the angels in the refurbished cathedral was an inspiration to the committee which in 2015 launched its appeal to gild the medieval angels in the nave roof at St Mary's. Generous donations have already been made toward this special appeal.

The committee is grateful to the members for their financial and practical contribution to the work of the Friends and to the parish staff for their valued assistance.

# Friends of St Peter's

Dennis Lord

We extend sincere thanks to our "Friends" for their continued support.

During the past year, our Visitors Book has recorded over 451 signatures, with 98 overseas visitors from 35 countries – the greatest numbers being from Italy, USA and Spain.

## Parish Electoral Roll

Dennis Lord

The total membership after the full Annual Review in April 2015 was 271.

During the period from the last AGM, and before the annual review of the membership, the Electoral Roll stands at 276 members. There were 15 additions to the Electoral Roll and 6 of our members sadly passed away.

## Nottingham South Deanery

Karen Rooms & Robert Cleave

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd Lillian Heptinstall and welcomed Rev'ds Anne and Nick Ladd as Priests-in-charge at St Barnabas, Inham Nook and Rev'd Hannah Hall at St Saviour's. We have also welcomed three new curates, Rev'd Kirstine Buchan at Radford, Rev'd Tom Devas at Wollaton Park and Rev'd Denise Watkinson at Hyson Green. Our Deanery Leadership Team has expanded to include Rev'd Megan Smith from Lenton. We held three synods during the year: 25<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. In February we visited Attenborough St Mary and were joined by Rev'd Phil Williams who

shared information about Burundi and our diocesan partnership. He also raised the possibility of making deanery links with dioceses in Burundi.

In June we went to Radford St Peter where we were joined by Rev'd Keith Hebden who spoke on the diocesan environmental policy. Rev'd Steve Silvester spoke about learning communities and the hub structure. Following extensive consultation and work with parish treasurers we agreed a new method for calculating Giving for Ministry by parish.

November's Synod was at St Barnabas

Lenton Abbey and started with a market place. We were joined by representatives from the Diocesan Board of Education and the Head Teacher of Sycamore Primary Academy, St Ann's.

Each of our Synods offered the opportunity to speak in hub groups to build relationships, share good practice and to consider actions to take back to our parishes.

We are delighted that the deanery paid 98.7% of our parish share allocation. Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness in paying for the ministry received in this deanery.

## Emmanuel House Appeal

Paul Sibly

Thanks to some extremely generous gifts and a range of fundraising activities, the Parish appeal to raise £10000 for Emmanuel House in 2015 reached its target before Easter. Events included concerts during Lent at St Mary's and St Peter's, a raffle of beautiful dressing gowns and the sale of 'candles of hope' on Light Night, and a book sale at St

Peter's. Gifts in kind included a donation of a large quantity of socks manufactured by a member of the church. A collection at the funeral of John and June Lord was very well supported. A further concert was organised by the Royal Society of St George.

Part of the money raised was allocated to pay 3 months' salary for the leader of the core

programme that helps service users move forward in their lives, the rest supported key areas of admin and also helped Emmanuel House stay open in the evening at weekends. Encouraged by this success, the PCC committed to raising the same amount for two more years. The Appeal to raise £10,000 in 2016 was launched on Advent Sunday.

## Work with young people

Mary Davey, Deborah Sibly & Anne Hardy

All Saints' have continued to warmly welcome children. They are encouraged to take an active part in the service, helping with the offertory and at the end of the service by sharing their activity sheet work with the congregation. Most of the children have been from asylum-seeking families that have now been moved further away from All Saints', so it is harder for them to come on a regular basis. We have maintained books and some toys at the back of the church for the

young ones to use and room for them and their parents to be with and feed babies and still feel part of the service.

*Mary Davey*

Junior Church at St Mary's - a small but loyal band - met once a month in the Chapter House during the Sunday morning Eucharist for an activity-based session based on the Gospel of the day or on a theme related to the season. The group created an Easter Garden on Easter Saturday and a crib scene

just before Christmas.

*Deborah Sibly*

Young People's Church at St Peter's has aimed to meet 10/ 11 times a year in the Eucharist service, finishing in time to join the congregation for Communion.

Although we have been joined occasionally by other young folk, the group usually just comprises two teenagers (aged 16 and 14) and sessions have been planned with them in mind. We have been able to tackle

challenging themes by reading together followed by thought-provoking discussions. The teenagers are keen to continue next year but feel a realistic commitment would be just two meetings a term. Naturally this could be expanded if we were joined by more young people (who would be very welcome). A carpeted area, resourced with a large

selection of books and games, has been maintained in the north aisle for younger children supervised by their parents.

*Anne Hardy*

Looking to the wider community, St Mary's followed up the success of the faith-based 'Time Travelling' in October 2014 with a further event in November 2015. Called

'Living Stones' this involved 120 children from city primary schools in activity-based learning about the history of St Mary's. In December, the Lord Mayor's Carol Service featured pupils from Bluecoat School enacting The Nativity and several choirs from primary schools.

*Paul Sibly*

## PCC

### Keith Charter

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the legal governing body of the parish and operates under the Church Representation Rules. The Council, therefore, together with the Vicar is responsible for the management and running of the parish. The Standing

Committee (SC) has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. The PCC and SC met on 6 and 5 occasions respectively during 2015 and there is more information on the working of the PCC and its Committees in the 2015 Annual

Report and Financial Transaction document. Alternatively, a list of the topic headings discussed at these meetings during the year is available to parishioners from the parish office, e-mail [office@nottinghamchurches.org](mailto:office@nottinghamchurches.org)