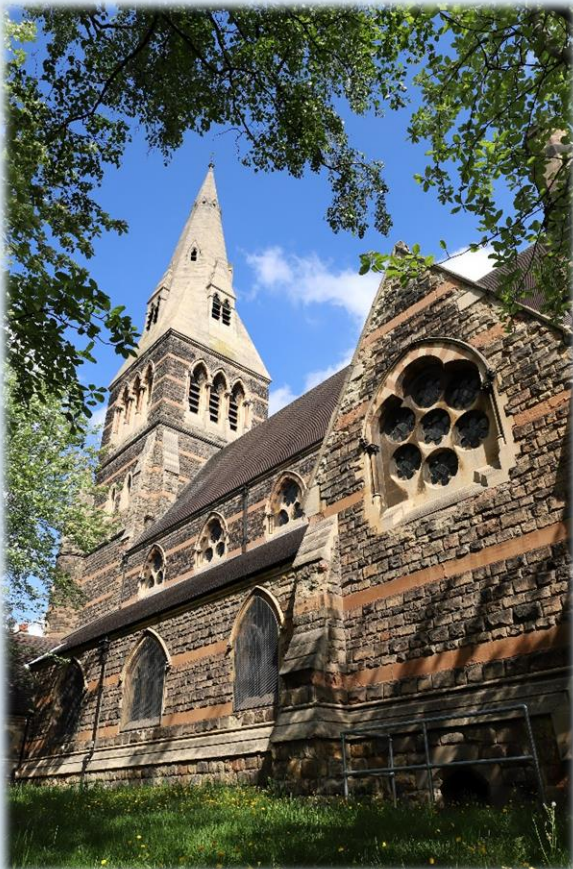




ST PETER & ALL SAINTS NOTTINGHAM

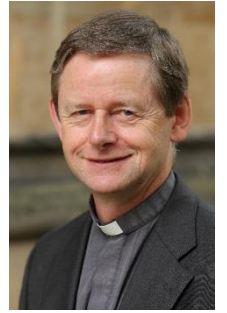
Annual Report 2022



The Rector

The Reverend Christopher Harrison

St Peter's Church saw a gradual increase in congregational numbers during 2022, alongside a growing diversity in the congregation. A significant proportion of the congregation are now from Hong Kong, and there is also good representation from the black communities and from the Indian sub-continent. The congregation is predominantly middle aged and older, but those from younger age ranges are also increasingly present, many of whom make a valued contribution to the life of the church. Increasing numbers of people in various kinds of need came to St Peter's during 2022, and close attention was given to how the church could respond to their difficulties. The work of the verger team and the ministry assistant was especially important in this context. St Peter's open door policy, which enables it to relate strongly to social, emotional and spiritual need, requires considerable financial support in terms of staffing costs, and the PCC continues to make this a priority.



The final stages of the St Peter's Heritage Project took place in 2022, including more work with large groups of schoolchildren who visited the church and an evaluation which was successfully completed by an external consultant during the summer. Thought was given to the ongoing legacy of the project, including the possibility of a further heritage project.

The St Peter's choir continues to make a very valuable contribution to the worship in the parish as well as to the wider musical life of the city, including the thrice yearly Coffee Break Concerts. We were delighted to welcome our new assistant organist, Phil Sherratt.

During 2022 it was still not possible to reopen the former Wednesday drop-in for homeless people, owing to funding constraints on the part of partner organisations. A successful Christmas breakfast for rough sleepers did take place, however. A new mental health advocacy group, POHWER, began holding meetings in St Peter's during 2022.

Sunday services at All Saints' Church continued throughout the year; these involved the morning Eucharist and a twice monthly evening service with St Peter's choir. We were very glad to welcome Ben Green as our new organist at All Saints'. The Tuesday morning communion service also continued. Age and illness have prevented some All Saints' members from returning to church since the Covid pandemic; whilst the church always welcomes newcomers, it has proved hard to build up congregational numbers, and this is an ongoing preoccupation. However, the Chinese church (Nottingham Enlightening Word Church) continued to worship on Sunday afternoons and enjoyed growing numbers. Conversation classes designed to help people from Hong Kong to adjust to life in the UK were started in the autumn. A new Eritrean congregation, St Gabriel's church, began worshipping in All Saints' on Sundays before the 10.30 am service.

All Saints' Hall is now let to the SFiCE Foundation, which provides various support services to people in acute need such as the homeless, asylum seekers and others living in poverty; these include community meals, English language classes, and workshops on cooking on a low budget. SFiCE's work developed and grew strongly during 2022. All Saints' house continues to be let to the Arimathea Project for its work with asylum seekers and refugees. Towards the end of 2022 it was agreed to form a partnership with Nottingham Community Payback, an agency of the Probation Service, which will carry out general manual work in the churchyard. The vegetable growing project with Turning Point, a mental health charity, also continued.

Many of the parish's other activities continued online; these included the parish Overseas Committee, Lent discussion meetings, the theology group, the Bible study group as well as the administrative committees of the church and parish. A priority of parish work during 2022 was to develop a greater sense of inclusiveness in all areas of parish life. This was the theme of a series of online Lent discussions. A new group to work on issues of race and racism was also set up, called the 'We Are One' group. We also began working with the Notts LGBT+ network to provide a series of Sunday afternoon services in St Peter's.

We were very sad to lose Laurie Crawforth, reader in the parish for many years, who died during the spring of 2022. Clarence Rickards, who was a lay reader for over 40 years, also died, which means that there are now no lay readers in the ministry team. We also lost Arthur Bennett, who was churchwarden at All Saints' for many years, at the age of 99. The ministry team has, however, been considerably strengthened by the involvement of three retired priests, John Henson and Owen and Gill Page. The parish's Ministry Assistant scheme continues, with Peter Sims being replaced by Ian Wright during 2022.

As always, I greatly value being part of a team which is so committed to the work of the parish and in which everyone's role is important. In an age when many people have become disenchanted with religion or are simply apathetic, it is wonderful that together we can be a caring and compassionate presence in the city for people of every origin and background, aspiring in this to reflect the unconditional love of God for all.

All Saints' Churchwardens

Lorraine Smedley & David Towers

Our last report spoke of Clarence Rickards retiring as lay reader here, after 40+ years. Clarence was taken to hospital on 1st April and died in a nursing home on 12th August. Within that time, in accordance with his wishes, we managed to arrange a gathering of his dearest friends, with him at All Saints'. Clarence was often described, affectionately, as eccentric (literally, 'out of centre'), but he didn't like the term. His final speech to his friends quoted Max Miller 'Take a last look, I'm the only one!' Clarence spent his last night on earth in All Saints'. His funeral was entirely in keeping with his faith, 'No eulogies, that's not what it's for'.

In the autumn the Ministry Assistant regenerated from Peter Sims to Ian Wright. Ian will actively seek out the people in the churchyard who are often overlooked otherwise. He has also been a great help with the large funerals, for which All Saints' seems popular amongst children of previous members of the church. Many of them still regard it as their church even though they have moved out of the area, and baptisms often follow. Ian is also a fresh pair of eyes combined with imagination. He is currently making suggestions for small alterations that refresh the interior by highlighting objects, renewing communication areas and generally moving collected 'stuff' around. It doesn't sound much but it does make a difference and costs nothing, which is useful as that is the budget we've got!

Work continues in the churchyard. This is usually another low budget way to show All Saints' in the best possible light for the local community to enjoy. In the autumn we planted up many daffodil bulbs which were kindly donated. They are in full bloom in very early spring, followed by bluebells later. In September, an old oak tree in the car park shed a large branch along with part of the trunk. Mercifully, no-one was hurt, and no damage done. Sadly, the remaining tree had to be cut down after the council inspection. We are now in the process of a survey of all the trees in the churchyard to put us in good standing with the insurers.

All Saints' Hall and All Saints' House are still providing relief for people living in challenging circumstances. Parminder and her team at SFiCE welcome them into the warmth for hot meals and friendship and Arimathea Trust continue to house the most vulnerable people seeking sanctuary in a safe country.

All Saints' is now host to another church. St Gabriel's Church is made up of the Eritrean community in Nottingham. They meet early on Sunday morning and end their service at 9.30 am.

The Nottingham Enlightening Word Church continue with their all-age worship on Sunday afternoon. All Saints' was the venue for a group of people forming the HongKong Dialogue group to improve English conversation. The weekly meetings began in the lead up to Christmas and we were delighted to receive from them colourful banners for Christmas and New Year.



St Peter's Churchwardens

Dorothy Mountford & Chigozie Nwachukwu

Churchwardens are elected annually by the parish and appointed by the bishop to represent the laity and to cooperate with the incumbents to care for the church and its community. Our role as Churchwardens is essentially to represent the people connected with St Peter's Church: members of the congregation, those who drop in regularly for support and visitors.

Since the last annual report, sadly, Laurie Crawforth (former Churchwarden) has died. Brian Dunn, who had been Churchwarden since 2018, has stepped down. We would like to thank Brian for his unstinting dedication to St Peter's over the years. Brian has been replaced as Churchwarden by Chigozie Nwachukwu.

2022 saw the lifting of many of the Covid restrictions, but it has remained a concern for the Rector and Churchwardens to continue to ensure that the congregation feel safe and that opportunities for appropriate social distancing are in place for those who are vulnerable. Services continue to be streamed facilitating those who still feel vulnerable to continue as part of the fellowship at St Peter's.

March saw the joyful wedding of our then Ministry Assistant, Peter Sims, to Esther Opiyo in St Peter's. We bade a fond farewell to Peter later in the year as he and Esther moved onto pastures new. We welcomed Ian Wright as our new ministry assistant in October. Ian came to us from being the resident Friend at the Quaker Meeting House in Leicester. He has a breadth of experience ranging from being a mental health nurse to working in student counselling services at the University of Coventry. Ian brings his care and support to both our churches.

Chigozie Nwachukwu continues as assistant vergers covering the weekends, thus allowing the church to remain open on Saturdays (when there is always an increase in the number of people visiting the church). We are extremely fortunate to have three vergers, Paul Stevenson being our other assistant vergers. Their outreach to the many people who visit our church on a daily basis for a variety of reasons is an important part of our ministry.

Providing a welcome at St Peter's is an important part of our ministry. Visitors often comment on the warmth of the welcome they receive at St Peter's. People who are new to our congregation say the same. Our Sunday Stewards, led by Keith Charter, are at the heart of our Sunday welcome. New people often return after receiving a warm welcome from members of our friendly team.

Visitors during the week and on Saturdays come from here and everywhere. Over the Jubilee Bank holiday people visited from America, France, Italy, Poland, Israel, Turkey, Ireland, Romania and Uganda, to name but a few. Many local people from Derby and Leicester, a Test Match grass widow from Cheshire, a young couple from Walsall, parents and children from the city on a day out who welcome a sit down (the parents) and something to do (the children).

Our vergers, Mike, Paul and Chi, are there for people who seek peace and tranquility amidst the hustle and bustle, want to know about the history and heritage of our city, find a place to pray or appreciate a friendly face, a listening ear.

We have had a good response to our request for volunteer Weekday Stewards to be in church as and when they can find some time – an hour, perhaps two, more if they can spare it. A steward who comes in every Wednesday morning tells of the great joy she receives from her time in church, either talking to visitors or sitting in the stillness and peace of this sacred space.

Post-Covid, we have seen a growth in congregation numbers and visitors. In 2022 we welcomed new members of our congregation from Hong Kong. Our Hong Kongers, as they wish to be known, have become an integral and much-loved part of our congregation. At the request of KK, members of St Peter's Congregation facilitated support sessions known as the 'Hong Kong Dialogue'. These took place on a weekly basis in the Autumn in All Saints' Church, where we are warmly welcomed and supported by Lorraine and David, the Churchwardens. The success of the dialogue was evaluated and it has been agreed that the sessions would continue to run in the Spring and Summer of 2023.

The diversity of our congregation has markedly increased, with young people from a wide range of world majority heritage backgrounds attending regularly and staying for coffee after the service. We thank Anne Hardy for all her hard work and that of her team of volunteers who provide those refreshments in the Coffee Room week by week.

Visitor number also increased significantly over the year. With the closure of the Castle in the Autumn more visitors to the city found their way to the church. We have become the focus for international visitors who take a keen interest in our heritage.

Saturdays have seen a particular increase in numbers. We continue to be grateful that we have Chi as our weekend verger, who enables us to keep the church doors open. The interpretation panels and memorial to the enslaved of the Russell plantations, as well as the peace and tranquillity of a sacred space in the hustle and bustle of the city centre, continue to draw people in.

A generous donation in memory to Ossie Newell, a long-time member of our congregation, was made this year. This was added to by further donation from other friends. It was suggested and agreed by Ossie's friends and family that a Physic Garden would be a suitable memorial to him. Sue Baker, a green fingered member of our choir, has worked tirelessly to re-design and create the garden. We submitted Sue's plans in a bid to the Diocese for their Caring for Creation Small Grants Funds and have been awarded £250 towards creating this tranquil green space in the heart of the city. Sue has been given plants by the Nottingham Wildlife Trust who plan to put us on their map.

In March, 90 Year One children from Rosslyn School in Aspley attended three 'Easter Days' Sessions in Church, where they learnt about the Last Supper and Holy Communion, Palm Sunday and the Easter Story and made cards for Mothering Sunday or Easter Day. This is now an established tradition for the school, and we look forward to welcoming them again in both the Spring and Summer term of 2023. Thanks must go to our dedicated group of 13 volunteers who ensure that the sessions are exciting, the children are engaged and the accompanying staff and helpers are warmly welcomed.

For the first part of the year the Shared History Group, which had researched and supported the installation of the memorial to the 220 enslaved people from the Russell Plantations in Jamaica, continued to meet. Racial Justice Sunday in 2022 was a turning point. Working with Nottingham Citizens on their racial Justice agenda, a new group 'We Are One' grew out of the core SHG. We R1 has continued to grow and grow. By the end of the year monthly meetings had been held on Zoom with Heidi Shelwell-Cooper from Nottingham Citizens. In attendance, Marsha Farmer, ordinand from St Nic's Church, had talked about their anti-racism policy. The group had agreed to draw up a policy for St Peter's to be presented to the PCC in 2023, and the group agreed to study Ben Lindsay's book "We Need to Talk about Race: Understanding the Black Experience in White Majority Churches".

In late September, at the instigation of members of the Overseas Committee, volunteers set up a Freshers Stall in St Peter's Square, initially to welcome new students to Nottingham and the church. Tea, coffee and sweets along with information about services and support was such a success that we repeated the outreach in the week before Christmas. Volunteers have plans to rerun this outreach in Holy Week 2023.

In October we were approached, as an Inclusive Church, by the Nottingham LGBT+ network. A planning group was formed, and plans put in place for a series of services Celebrating Life, Love and Inclusivity in 2023.

It has been a joy to see Monday Meditation return to its pre-covid lunch time slot, along with the mid-week Communion services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is a privilege to host 'POhWER at St Peter's' every second Wednesday of the month. This is a community group for people affected by mental health or feeling isolated. This group is free and supported by POhWER volunteers who meet in the St James's room, as did the pre-covid Gateway Mental health self-group, who they have replaced. An Asbestos Bereavement Support Group also meets one Friday per month in the St James' room.

On December 14th, St Peter's was delighted to open its doors once more to the homeless, roofless and rough sleepers who, in pre-pandemic times, had been regular users of the St James' Room and the kitchen for their Monday and Wednesday drop-in sessions. A Christmas breakfast with cards and presents was supplied by Framework and the NHS and supported by our volunteers. A good time was had by all and it is hoped that once staffing levels allow that the weekly breakfast and drop-in sessions will be able to be reinstated.

This year we have been exploring the possibility of refurbishing the church kitchen, which is in need of a hot water supply, a new floor and adequate storage space. It was deemed appropriate to use the legacy from Hilary Evans, a founder member of the Coffee Room from its origin in the church kitchen and St James's room, to refit the space in her memory.

A part of the Churchwardens' duties is a responsibility for the Terrier - the checking and amending of the inventory of all church property from rose bushes to communion silver. This was started in the summer and is currently still under review.

As Churchwardens, we would like to thank the clergy, congregation and choir for their ongoing support. It is an honour and a privilege to serve our community - as mentioned at the start of this report - in our role as your representatives.

St Peter's Centre Coffee Room

Brian Dunn

We have continued with five day opening throughout 2022, but constant changes in staff and volunteers have meant that we have never been in a position to open on Saturdays, and therefore to have achieved a turnover of £98,301, as compared to £133,766 in 2019, was a considerable achievement, but inevitably in profit terms we were well down at £15,049 as compared to £36,467 in 2019 and a budget of £30,000. We will continue trying to open on Saturdays in 2023, but we must have sufficient staff/volunteers to support it.

The Coffee Room is now well supported again by customers, and Lynne continues to make small changes to the menu, which go down well. We had a successful thank you party for staff and volunteers in March, and we continue to be very grateful to our cake-makers, volunteers and the staff for their support. We will continue our search for staff/volunteers, but this is a problem throughout our sector, more so than finding customers.

St Peter's Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

Adele Siepmann

2022 has been a steady year in the shop, but one which has had its challenges. Falling sales during 'off-peak' times of the year, price increases and the cost of living crisis have all presented us with the challenge of keeping our shop afloat. However, thanks largely to our faithful band of volunteers, we have soldiered on, and managed to produce a modest profit which goes back into parish funds.

We have stocked more items from Shared Earth than ever before this year (thank you to Phil for supplying these for us), and the beginning of 2023 brought the sad news that Traidcraft had gone into Administration. This has created difficulties in obtaining stocks of Fairtrade groceries, but we remain hopeful that our new suppliers will be a success. More about this next year!

Please spread the word about the shop, and most importantly, use it! Due to volunteer numbers, we are currently only able to open three days a week (Tuesday - Thursday). If you, or anybody you know, would like to volunteer with us, please get in touch!

All Saints' Bell Ringers

Ben Rothwell

All things considered, this has been a fairly strong year for NUSCR. We've been able to keep a high attendance on all our practice nights and, while we did see a brief drop in ringing quality following the graduation of several of our experienced members, this year's new recruits this year are fitting in well and are all steadily progressing.

We've been to all sorts of places on our annual ringing tours this year, including our previous master's home area in Surrey over the summer, a large area of Manchester with several other student ringing societies, and around Nottingham itself twice, once to welcome our new members to the area, and once with our alumni to celebrate our annual dinner. While I didn't attend all of the tours myself, from what I've heard all the tours were successful and greatly enjoyed.

The student band, helped by several local ringers, were heavily involved with special ringing following the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This included ringing on the day of the funeral and a specially arranged quarter peal (ringing for ~45 minutes) on muffled bells as a mark of respect.

11 other quarter peals have been rung at All Saints in the past year for a variety of occasions and most notably a full peal (consisting of ~3 hours of ringing) was rung by volunteers of the tower restoration project, spearheaded by Paul Mason and Edward Walker, to mark its completion in 2022. Thanks to them the ringing chamber is now easily the nicest one I've ever seen, and continuing thanks go to all those involved in the project.

Further thanks go to Adele, the Churchwardens, and the church itself for all the continued support for the past year and to all our members for their continued efforts and enthusiasm for ringing.

St Peter's Bell Ringers

Matthew Jones

2022 has been a mixed year for ringing at St Peter's. We have had a high fluctuation of numbers at practices which has seen anything from between 5 to 20 people up the tower. However, our repertoire has remained steady and striking is slowly improving. For those who aren't aware, the bells at St Mary's in the Lace Market have been out of action since May 2022, with the St Mary's band ringing for services at St Peter's on a regular basis, which has been a great help. My thanks go to the St Mary's ringers for this.

The big event was the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. At short notice the bells were fully muffled as is custom, and remained so for two weeks, except for the proclamation of the new King when the bells were rung open in celebration. We managed three instances of general ringing and tolling, three quarter peals, and a full peal of 5076 Grandsire Caters rung by representatives of all three city centre towers, organised at very short notice. I must thank all the ringers for coming together to help organise this and we are proud to have done our little bit. We are now planning for the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

Outside of this event, we have two peals rung by visiting bands, one being the Nottingham University Society of Change Ringers, and the other the Ancient Society of College Youths. There were also 16 quarter peals rung by the local bands of St Mary's and St Peter's. Our ropes have now come to the end of their useful life, and we have ordered a new set with arrival later in 2023.

Thanks go to my wife Emma who has continued to help me organise the ringing, as well as Edward Walker who has run the ringing when I have been away.

*Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild
Nottingham, Nottinghamshire
St Peter*

Monday, 19 September 2022 in 3h 26 (22-2-5 in Eb)

5076 Grandsire Caters

Ian Butters (Op. 739)

1 Ian Butters

2 Laura S Watt

3 Sophie M Middleton

4 Emma R Jones

5 Matthew J Jones (tno) (C)

6 Peter J England

7 Michael P R H Woolley

8 Michael A Varney

9 Edward A S Walker

10 D Paul Mason



First on ten: 2, 8, 9

First of Caters as Conductor.

*Band in order of ringing,
clockwise from front right*

Arranged and rung deeply muffled with tenor open at backstroke following the state funeral of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by ringers representing all three towers within the city of Nottingham.

All Saints' & St Peter's Site Committee

Brian Dunn

Membership: Brian Dunn, The Rector, Keith Charter, Lorraine Smedley, Chris Ward, Peter Sims and later Ian Wright, Dorothy Mountford, Mike Chappell, Adele Siepmann.

The Committee continues to have oversight of the fabric of the two church buildings and the Centre, and also the two churchyards. We continue to be very grateful for the voluntary work put in at St Peter's churchyard on both the general maintenance and also the gardens, and similarly at All Saints churchyard and gardens. After many years of valuable service at St. Peter's, our electricians, D. Selby, retired and were replaced by Ken Burrows, who have also been the electricians at All Saints for many years.

The Centre boiler had to be replaced in January at a cost of £9K and the lights in the St James Room were also replaced. Also five microphones were repaired.

It was decided that the toilets in St Peter's Church be redecorated inhouse, and Paul will undertake this prior to Christmas.

The refurbishment of the church kitchen was agreed in principle and a cost of £9K was anticipated, £5K of which would come from Hilary's legacy. Wickes were selected.

There was a fire at All Saints' meter cupboard, probably started deliberately, which has been put in the hands of our insurers.

At All Saints' the ramp to the South door was replaced, funded by donations, which is a great improvement. We have also accepted a quote from MSM for the installation of the new handrails on St Peter's North steps at £3,930 plus VAT.

We have recently instructed EMEC, part of Notts Wildlife Trust, to undertake a survey of the trees in All Saints' Churchyard at a cost of £950 plus VAT. This has never been done before.

Music

Peter Siepmann

During the course of 2022, the church choir sang for seventy-three services across our two churches, as well as during visits to Southwell Minster (January) and Norwich Cathedral (August). Numbers in the choir are strong (at the time of writing there are twenty-eight full time singers), though we were sorry during the year to say goodbye and thank you to soprano Lucy Howard as she finished her law conversion course, and to bass Benedikt Böch as he resumed his studies in Germany. Regular attendance by a healthy and balanced number of choristers has enabled the choir to tackle a number of major works over the past year that hadn't been able to be presented for some while (not least due to the restrictions on the numbers of singers with which we had to contend during the pandemic). These works included some old favourites such as Stainer *I saw the Lord*, Stanford *For lo I raise up*, Mendelssohn *Hear my prayer*, Finzi *Lo the full final sacrifice* and Sanders *The Reproaches*, as well as a number of new additions to the choir's repertoire including a particular focus on music written by women, including composers such as Helen Williams, Amy Summers, Becky McGlade, Stephanie Martin and (in perhaps the most challenging piece the St Peter's Choir has ever tackled!) Cheryl Frances-Hoad; we were also delighted to learn a superb set of evening canticles written by our very own Nic Cummings. To be able to perform a truly cathedral-style repertoire to a high standard week-by-week is something for which I feel hugely thankful, and something of which the whole parish community should feel justly proud. We are also very fortunate to have this wide range of choral repertoire complemented by an equally diverse and thoughtfully chosen selection of organ music by our new Assistant Director of Music, Phil Sherratt, who joined us in May after fifteen years at St John's Beeston, and who has been a superb addition to the team. I am delighted that we were able to appoint an organist of Phil's calibre to this new role; a clear sign, I hope, along with our strong choir numbers, of a positive and exciting future for music at St Peter's – something for which we also owe thanks to a wonderfully musically supportive Rector and clergy team.



*Mike Leuty (Sub Organist, 1999-2022) and Phil Sherratt (Assistant Director of Music from 2022)
with Peter Siepmann (Organist & Director of Music from 2007)*

Photograph: Rob Edlin-White

All us of involved in music making at St Peter's found ourselves intensely aware during 2022 of the concept of the Choir Family, and the sense of the 'circle of life' was palpable. We were delighted to hear of the birth of Otto Mitton-Rooke – a son to Lee (who was Assistant Organist from 2010 until 2019 and remains a dear friend to St Peter's Choir) and Heidi. Liz Cresswell was the first person I auditioned for a place in the choir on becoming Director of Music – what a joy it was that she chose to be married at St Peter's over the Summer. Ian Matthews was an absolute stalwart of the choir (both musically and socially) between 1997 and 2014, and it was with great sorrow that we learned of his death in July, but what a wonderful tribute his funeral was. Membership of this wonderful and special choir is indeed a strong and often life-long bond.



Ian Matthews (1960-2022)

Photograph: Mike Leuty

It has been a great joy during the year to see audiences starting to build back up again for the thrice-yearly series of Saturday morning concerts. Initially re-christened 'Saturday Serenades', we were glad to resume serving refreshments in October, thus enabling a welcome return to the much-loved 'Coffee Break Concerts' started in 1988 by Kendrick and Mary Partington. As well as performances by our resident musicians (including instrumental ensemble, *saraBande*, founded by our dear friend Imogen Rex in 2008), we were delighted to welcome to the 2022 concert series the Illuminate project, Ivan Hovorun (piano), Hannah Cresswell and Dana Morgan (flutes), Katharine Dryden (mezzo soprano) with Andrew Chadwick (viola) and David Machell (piano), St Martin's Voices (in a wonderfully inspiring collaboration with members of St Peter's Choir), musicians from Repton School, Ailsa Mainwaring (mezzo-soprano) accompanied by my predecessor Philip Collin, Ed

Hodgkinson (piano), the Villiers Quartet (playing student compositions as part of the Nottingham Chamber Music Festival), the Mirabilé Vocal Ensemble, Rosie Braddy (mezzo-soprano) and William Burn (baritone) accompanied by Philip Robinson, and James Woodrow (classical guitar). Particularly after the pandemic that overshadowed the past two years, it has been wonderful to hear the ancient walls of St Peter's reverberating again with the sound of music!

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.

Overseas Committee remember Laurie's life with thanks

We will miss Laurie very much and give thanks for his life and service. He was always a great support of the Overseas Committee and its work along with Joan.

Committee Meetings

The Overseas Committee continued to meet by Zoom every two months, despite Covid restrictions, striving to continue to be active in reviewing and planning support. Post-pandemic the committee agreed to continue to meet via zoom and to explore ways of fundraising.

Our Team

Our thanks as always go to Lina Morgan our secretary and to Yvonne Harriss who hosts our annual face to face summer meeting in her lovely garden to enjoy each other's company and breathe country air. New members are always welcome.

Five Talents

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

Fund Raising Events

Shrove Tuesday 2022 saw the ever-popular Pancake Party take place on Zoom. Our Ministry Assistant Peter Sims compered the evening which concluded with the traditional quiz.

Easter Breakfast

The traditional Easter Breakfast was held on Easter Monday, April 18th, at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan. It was good to meet face to face for the first time in two years and over £400 was raised for the work of Mercy ships who deliver vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. For more information visit www.mercyships.org.uk

The Silver Smarties Appeal

By popular request and despite a marked cultural shift in our relationship with hard cash and an increasing dependence on plastic cards, we have received generous donations for the work of the Overseas committee through this scheme. Tubes of Smarties are given out on Advent Sunday with the recipient pledging to fill the empty tube with 20-pence pieces or pound coins – a fun way to raise funds between Advent Sunday and Ascension Tide.

Support for Ukraine

During Lent the Overseas committee arranged retiring collections at the end of morning services. Over £1,500 was raised. This was shared between the Ukrainian and the Polish churches in Nottingham who were able to send it directly to areas in need.

Summer concert

Plans were in place for a Summer concert in June organised by the committee in aid of Ukraine. Disappointingly, due to unforeseen circumstances, this had to be cancelled at the last moment.

Pakistan flood Appeal

The overseas committee would like to thank members of the congregation who responded so generously to the suggestion that we had a retiring collection at the end of our morning services over a number of weeks in the summer to support the thousands of people who were suffering from the loss of their homes and loved ones, as well as diseases and displacement which were the aftermath of the devastating floods which are still impacting on people's lives and livelihood. £268.87 was raised which was been sent to Muslim Hands in Hyson Green, one of the first charities to arrive on the scene.

Freshers' Week

For several years the Overseas Committee had discussed how to engage with the new students who arrive in our city in late September. 2022 saw committee members, volunteers and vergers set up stalls on St Peter's Square offering refreshments and information about our services and choir to all passers-by. Such was the success that the Committee agreed to set up stall in the week before Christmas. Now joined by our Ministry Assistant Ian Wright and supported by our vergers, warm drinks and mince pies, seasons greetings and information about services helped to create a festive feel to the cold, wet days in the lead up to Christmas. Plans are in place for a third outreach during Holy Week in 2023.

Annual Giving by the PCC

The Overseas Committee would like to acknowledge the transfer of £3,000 by the PCC to our funds on an annual basis to support CMS (churchmissioinsociety.org) USPG (www.uspg.org.uk) and Christian Aid (ChristianAid.org.uk). Other Giving Funds raised and donations given are outlined in the account sheet below. Out thanks to Peter Moore for his oversight of our income and expenditure.

Congratulations to the longest serving members of the Overseas Committee

Congratulations to Lina & Wilfred Morgan, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August. St Peter's looked beautiful thanks to the flowers donated for this occasion, and the congregation greatly enjoyed the refreshments and very special cake supplied after the service! Lina as secretary and Wilfred as treasurer are the longest serving members of the Oversea Committee.



OVERSEAS COMMITTEE FUND

Balance carried forward

National Lottery Heritage Funding

Dorothy Mountford

The final phase of our Heritage Project, which began in November 2019, was concluded in August 2022. The expectation from the Lottery Fund is that we will now be looking at ways in which the work done can be part of an ongoing legacy. So rather than sitting back and congratulating ourselves we much address the way in which we can further our outreach promise of sharing our history and heritage with a wider community and the city.

The extensive evaluation report on the project, undertaken by an independent assessor, was received by the PCC in the autumn. This is an extract from the evaluation report produced for National Lottery Heritage Fund:

The vision for this project was never about numbers and footfall, instead it was about the impact on individuals, making a difference to people's lives, and being totally inclusive. The catalyst for the project was the urgent repair work needed to ensure the long-term future of the church building and the heritage it contains. Through this need an aspirational project was developed and delivered by a professional and dedicated volunteer Project Lead and volunteer team, aided by the Heritage Officer and the Reverend Christopher Harrison.

The project has seen the successful completion of the Capital Works to ensure the longevity of the building and its heritage for future use by the congregation, marginalised people, schools, tourists, and the local communities in Nottingham. The history of St Peter's and its place within the City of Nottingham has been researched, giving a deeper understanding of the social context in which the church has operated over the past decades, and the impact it has had on Nottingham and its people, including its own contested history. The new interpretation in the church has made the social history and heritage more accessible and inclusive to visitors both online and in the church, through a variety of platforms. The professional quality interpretation panels are attractive and informative and are supported by the guidebook, navigational map and a virtual tour of the church. There are also newly defined areas to encourage people to visit the church in a way that is either easier or more meaningful to them as individuals. These areas include a children's space, a reflective area and a memorial to enslaved people.

St Peter's Church has worked with marginalised groups for many years, but through this project it has been able to engage with these groups in a more creative and meaningful way that has added to individuals lives and wellbeing. Working with POHWER (an organisation that helps people to express their views and obtain help), the Recovery College and the Photographers' Hub, the church has developed outreach opportunities for individuals who would not normally be offered creative workshops and tutorials in a manner that would make it accessible to them. The pandemic made it more difficult to provide activities and during lockdown periods engagement was low, but the church is continuing to work with and expand its engagement with marginalised people and will expand this work further when support organisations are fully operational. Prior to the project, St Peter's had started work with an inner-city school in Nottingham with a high percentage of Pupil Premium families. During the project the church was able to extend this work to include another inner-city school in their Learning Programme and has delivered a variety of sessions to the two schools over the lifetime of the project, despite the restrictions of the pandemic. The response from teachers and pupils has been very positive, with teachers keen to make repeat visits. The evaluation has demonstrated that the work with schools has supported the National Curriculum, been enjoyable and creative and given the children the opportunity to visit the centre of Nottingham and a church building. For many of the children, this was for the first time.

In conclusion, this has been a very successful project, delivered in a very challenging time with many positive outcomes for individuals and communities. The City of Nottingham has benefited from the project alongside the people of Nottingham. There is now a community and heritage asset in the centre of Nottingham that is open to everyone and willing to welcome people in a way that is inclusive to them as individuals.



Nottingham South Deanery

Elaine Hinchliffe (Lay Chair)

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd Paul Reynolds (Bramcote St Michael and All Angels) and Rev'd Colin Bourne who stepped down as Area Dean. We have welcomed Rev'd Jess Savill (Toton St Peter) and curates Rev'd Claire Tufnell and Rev'd Ryan Mellor (Christ Church, Chilwell) Rev'd Angelika and Daniele Bocchetti (Lenton Holy Trinity and The Priory), Rev'd Tasha Genk (St Nic's) and Rev'd Bethan Resch (Trinity) to our Deanery. We were also pleased to congratulate Rev'd Jo Tatum who was appointed as Area Dean, Rev'd Tracey Byrne and Garreth Frank who were appointed as Priests-in-Charge at St John's Carrington and Lenton Holy Trinity and The Priory respectively, and Grant Walton who was appointed Co-ordinating Chaplain at the University of Nottingham.



The Deanery Leadership Team has continued to meet during the year to plan Synod and to discuss ways to support parishes in the Deanery – particularly those in vacancy. We have held three Synods:

On 23 March we met at St Nic's in Nottingham and the theme of our meeting was "Is there a place for me in your church?". The aim of this meeting was to recognise that racial justice and integration are vital issues for the church and to challenge churches to address this issue. Speakers shared their lived experience and the scriptural basis for addressing this. We then spent some time discussing the challenge and praying for each other.

On 13 July we met at St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey and our theme was mental health and wellbeing. Again we had speakers share their lived experience on the impact of the pandemic and the role churches can play in supporting those with mental health issues. We also heard about the work of Renew Wellbeing and running wellbeing cafés in our buildings.

On 24 November we met at St Michael's, Bramcote and our theme was Disability Awareness in our churches. Our speakers shared their lived experiences and we were challenged to consider ways we could make our churches accessible. We were also challenged to think how our churches could act as a link for disabled people and our communities.

Our November meeting was also our AGM and a report was provided on the work of the Deanery Leadership Team during the past year. Colin Bourne stepped down as Area Dean, Gary Stephenson stepped down as Deanery Treasurer and Clive Burrows also stepped down from the Deanery Leadership Team. We thanked them for all they had done in these roles and also welcomed Jo Tatum as Area Dean.

Following the AGM the Deanery Leadership Team was made up of:

Ex-officio Members: Rev'd Jo Tatum (Area Dean), Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)

Lay Chair: Elaine Hinchliffe

Deanery Secretary: Peter Horne

Deanery Treasurer: Trevor Peel

DLT Members: Rev'd Tom Gillum, Gary Stephenson, Fola Sowunmi (co-opted)

The Deanery paid managed to exceed the percentage of giving for ministry paid in 2021 (96% as opposed to 94.9%). Every parish is thanked for their generosity in these difficult times.

St Peter's United Charities

Armored Young

St Peter's United Charities is a registered charity that is entirely separate from parish funds, having its roots in bequests left to the parish by a number of individuals between 1617 and 1863. In 2022 it continued its work of making grants to local people who are unable to meet the cost of essential household items themselves. We receive requests from a wide range of local organisations including various branches of Social Services, organisations working with the homeless or with people with particular needs, housing associations and advice centres. Many of these requests are on behalf of individuals who are moving into an unfurnished property – often after being homeless, experiencing domestic abuse or relationship breakdown, or being released from prison – and cannot afford to furnish and equip their new home without help. Cookers, fridge freezers and washing machines are the most frequently requested items; of the 65 grants we made in 2022, more than two-thirds were for such kitchen appliances. Other grants were made for a variety of household goods and items of furniture, beds and bedding, clothing and school uniforms, and disability aids. In this way the charity carries on the work “for the benefit of the poor” that was initiated by its benefactors in past centuries.

Safeguarding

Keith Mountford

As the Church of England policy and practice guidance states that ‘All authorised personnel (Clergy, licensed readers, churchwardens and PCC members) must have ‘due regard’ to the safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops including policy and practice guidance. ‘Due regard’ means that none of the above named personnel are free to disregard safeguarding guidance but are required to follow it. The Parish continues in its commitment to the care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy.

Various training sessions continue to be run by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) who also host online network meetings to answer queries and keep everyone updated. As Parish Safeguarding Officer I have attended a PSO induction and Safer Recruitment training session. These courses build on previous training sessions and help with networking. A series of questions arising from the training along with the answers given by the DST is circulated to attendees.

The Diocese has circulated two major documents.. The first is the publication by the Church of England of the “Past Cases Review Report” (PCR2) and the resultant Executive Summary review produced for the Diocese. This was based on reports from parishes throughout the UK containing items of Safeguarding interest. The second is the publication of the draft Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders to be reviewed by the PCC. Transparency is paramount to the safeguarding of people.

Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy

Reverend Jo Tatum

The working world hiccupped into 2022, we anticipated full steam ahead, but Covid was tenacious and held it's grip, meaning the ‘unlocking’ of the city was slower than we hoped for.

Businesses were reluctant to open their doors wholeheartedly and the return to work by all employees continues to be a challenge even as we close 2022.

There is a nervousness, and uncertainty in smaller businesses particularly with rising costs in the Autumn of 2022. But the city at Christmas was (according to early reports) one of the busiest and most profitable. It incites a hesitant optimism for some, and signs of hope for those of us with faith.

GP Chaplaincy

Now established into a steady rhythm in Sneinton, a team of 4 led by Rev Lynda Blakely serves the Windmill surgery. They have had the opportunity to listen to and pray with a number of patients and the expectation of prayer for healing is a significant offer for all patients.

Community Chaplaincy

Sherwood Chaplaincy continues to flourish, again now an established part of Sherwood high street, in shops and cafes and small businesses. The Chaplaincy's café and food provision at St Martin grows in numbers and is a place of meeting for the community, and a place of prayer and sanctuary for both the busy and the marginalized.

Police Chaplaincy

Police Chaplaincy team continues to grow, we have a new member this year from another police force who has moved to Nottingham. He brings with him years of experience and will enrich our team as we endeavor to minister to the staff and officers wider, younger and deeper.

The Chaplaincy was able to lead a funeral for an officer who had died in service, it was a wonderful opportunity to share the love and transforming power of Christ, with hundreds of police staff.

I attended the first Police Chaplaincy conference since 2018 and from that we formed a regional network of Lead Chaplains, from Derbyshire, Leicester, Lincolnshire, and Nottingham. Our regular meetings are a wonderful opportunity to pray together and encourage each other in best practice.

The Chaplains have been invited to join in with the Wellbeing Team when they 'roadshow' at different Police Stations across the County. This project had been cancelled in previous years so the opportunities to spread the word about Chaplaincy 'on the ground' has been great and extremely well received.

The Force Carol Service held at Southwell Minster was filled to capacity now that restrictions have been lifted and it was to see people touched again by the power of the Christmas story.

Workplace Chaplaincy

After a stumbling start the year quickly picked up momentum, it seemed as though everyone is keen to make up for lost time.

St Mary's in partnership with the Workplace Chaplaincy opened its doors every Wednesday for Workplace Wednesday, a chance for workers to enjoy the space of St Mary's, and its creative environment, to work, meet, think and of course drink coffee! The Insight Meetings picked up again with a new calendar of speakers, finding it's permanent home in St Mary's. A wonderful outcome of this partnership working is the launching of the Creative Quarter Chaplaincy, with its Chaplain, Louise Third. Louise is an experience business woman who has long felt called to offer the love and inspiration of the Christian message to local business people. We have planned to run an online Grief Café with Nottinghamshire County Council, this will launch early in 2023.

City Transport have now returned to a full timetable, it has been a difficult time for them, there have been drivers involved in accidents, and some significant numbers of staff with profound health issues. The Chaplaincy counts it a privilege to walk with men and women on these difficult pathways.

We have a new Chaplain at the University of Law – Jane Watson comes to us after completing her qualification of Chaplain to Young People and is the perfect fit for this place of Education situated at the top of Mount Street.

Our newest Chaplain is Maggie Ross, who takes over the Chaplaincy at Marks and Spencer. Maggie has many connections with the city, through her work at Age UK and her continuing vocation with the judicial service. By her own admission loves spending time in M&S and has already built strong relationships.

Chaplains

We said goodbye to Mike Houghton this year, Mike has been with the Chaplaincy for a number of years, but during Covid spent and developed a greater ministry in his local community. We thank him for his dedicated service to us and pray for his continuing fruitfulness in all he does.

Thank you!

We continue to be indebted to those who support the vision and ministry of the Chaplaincy. In particular I would like to thank St Peter's – the cradle of Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy – who continue to offer us their encouragement both financially and prayerfully. I am always touched by whenever I am in St Peter's people ask with interest how the work is going. I receive it as a huge gift.

The year has whizzed by and feels as though we are on the threshold of even more incredible opportunities. Increasingly people are excited at the potential of offering Chaplaincy in all its variety of places and spaces. I for one can't wait to see what comes next!