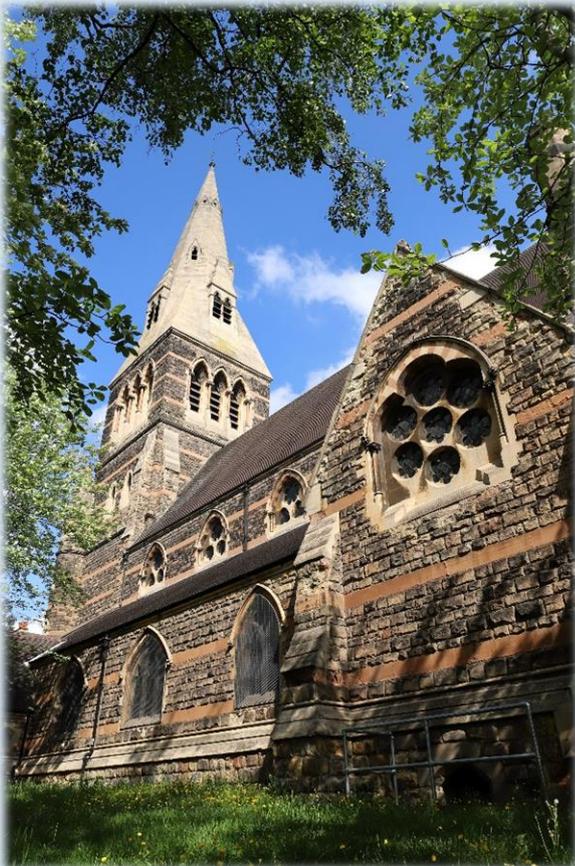




ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM

Annual Report 2020



The Rector

The Reverend Christopher Harrison

2020 will go down in history as the year when Covid-19 dominated world events. Our churches were profoundly affected by the pandemic, primarily because of the effects this had on the lives of all of us, but also since we had to respond to a succession of changes in Covid-related restrictions. Closing our doors to worshippers and to visitors, which was required of us during the spring, felt completely at odds with the role of a church at a time of crisis; nevertheless, it had to be done. In common with many other churches, however, we responded creatively and imaginatively by making our worship available online, initially through audio webcast services but subsequently by means of video streaming. We are very fortunate that Peter Siepmann was able to combine his technical and musical skills to ensure that this could be of a professional standard. I would also like to give my profound thanks to everyone else who took part in the provision of online worship: fellow clergy and lay ministers, organists and choir, readers, intercessors, as well as Adele Siepmann who put the order of service together each week.



We were fortunate in that we did not lose any church members to Covid-19, although some were quite ill and others found the pressures of shielding and isolation, along with the extended period of anxiety and uncertainty to be very difficult. Alongside this, however, the pandemic has brought many church members closer to one another, as new ways of maintaining mutual support and encouragement were found. Sadly, however, it has not been easy to keep in contact with those on the fringes of the churches, especially those for whom we do not have contact details. It was also disappointing, although entirely understandable, that regular activities such as the rough sleepers' drop-in meetings, the Gateway support group for people with mental health problems, the Gospel Choir, the Women of Faith group for asylum seekers, and the gathering for coffee after the Thursday communion service, all had to be suspended. The Coffee Room at St Peter's was closed for much of the year, with its staff, along with the parish vergers, being put onto furlough.

A remarkable success story in spite of the pandemic, however, was the completion of the roof renewal work at St Peter's, which was made possible by a large grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Alongside this, an exciting programme of heritage education activities was begun, which continues into 2021. Dorothy Mountford, project lead, has contributed immensely to ensuring that the project meets all the required criteria, with Brian Dunn and Peter Moore also overseeing particular aspects of the work. Our Heritage Outreach Project Officer, Sarah Clemson, has brought some very valuable professional skills and insights.

All Saints' church maintained its ministry to the community by keeping its doors open to the public for at least one day a week whenever this was possible under the government's restrictions. Many people have valued the church and churchyard as a haven of peace and tranquillity, especially during this time of stress and anxiety for many. Some new members of All Saints' have begun to play an increasingly active role in the church, and there is a good sense of common purpose and desire to ensure that All Saints' continues to be a place where all may feel welcome.

Along with many other churches, our parish faced financial challenges as a result of the fall in income caused by the various effects of the pandemic. The loss of Coffee Room income was a major factor in this, along with declines in other sources of regular income. However, there was an excellent response to a congregational appeal for donations during the summer months.

There was only one significant change in our staffing during the year, which was the retirement of Alan Franks as parish manager towards the end of 2020. I am most grateful to Alan for all that he contributed to the work of the parish office, both from the office itself and also in the many hands-on ways in which he responded to urgent needs at St Peter's and All Saints' churches. I am delighted that Adele Siepmann has taken on additional responsibilities, enabling her role as Parish Administrator now to embrace much of what the Parish Manager's job entailed.

We were able to celebrate Christmas in both churches, which ensured that we could end the year on a positive note. However, we were all aware that Covid-19 and its consequences remained very much with us, and that 2021 promised to be another difficult year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those, too numerous to name, who played their part in enabling us to remain optimistic and forward-looking despite the significant challenges which our parish faced in 2020. It continues to be a great privilege to serve as Rector of St Peter's and All Saints, and to share in the mission and ministry of God with so many deeply devoted and committed people.

All Saints' Churchwardens

Lorraine Smedley

After the first national lockdown, the government decided to include places of worship in the first easing of restrictions in the summer. It was an acknowledgment of the value of a living church. There was a desperate need of relief from the isolation and the unnatural turn our lives had taken. There is no doubt of the ill effect the lockdown has had on the mental health of some who either live alone or who need an escape from their particular family life. With this in mind, All Saints' took the decision to open at the first opportunity. Much thought was given to the preparations, with the restrictions we were to observe. On Tuesdays we open for private prayer, and on Sunday we have a Eucharist. Music plays its part with the organists agreeing to participate. This continues to this day. Many of the congregation are not online so there is no booking system. We wear our masks, sanitise and keep our distance, but we are together to hear the Gospel read and to pray. It is a partial return to the rhythm of life pre-Covid. I am convinced that all of this has a healing effect on those who walk through the door and on the surrounding parish, who see the church open and welcoming. We also managed to open for Remembrance Day when we had a bell tolling up to and after the two minutes of silence. We sang carols out in the churchyard, held midnight mass and Christmas morning Eucharist.



Photo: GM Leuty

Outside the church building, the volunteers returned to work in the Peace Garden and churchyard. Thanks in particular to Ian, Bruce and Rachel. A decision was made to make the place more visible to the street after a particularly violent attack on the garden, where the seating area and arches were smashed to the ground and plants and shrubs destroyed. Church posters were also defaced with swastikas and inverted crosses. The police were very sympathetic and helpful. However, we were astonished to find that the damage was cleared away for us. We found a note in the porch from a local Muslim neighbour who was distressed at the destruction and wanted to help restore the garden for the glory of God. All Saints' churchyard and garden has been discovered anew by many in the community on their hour of exercise and express their surprise and appreciation of this place of peace.

We have also taken the opportunity for a good deal of maintenance work on All Saints', Hall so it is now ready to be hired, and The Arimathea Trust have renewed their contract to accommodate people in All Saints' House.

St Peter's Churchwardens

Laurie Crawford & Brian Dunn

The role of Churchwardens is essentially to represent the people of the church, its members and visitors, and to look back once a year to reflect on the church, and in normal years there would be much to report – however, this has not been such a year.



Photo: GM Leuty

Nevertheless, much has continued to happen, and many have been involved in what has been going on, and there are people to thank for their particular roles and activities. What has happened, of course, is that for much of the whole of 2020 the church has had to be physically closed because of the prevailing national restrictions brought about by Covid-19. But thanks to the efforts, ingenuity and perseverance of our clergy team, hugely supported by the expertise of Peter, our Director of Music (and technology) it has been possible to maintain our regular Sunday Morning worship services by a process of recording and streaming them. Many of our congregation have taken part in this, by recording readings and prayers and in some cases by preaching sermons. To them all, a sincere "Thank you".

A major event in the year was the repair and replacement of the church roof, which will be reported on elsewhere; but this represented a huge amount of time and organisation by Dorothy and her team – again, our sincere thanks to them.

Liz Marsh, our Ministry Assistant, has been with us throughout the year and now moves on to further studies, in which we wish her well. She has been a source of much activity and background technical help and we will miss her.

Despite the difficulties of a closed church our choir has continued to offer their particular skills to our worship; we are fortunate to have their dedication and quality in our midst. And, of course, a huge thank you to Peter for the continuing musical traditions of St Peter's.

Finally we would like to thank all of the church for their ongoing and growing commitment to one another for the ways in which they and Christopher and his team have shown their love and care for us all.

St Peter's Centre Coffee Room

Brian Dunn

In 2020 proceedings came to an abrupt halt in early March due to lockdown and all the staff were put on furlough. We discussed re-opening in late summer and after careful planning did so on 15th September, only to encounter the second lockdown a few weeks later. The staff went back on furlough and no further activity took place for the rest of the year. The net trading result for the year was break-even, with the benefit of the government's furlough payments, as compared to a contribution of £36K in 2019. We look forward to a return to normal activity levels sometime during 2021.

St Peter's Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

Adele Siepmann

2020 saw our shop closed from mid-March, as Lockdown gripped the country. Despite hopes that we would be able to re-open after a few months, the shop is still closed, and is stuck in a time warp from Easter 2020!

The majority of the food stock has now gone – and thank you to those who have purchased goods over the year – with large amounts finally making its way to a Foodbank.

In order to re-open, we will need to make several adjustments, including introducing card payment facilities. Our loyal band of volunteers are important to us, so we will do all we can to make them feel comfortable and safe. Watch this space!

All Saints' Bell Ringers

Natasha Claus

This past year has unfortunately seen very few ringing occasions, and we have had no practice nights up the tower. However, we were lucky enough to ring socially distanced whilst wearing masks for several Sunday mornings in September and October. Although this short period of ringing was enjoyed by everyone, the whole Society are much looking forward to being back in the tower and ringing again when it is safe to do so. I want to thank the St Peter's and St Mary's ringers who rang the bells on Christmas day whilst all the students were at home.

Throughout the last year, the society have been meeting up online every Tuesday, and I would like to thank Evie who did a superb job as ringing master despite the circumstances and for her continued motivation to keep the society going online with a whole host of activities to keep us occupied. We started off the online sessions with quizzes, with each member making up one each week. These ranged from general knowledge to questions about All Saints' to 'guess that silhouette'. We then moved on to bingo nights and then to NUSCR's own renditions of 'Would I Lie to You' and 'Task Master' which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

More recently, the society has been having a go at the online platform 'RingingRoom' which is a website that allows us to practise ringing methods together as a band which has been particularly helpful and enjoyable. During the course of the year the tower has undergone more restoration. Although the major restoration works for the tower have been completed, work now progresses to the second phase. In this phase we are focusing on upgrading the fixtures and fittings in the tower. The faculty has now been approved, meaning that work can commence.

The John Taylor and Co. bell foundry have cast us a new headstock (the part from which the bell hangs) on the 9th Bell. The existing one does not match the others in the tower and having a new headstock will help make the bell easier to ring when we are able to do so after lockdown.

We have just commissioned some new windows for the bell tower, which will be installed soon. These new windows will be able to open, allowing for better ventilation in the tower. At present, there is only one opening window.

In a recent inspection, the current ceiling in the ringing room was found to be weak (but not dangerous), and so strengthening beams will be installed to amend this problem. There will then be a new false ceiling installed in the ringing room to cover the current ceiling, which has been patched and modified over the years as the bells were rehung in a new frame (1999) and augmented from 8 to 10 (2004). We hope to commence this work during the summer, while we can take advantage of the student's free time!

Lastly, I want to say thank you to the church and churchwardens for their continued support for both the society and especially for the ongoing tower work.

All Saints' & St Peter's Site Committee

Brian Dunn

Membership: Brian Dunn, The Rector, Keith Charter, Keith Charter, Lorraine Smedley, Lee Chapman, Alan Franks.

The committee continues to review the two church buildings and churchyards and St Peter's Centre, and are very grateful for the voluntary work done by many people including Ian Brothwell, Saxon Barrie, Philip Hobson, Trevor Parr and Bruce Henry. The closure of both churches for long periods during the year and putting the vergers on furlough has meant reduced activity to some extent, and the committee has only met twice during the year, in March and December.

All Saints'

The University Ringers have a relatively small amount of work to do to complete their project, and a faculty for this has recently been obtained. Ringing has had to be suspended.

Work to improve the south door entrance ramp has been planned and will take place in 2021. All Saints' Hall has been unoccupied and in a poor state and remedial work has been carried out. The Vicarage wall has now been repaired by the Diocese.

St Peter's

As a result of the successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we were able to proceed with replacing the lead on the nave and south aisle roofes. The contract was awarded to Midland Stone Masonry, who submitted the lowest tender, and the contract was signed on 26th May 2020 at a cost of £217,490. The Practical Completion Certificate was issued by Peter Rogan, the church architect, who supervised the contract, on 30th November 2020. Our thanks are due to Derek Park of MSM and to Peter for the smooth running of the contract, which was largely completed when the church was otherwise unoccupied.

We had to meet another heavy bill for the central heating in the church because of leaks to the pipework, and we also repaired the concertina gates to St Peter's Gate. The Centre central heating also required further attention.

Lee Chapman has had a long spell of illness in the latter part of the year, and Paul Stevenson has stepped into the breach very competently, assisted by our temporary caretaker Mike Chappell. Thankfully Lee is now much better and back in action again.



Music

Despite the various suspensions to public church services during 2020, I am delighted that music has continued to form an integral part of the weekly offering of worship from St Peter's. The year started with great joy, as members of the choir were privileged to sing at the wedding of tenor Matt Kinge to Sophie at St Patrick's Nuthall in January. It was also good to welcome Archdeacon Phil to St Peter's later that month, and to hear the choir mentioned in his sermon as one of the key aspects of the mission of St Peter's. Much of the choir's rehearsal time in these first few months of the year was devoted to preparations for a visit to York Minster to sing a weekend of services, as well as for a performance by the upper voices of the choir of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. In the end, neither of these occasions were to take place, and the activity of the church choir - along with public worship in our churches - moved online as from Mothering Sunday. This also meant we were unable to bid an appropriately grateful farewell to Chris Taylor, who retired from the choir after many years of valuable service first as an alto, and then as a bass. I hope we will be able to acknowledge his service more fittingly soon. We were sad also to say 'bon voyage' to soprano Caroline Poulter who, having been a hugely committed member of the choir since 2010, took advantage of a very exciting opportunity to further her medical career in Australia.

For the next six months, the worship of St Peter's was provided through pre-recorded audio 'webcasts'. The music for these services combined recordings from the choir's ever-growing audio archive (carefully curated by Mike Leuty) along with recordings of organ music (some archive, some produced virtually using the astonishing Hauptwerk pipe organ simulator) as well as choral music that was specially produced using the strange (but interesting) 'virtual choir' model, where members of the choir each recorded their own part individually from home, the combination of which were then digitally produced into a single choral performance. I remain filled with admiration for the choristers who made contributing to these projects a regular discipline in quite an extraordinary range of repertoire, from psalms and the familiar Thorne *Gloria* through to complex accompanied choral works such as Leighton's setting of *Let all the world* and - our crowning achievement - Tallis's famous forty-part motet, *Spem in alium* (which, to date, has enjoyed over 10,000 views on Facebook, as well as being featured on the world's biggest online classical music news website, *Slipped Disc*).

Face-to-face worship resumed in July but, due to the ongoing roof works at St Peter's, services were held at All Saints' and, in line with government restrictions, sung by a soloist only. This practice reappeared at St Peter's during the subsequent lockdown period in November and indeed for the first few months of 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate those members of the choir who regularly contributed to our worship in this way; it was wonderful to discover some superb repertoire that would ordinarily have been left untouched (a real silver lining of dark cloud of the pandemic, in fact), and it was a privilege for me to be able to work with these superb singers.

With considerably less time spent singing than usual, we took the opportunity during the summer months to undertake a wide-ranging consultation of choir members, taking stock of what we do, why and how we do it, and exploring whether there might be aspects to our work that could be improved. This was a fascinating and hugely helpful process, and I remain grateful to all the members of the choir who took part. Issues discussed ranged from the choir's audition requirements through to the balance we strike between striving for the best possible musical results and providing a friendly, social, enjoyable and encouraging experience for choir members. These important discussions continue to inform the choir's ongoing development and evolution. In mid-August, it was with great joy that we received the news that the choir could reconvene in person, albeit distanced from one another and thus heavily restricted in number. The ensuing

Peter Siepmann

133

I
- spi - ce hu
- stram, re -
hu - mi - li -
hu - mi - li -

II
ta - tem,
no - stram, hu
- stram,
stram, hu - mi - li
no - stram,
li - ta - tem

III
no - stram,
- stram, re - spi - ce
tem, hu -
- ce hu - mi - li -

IV
- tem,
hu - mi
no - stram,
stram, no - stram,
- stram, no -
no - stram, re -

V
re - spi - ce
- stram, re - spi - ce
- stram, hu -
tem, hu - mi - li -

VI
hu -
tem, re - spi
stram, re - spi -
ta - tem
hu - mi - li -

VII
mi - li - ta - tem
mi - li - ta - tem,
stram, no - stram,
stram, hu - mi

VIII
- ce hu -
hu - mi - li - ta - tem
stram, no - stram,
re - spi - ce hu
- W - ta - tem,
hu - mi - li -

A single bar of Tallis's
Spem in alium

The ensuing

phase of preparation and development of risk management procedures was considerable, and my next public vote of thanks is to Mike Leuty who throughout the pandemic has been a clarion voice of scientific reason, evidence-based advice and the most thoughtful of counsel.

Our return to in-person singing started with a 'pre-season' rehearsal towards the end of August, when we (surprisingly nervously!) gathered at All Saints' to begin a process of musical revision and re-acclimatisation. Choir and congregation were then reunited at St Peter's on Sunday 13th September – a moving occasion – and the first ever service at St Peter's to use 'live stream' technology to allow those parishioners uncomfortable or unable to attend church in person to experience our offering of worship at home via the internet.

September also saw the inauguration of a new position within the Music Department at St Peter's, and with it the realisation of one of my longest-held aspirations for the choir (how strange that it should have finally come to fruition in the midst of this strangest and most difficult of years!) as Geraldine McElearney began work as Vocal Tutor to St Peter's Choir. Offering one-to-one sessions with members of the choir (on a rota basis during Friday evening rehearsals), Gerry is able to help and nurture our choristers' voices in a much more tailored, individual way than I ever could in the context of a choir rehearsal. I have been delighted and impressed by the enthusiastic way in which members of the choir have welcomed this new aspect to their membership of the choir, and by the wonderfully analytical, helpful and approachable way in which Gerry has been begun her work with us.

Another positive of the term was the ability to hold a scaled-back series of concerts on Saturday mornings during October (shorter than usual, and with no coffee, hence the change of title from the traditional Coffee Break Concerts to Saturday Serenades!). Given their potential to be disrupted at short notice, these concerts featured exclusively local friends of the music department (in itself a lovely feature of the series): Carmen Flores (viola), Stephen Cooper (baritone) and Paul Hale (piano), Tre Voci (the choir's own Hannah Asbury, Rebecca Temple and Katie Temple), as well as Mike Leuty and myself at the organ. As ever, I am very grateful to Keith Charter and all those who help to make these concerts happen.

After a mercifully shorter period of choral silence in November (but sadly including Remembrance Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King and Advent Sunday), a reduced choir was again able to sing for the remaining Sundays of Advent and for Christmas. Singing in a distanced format, separated really quite significantly from conductor and – more importantly – fellow singers is extremely challenging and not nearly as rewarding an experience (not to mention the complications of whittling the choir membership down to just thirteen singers each week); the tenacity, forbearance, talent and commitment shown by members of the choir has been quite exceptional, and so my last and heartiest vote of thanks goes to each one of them.

Women of Faith

Pat McMenemy

2020 was a very challenging year for the asylum seekers & refugees who are the All Saints' "Women of Faith Group." We have around 16 regular members, from a range of countries, faiths & backgrounds.

What we missed:

- The shared lunches that All Saints' normally host were truly missed.
- The friendship & empathy which help to combat loneliness & social isolation that many ladies encounter.
- Face to face meeting & a sense of belonging.

Positives from the Pandemic:

- We were able to support a number of families who found themselves in severe need.
- Doorstep deliveries were a source of hope & a little relief.
- Telephone calls & messages, especially to those living alone, enabled members to deepen friendships & give encouragement when times were hard.

Christmas gifts to the ladies this year were delivered over several wild, windy days in darkest December. What a surprise to open the door and receive a generous bag of food and a gift card!

We are most thankful to our benefactors this year - St Peter's, All Saints', The Nigerian Church on Raleigh Street & our friends from the churches in Radcliffe on Trent.

Mothers' Union

Mary Davey

Due to the pandemic we have been unable to hold any meetings during this past year, but some of us have joined diocesan meetings online. It will be seven years this September since the branch reopened, but sadly I feel that I need to step down as leader and have not, so far, been able to find anyone willing to take my place. If anyone feels able to take on this position then please email me c/o

office@nottinghamchurches.org

Otherwise, very regrettably, we will close at the end of the 2021. Thankfully, however, if the branch does close then individuals can continue to be Mothers' Union members in their own right.

Finally, I would like to thank Maureen Black, David Towers and Cynthia Charter for their help during the past few years.



Parish Overseas Committee

Dorothy Mountford

Our Purpose

The Overseas Committee continues in its remit to bring together, in an organised structure, various aspects of the mission of the parish. This 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.

Committee Meetings

The Overseas Committee has continued to meet by Zoom every two months over the last year despite Covid restrictions and have continued to be active in reviewing and planning support.

Our Team

We welcomed Liz Marsh, our Ministry Assistant and Deena and Diane Caunt from All Saints' to our team in 2020. Our thanks as always go to Lina Morgan our secretary.

Five Talents

The OC continues to support the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative to help sustainable development in Africa.

Virtual Fundraising Events

Shrove Tuesday saw the popular Pancake Party take place on Zoom. Liz set us a challenging quiz which we did as a whole group, which was great fun. Our traditional Easter Breakfast, on Easter Monday usually held at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan was replaced by another successful Zoom event. 17 people joined from 10 am to noon. We were entertained by an Easter egg competition and a quiz. This was followed by an excellent and moving presentation with video footage of the work of mercy ships by Julia Smith who had herself served on the ships and was able to share her first-hand experience.

Mercy Ships deliver vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. For more information visit www.mercyships.org.uk

Giving

Funds raised and donations given are outlined in the account sheet below. Our thanks to Peter Moore for his oversight of our income and expenditure.

NOTTINGHAM ALL SAINTS ST MARY AND ST PETER			
OVERSEAS COMMITTEE FUND			
Year to 31 December 2020			Year to 31-Dec-19
Income			
Donation	200.00		-
Gift aid - Silver smarties	242.00		-
Donations -Silver Smarties	347.00		838.72
Donation re Mercy Ships	-		233.00
Collections	-		-
-Cyclone Ida	-		158.86
Income tax recovered	85.50		-
Fundraising -Pancakes	166.40		222.00
-Coffee & Cakes	-		97.92
	1,040.90		1,550.50
Expenditure			
Grants made			
Toilet Twinning	-		63.00
Christian Aid Cyclone	-		250.00
Christian Aid	-		100.00
Traidcraft	-		250.00
Disaster Aid Hurricane Dorian	-		114.06
UNHCR Refugee Camps	500.00		-
UNHCR Lesbos	250.00		-
CMS Partners	500.00		-
Five Talents	100.00		250.00
CARF	100.00		-
Mercy Ships	-		233.00
CMS	1,000.00		1,000.00
USPG	1,000.00		1,000.00
Christian Aid	1,000.00		1,000.00
	4,450.00		4,260.06
Net expenditure in the year	- 3,409.10		- 2,709.56
Transfer from PCC	3,000.00		3,000.00
	- 409.10		290.44
Balance brought forward 1 January 2020	1,528.96		1,238.52
Balance carried forward 31 December 2020	1,119.86		1,528.96

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of the Overseas Committee.

National Lottery Heritage Funding

Dorothy Mountford

The parish received the news that we had been awarded £211k by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in March of 2020, coinciding with the first Covid 19 Lockdown. The roof was repaired over the summer efficiently and effectively by Midland Stone Masonry, and work was unimpeded by the pandemic. Our thanks go to them and to Peter Rogan, the architect, for their professionalism and support throughout.



Part of our budget proposal to the National Lottery was for a Heritage Outreach Project Officer. In August we advertised for the post and received an amazing 125 applications - such was the situation for people employed by museums and the heritage industry.

We appointed Roshi Khunti for the fixed term part time post, and when she moved on to a full time post we were delighted both for her and for Ellie Gray who replaced her. We took great pride, despite our disappointment, when Ellie was also offered a full time post, with significant responsibilities, at The Palace of Westminster as part of their the refurbishing and restoration team. We have been absolutely delighted that Sarah Clemson, who also works part time for the National Justice Museum and knows the city well, has now been with us for almost five months. Sarah is a critical member of the team and has driven and is driving our project forward with professionalism aplomb.

The National Lottery had awarded us our grant on the quality of our planned Outreach Programme. Covid lockdown and restrictions had an immediate impact on what could be delivered but this gave us an opportunity to be creative in rethinking our offer.

The photography tutorial, which Jagdish Patel from the Nottingham Photography Hub had been scheduled to deliver to a group of homeless men from the Wednesday morning breakfast session, floundered. However, Jagdish continued with one student who produced some stunning images of the city. Reviewing the likelihood of engaging more people for the Wednesday group, Jagdish proposed and our National Lottery investment Manager gave the go ahead for him to offer the same course with a group of people from the Nottingham Recovery College. As we go to press this is now in its last weeks. As Project Lead, I have been honoured to take part in supporting them by talking them through our heritage and showing them round the church, and have been hugely impressed by their enthusiasm and skills. From May there will be an exhibition of their work in the south aisle of St Peter's which will remain until the launch of the Interpretation materials and the blessing of the roof by the Bishop, which is planned for the Autumn.

The Oral History Project, which was planned with members of the Gateway Mental Health Self Support Group (who, in normal times, meet in the St James's room on a Wednesday afternoon) along with a similar scheme for members of the congregation had to be abandoned because of social distancing restrictions. Again, an alternative was proposed and accepted by the lottery whereby, instead of recounting their stories to someone and having them transcribed, contributors were asked to write about themselves. To date we have 13 City Stories ready to share on the new heritage website page with two more in the pipeline. All wonderfully varied and vivid.

Original plans for a touch screen kiosk, by which visitors could have a virtual tour of the church, were abandoned, again with Lottery support. The implications for sanitising and health and safety issues made it no longer a viable option. Instead a visual record of the church was made, which will be populated with text and audio input for access through the website. At the moment our Heritage Officer, Sarah, is busy creating text and audio input which will populate the Virtual Tour, as well as liaising with Heritage Interactive, who are designing the Virtual Tour along with the interpretation panels, the narrative map for visitors to use as an easy guide, and the Guidebook which they can purchase.

One of our major outreach activities was going to be the offer of heritage days for Victoria School in the Meadows from September 2020. Covid put paid to this. At the request of the school, we created lesson plans and activities for online learning. Thanks to Sarah we have established a link with Rosslyn School in Aspley and, all things being equal, three heritage sessions will take place in church in the first three week of July for three year groups of 90 children. It will be such a joy and delight to welcome children and their teachers back into St Peter's. Many thanks to our volunteers - this outreach would be impossible without you.

Nottingham South Deanery

Kirsty Cowley

This year we have said goodbye to Revd Jonathan Smithurst (Attenborough), Revd Claire Goode (Nottingham St Andrew's) and Revd Dr Michele Hampson (Lenton). We have welcomed curates Revd Jo Lees-Robinson (Trinity Church), Revd Francis Finn (St Nic's) and Revd Grant Walton (St Mary's in the Lace Market) to our Deanery. We were also pleased to congratulate Revd Hannah Hall and her husband Will on the birth of their daughter, Katelyn, in August.

The Deanery Leadership Team has continued to meet during the year to plan Synod and to discuss ways to support parishes in the Deanery. Revd Tom Gillum from St Mary's in the Lace Market has also joined the Team.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances of 2020, we only held one Deanery Synod. We met together at St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey on 12th February to thank those who had served over the past three years and to reflect on all God had done in and around our Deanery. In particular people shared about City Prayer, Trinity Church, the Beeston Workplace Chaplaincy, Nottingham Citizens and we were challenged to become involved with the Green Festival in the autumn.

The Deanery has again paid a large percentage of its giving for ministry allocation (89.2% in 2020, compared to 96.9% in 2019). Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness in paying for the ministry received in this deanery, particularly in these difficult times.

We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to have the opportunity to meet again in person.



St Peter's United Charities

Armored Young

St Peter's United Charities makes small grants to local people to help them buy essential one-off items such as kitchen appliances, furniture and bedding that they cannot afford for themselves. The charity was kept busy during the pandemic as a growing number of people experienced financial difficulty and other sources of help, such as furniture projects, had to close their doors. The charity's regular income, which stems from bequests left to the parish by a number of benefactors between 1598 and 1863, is quite small, but fortunately we received support in 2020 from grant-making trusts and this has enabled grant-making to be sustained and even somewhat expanded. The result was that in 2020 we made grants to 61 individuals for a wide range of items, with white goods such as cookers and fridge freezers predominating. Many of our grants go to individuals who are being rehoused in unfurnished accommodation after a period of homelessness, and we are pleased to be able to contribute to the city's work on tackling homelessness and poverty in this way.

Safeguarding

Keith Mountford

The parish has continued to be committed to a respectful pastoral ministry to all adults, young people and children within our church community and to the safe guarding and protection of all vulnerable people. Copies of our Policy and Procedures are displayed in both churches. We have a small committee which aims to keep up to date with any changes recommended by the Anglican Church and/or the Diocese which are then passed on to the PCC for acceptance. The committee consists of the Rector, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the PCC secretary and ideally a representative from each church. The PCC has the overall responsibility for keeping the Policy and Procedures up to date. Alan Franks was the new head recruiter until October, when he retired - the role of head recruiter was then taken over by Mrs Adele Siepmann.

During the year the Incumbent, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Churchwardens and PCC Secretary were requested to prepare a report of serious Safeguarding incidents to the Charity Commission and then to delegate future reports to the Diocese. This was duly completed.

Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy

Reverend Jo Tatum

The story of Jesus calming the storm figures in all 3 synoptic Gospels (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25) – clearly the writers agreed that it was a story worth telling! It pretty much sums up the past year for many of us – 2020 started well, we partnered with St Mary’s Church to offer a Wellbeing and Spiritually series using the book – with a delicious breakfast and lively discussion Wednesday mornings were a highlight of the New year. Happily, the series was completed just as we went into lock down. Then for most businesses the storm of Covid 19 began.



NOTTINGHAM
WORKPLACE
CHAPLAINCY

Not everyone got off to a flying start – even the most tech savvy companies were finding setting up their staff to work at home quiet the challenge. The Chaplaincy quickly contacted all our partner companies offering support where needed and renewing contact details. This time of course offering the option of a Zoom link as a way of communicating with us.

As the weeks went by sad stories started to emerge, the final demise of Debenhams, and the redundancy of over 400 people in the administrative centre of Specsavers. City Transport ran a greatly reduced timetable and the furlough scheme proved to be a lifeline for many. The Summer saw a brief reprieve but none of the business returned to their offices, other than to collect the odd file. Working from home had become the norm and the Chaplaincy responded accordingly.

Throughout it all – restrictions, infection spikes, poor track and tracing and the long wait for a vaccine, Nottingham working life rode out the storm. Some were completely overwhelmed and sank, but many bailed out and set their sales on a different course and thus far seem to be surviving – some are even flourishing.

Meanwhile the Chaplaincy tried to help and support as people contacted us with many needs, including:

- The vulnerability of job insecurity.
- The experience of bereavement without the chance to say goodbye ‘properly’
- Relationships that floundered under the pressure of close proximity
- The worry of children’s education and health on a reduced income and limited resources.

It is only in the gospel of Mark that Jesus is described as sleeping with his head on a cushion as the storm raged.

And in some ways that describes what the Chaplaincy has been about during this time, offering the comfort and peace of Christ when lives have been and continue to be buffeted by the storm.

Here are just a few of the many ways we cushioned the work force of Nottingham:

- We were able to offer an online memorial for the staff at Capital One as they mourned the untimely death of a young colleague – over 200 attended.
- We met online with a group of senior managers from Specsavers to discuss with them, the concerns of their staff team and how they in turn might respond.
- We held a drop in for staff of the County Council on a ‘Time to Talk’ day and on Social Workers day.
- June our Chaplain for John Lewis became a regular contributor to the staff newsletter that began as a way of keeping contact with staff during their furlough times.

The extraordinary gift of a vaccine together with the Winter lockdown has seen the storm begin to abate. However, we approach the shore with anticipation and caution. In the scripture the Jesus and his followers landed on a foreign shore and their first encounter was with a demoniac. I sense that the final emergence from social constraints, set for the middle of this year, may not be as dramatic, yet will still have its challenges.

But we remain confident in the One who was with us during the storm to be with us as we see what awaits us on the other side.

It is a testament to all our financial supporters that despite their own financial challenges they continued to give generously toward the running of the Workplace Chaplaincy. On behalf of all the Chaplains I want to say how grateful we are for the faithful giving of St Peter’s Church both in money and in prayer. As you have blessed us so may you also be blessed in abundance!