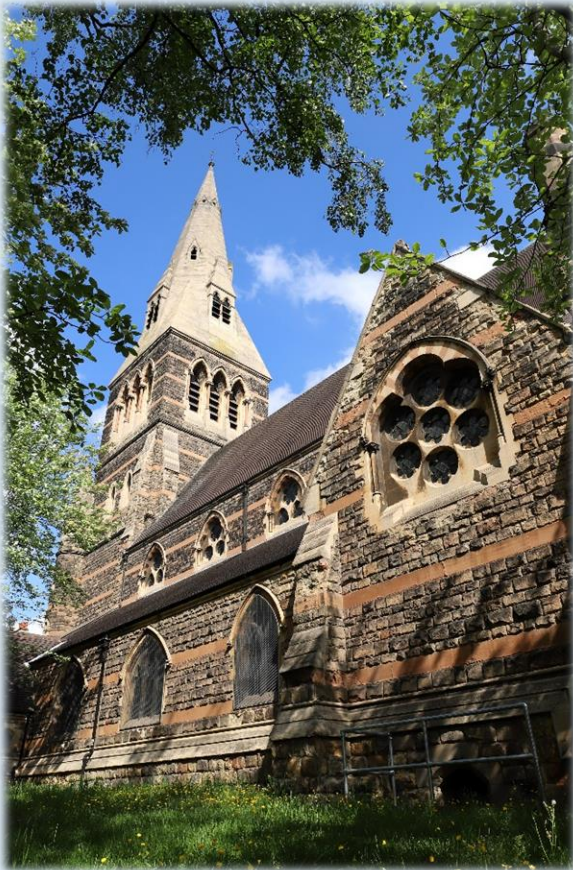




**ST PETER & ALL SAINTS**  
**NOTTINGHAM**

**Annual Report**  
**2023**



# The Rector

*The Reverend Christopher Harrison*

It has been another busy year in the life of St Peter's and All Saints' churches. During 2023 an encouraging number of new people joined the congregations of both churches, and several of these have begun to play an active role in the parish. There has been an increase in the diversity of those attending the churches; this includes quite a few young adults and families, especially at St Peter's. We seem to attract those who prefer a style of worship which is traditional but with a contemporary and welcoming ambience, and this is probably what many of our members from overseas are used to in their home countries. The midweek services tend to attract various people who, for whatever reason, do not or cannot come on a Sunday, and each has its own particular following.



We have worked hard on our ministry of welcome, and this has borne fruit. There has been a series of occasional lunches after the main Sunday service at St Peter's, which have met with a good response and have provided an opportunity for people to get to know one another better, especially newcomers. The work of the stewards at both churches in greeting those who attend services is an integral part of our church life, and its value should not be underestimated. We endeavour to make our churches hospitable and accessible to those who come through the doors during the week, perhaps seeking support or a listening ear, or to pray, reflect, or just be still. Knowing how to respond to such people is an art, and we are blessed with several staff members and volunteers, not least our vergers team, who are highly adept in this ministry. On several occasions during 2023 we also set up an outreach stall in front of St Peter's to welcome passers-by and present the human face of the church.

The work on our inclusivity agenda has looked at how to move from our increased diversity to greater involvement on the part of our members, with the churches not being under the control of a select few but having a real sense of ownership and belonging which is felt by the whole of the church community. This is not easy to achieve, and we still have some way to go. Our links with the Nottinghamshire LGBT+ Network grew considerably stronger in 2023, however, notably through a series of afternoon services of celebration of love, life and inclusivity at St Peter's which have attracted good congregations. It has also been excellent to see our partnership grow with the Nottingham Enlightening Word church (a congregation largely of people originally from Hong Kong), and St Gabriel's Eritrean Orthodox church, both of which meet every week at All Saints'. Both St Peter's and All Saints', therefore, have a considerable international dimension, and we are all enriched by this.

Our concern for the wider world has continued to be expressed through the work of the Overseas Committee, and we have once again raised money not just for ongoing projects but also for several emergency appeals. We have maintained our interest in environmental issues, although the Caring for our Common Home group has fallen into abeyance with two of its key members, Chris and Harriet Ward, moving away from the parish. It has been good to develop environmental campaigning links with Christian Aid, however. It has also been encouraging to see our links with Nottingham Citizens grow and develop, with more people from the parish becoming involved; the work of this community organising group often has an international dimension alongside its local activities, and migration justice has become an important and ongoing theme.

The churchyards at both All Saints' and St Peter's churches are currently very well cared for, and each of them is a green oasis in the concrete jungle of the city. The 'physic garden' at St Peter's, planned and maintained by Sue Baker, is maturing well, and the Peace Garden at All Saints' is a beautiful and colourful gem in the bleak urban landscape. A new initiative in recent months has been the increasing links between All Saints' church and the 'Gamble Street Corner' project. This grows vegetables for the local community, with one of the aims being to help those suffering from food poverty. It is sad, however, that both churchyards suffer from the effects of antisocial behaviour and various unpleasant practices, and our staff and volunteers deserve medals for dealing with this.

Our response to local community need takes place largely through our partner projects. SFiCE, at All Saints' Hall, serves meals several times a week to rough sleepers and other vulnerable adults; they were featured on BBC television for the valuable work they do. We are building up our links with The Nottingham Arimathea Trust through its work with asylum seekers at All Saints' House, but this is a slow process. The rough sleepers' breakfast at St Peter's has resumed, initially every month but it is hoped that it can now become more frequent. We have also done valuable work in providing conversation classes for people from Hong Kong who have settled in the Nottingham area. From time to time, we welcome groups of schoolchildren who come

to church to learn about history, heritage, worship and the Christian faith in general, and this is much appreciated by the schools concerned.

We have sadly lost some of our core members in recent months, notably the Reverend John Henson, Bryan Wilkinson, Joan Crawforth and Bridgett Spalding. As a church community we endeavour to be there for all those who mourn, as well as those who are close to death, but it is surprising (and somewhat concerning), that the numbers of funerals, weddings and baptisms at our churches seems to have declined in recent years. Perhaps this is result of the growing apathy and scepticism toward the Church in general, which cannot be helped by the fact that the Church of England is often given such a bad press.

This will be my last contribution to our parish's Annual Report, and I will have retired before the Annual Church Meeting in May. I have greatly enjoyed working with a wide range of members of the parish, ordained and lay, over the fifteen years since I came to Nottingham. Over the last year, our churchwardens have continued to serve our churches with deep devotion and commitment; I also thank all our PCC members for their contributions. We are greatly indebted to have had the services of Peter Moore, our treasurer for very many years now, and I hope that a successor is soon found who will enable him to take a well deserved retirement. All those who have served on our various committees have once again put in many hours of service to the parish, and at a time when many churches are finding it increasingly difficult to find volunteers their work is all the more valuable. We continue to be blessed by a strong clergy team, although we miss James Saxton, who stepped back from active ministry in the summer of 2023. Anna Clarke's pioneer ministry to students at All Saints' church has made a promising start. Adele and Peter Siepman, leading respectively the administrative and musical work of the parish, have once again been towers of strength, ably supported by other staff and volunteers. We have also continued to benefit massively from the work of our verger team, although Mike Chappell has now moved to a new post and has been replaced by Ian Wright.

I will be very sad to leave this parish at a time when its ministry is developing and flourishing in many important areas. But as one chapter draws to a close, another is beginning, and the story of St Peter's and All Saints' during my time as Rector has always reminded us that as we leave the past behind, the future opens up ahead of us in new and exciting ways. I hope and pray that this will continue to be the case in the years to come, and that the leadership of a new incumbent will begin without undue delay, bringing new blessings and opportunities to all those who associate with these unique churches, as well as to the wider city of Nottingham and beyond.

## **All Saints' Churchwardens**

*Lorraine Smedley & David Towers*

At the end of 2022 All Saints' Church became home to St Gabriel's (Eritrean Orthodox) Church, a young and lively community of over 300 people. Together with NEW (Nottingham Enlightening Word) Church, with a similar number of young families from HongKong, we are a Christian worshipping community from three continents. We gathered together for the first time for our All Saints' day celebration with musical contributions from all. In the report for 2022 I said we had become host to St Gabriel's and when we met with the Archdeacon in September he described All Saints' as a 'host church'. I've been pondering over this and my understanding is that we at All Saints' are all guests of Christ as the host, surely.

In September we were joined by Anna Clarke (Pioneer Minister for Students) who soon decamped to the front churchyard with lights, music and bbq food, to welcome the inquiring and hungry students passing by. Anna is a welcome addition to the clergy team at All Saints' with her warmth and heart for the Gospel of love. The congregation of All Saints' is so grateful to all the clergy for their continued support enabling us to bear witness to the Christian faith in the form of the Eucharistic service.

### **Community Churchyard Building Community Resilience.**

The work in the church yard continued apace as Community Payback visited on a weekly basis. Their hard work with hedges, shrubs and lawn is still in evidence this spring. The much needed tree survey was completed and revealed nothing too alarming.



Towards the end of the season we made contact with Paul Cox who imagined nottz garden project into being. The ground of Raleigh Street Patch had been prepared with the help of Community Payback and now, onions, garlic, kale and broad beans are already under way and destined for the kitchen of Sfice. The back yard of All Saints' House has become Loveyard. In conjunction with the residents the plan is for raised beds and picnic tables, with art work and occasional events in the summer.

### Farewell

In the autumn we bade a fond farewell to Rev James Saxton who served All Saints' loyally, particularly during the rector's sabbatical. Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to Christopher. We wish him well in his retirement. His abiding legacy has to be the inclusivity of All Saints'. One of the first decisions he made was for a portion of the churchyard to be given over to become a Peace Garden, thus beginning the opening of the churchyard for the local community. He showed his commitment to the 'Women of Faith' initiative by his attendance at their meetings and events. He also introduced the Arimathea Trust to All Saints' House to support their important work with refugees and was an enthusiastic supporter of Parminder as she built up the Sfice charity in the Parish Hall. Christopher also opened up the church to the congregations from Hongkong and Eritrea confirming the bond we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. All Saints' Church remains determined to be open as often as possible to serve the people around us in whatever way we can.



## St Peter's Churchwardens

*Dorothy Mountford & Jane Henson*

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 Jane Henson has replaced Chigozie Nwachukwu as Churchwarden and Chi has become the deputy churchwarden. Many thanks to Chi for his year in post and thanks for his continuing support as deputy. He continues as assistant verger 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).

Mike Chappell our Head verger and Paul Stevenson our assistant verger continued their invaluable 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.

In 2023 we lost four much loved members of our congregation: Bryan Wilkinson, John Henson, Joan Crawforth and Bridgett Spalding. We miss them and ember them with love and gratitude.

On Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> Ian Coates, the Caretaker from Huntingdon Primary School, Grace O'Malley Kumar and Barnaby Webber, students at Nottingham University, were murdered. That Evening a vigil was held in St Peter's led by the Bishop and attended by hundreds of students and citizens who left flowers and lit candles. For many days after the church was a place of refuge and prayer and support for the city as it mourned the deaths of Ian, Grace and Barnaby.

Although 2022 saw the lifting of many of the Covid restrictions in 2023 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.

We welcomed Ian Wright as our new Ministry Assistant in October 2022 for a year's placement. Such was Ian's breadth of experience and his care and support to both our churches that, much to the delight of all, his contract was extended for a second year. Ian's almost ever-present presence in church alongside the vergers ensures that there is always at welcome at St Peter's. This 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.

In 2023 we had two formal visits. The first was from 30 members of the Nottingham and Derbyshire Ricardian Society, whose interest in the church lay in the fact that, prior to the Battle of Bosworth Field, King Richard III mustered his troops outside the church where they attended a mass. The other visit was from the Radcliffe-on-Trent U3A. Both groups spent over 2 hours in the church and the latter, with an average age of over 80, gamely climbed both spiral stairs cases – the one to visit our roof and admire the new lead and the sadly less than impressive view, the other to access the rood screen with its unique view of the nave .

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. The diversity of our congregation continues to increase, with young people and families from a wide range of world majority heritage backgrounds attending regularly and staying for coffee after the service. We again 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.

We have noticed that towards the end of 2023 our congregation has expanded both in numbers and diversity. Chi has made a proposal that we set up a welcoming group to ensure that everyone new to our church has someone to whom they can personally relate and who can support them.

Visitors continue to come into the church during the week and on Saturdays from here and everywhere, including Barcelona, Texas, Malaysia, Jerusalem, France, Colombia, Ireland, Scotland and Italy. We have become the focus for international visitors who take a keen interest in our heritage, military groups who visit the war memorial and those on the ancestry search.

Our vergers, Mike, Paul and Chi, are there for people who seek peace and tranquillity amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, who want to know about the history and heritage of our city, to find a place to pray or appreciate a friendly face and 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. We are very fortunate to have Saxon Barrie who comes into Church every Tuesday to meet and greet and to organise our small but popular second-hand bookshelf. For more details see the Overseas Committee report.

Members of St Peter's Congregation continue to facilitate the support sessions known as the 'Hong Kong Dialogue'. These take place on a weekly basis in All Saints' Church, where we are warmly welcomed and supported by Lorraine the Churchwarden. Three groups now meet regularly to learn about language and culture. Visits to the Arboretum and to St Peter's were much appreciated and there are plans for future trips.

Saturdays continue to see an increase in visitor numbers to St Peter's. We are 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.

Our memorial garden continues to grow and flourish. Sue Baker, our green fingered choir member, has worked tirelessly on tidying, planting, pruning and nurturing ably assisted by Mike the verger.

In February St Peter's opened its doors for two Light Night events. Helen Hall, our associate priest, along with colleagues and students from NTU provided activities based on the work of Margaret Cavendish's science fiction story 'The Blazing World'. There were activities for children and the church was lit by candles. Over 1000 people visited on the Friday evening and over 1200 on the Saturday. This was a wonderful opportunity to welcome so many people and to tell them about the church our worship as well as our history and heritage.

In March 2023, 90 Year three 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 Spring/Easter cards. In June we had a visit from Rosslyn year 1 children who came to find out what a church is for. This was their third annual visit, and we look forward to welcoming them again in both the Spring and Summer term of 2024. Thanks, as always, 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. We mourn the loss of Bryan and Bridgett who were such a wonderful part of what we offered to the children and their teachers.

Our 'We Are One' group has continued to grow - meetings had been held on Zoom with discussions on Ben Lindsay's book "We Need to Talk about Race: Understanding the Black Experience in White Majority Churches". An anti-racist policy has been created and communicated to our congregation and placed on our website.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> we held our first service of Celebrating Life, Love and Inclusivity, which was attended by over 30 people and followed by tea and cakes and good fellowship with the support of the Nottingham LGBT plus network. The service has taken place every other month since.

In late September 2023 as in 2022 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 and Volunteers have plans in Holy Week.

Monday Meditation and mid-week Communion services on Tuesdays and Thursdays are all well attended having returned to pre-pandemic numbers. It continues to be a privilege to host 'POhWER' at St Peters' every second Wednesday of the month. This is a community group for people affected by mental health problems or who are feeling isolated. This group is free and supported by POhWER volunteers who meet in the St James's room. An Asbestos Bereavement Support Group also meets one Friday per month in the St James's room.

A Christmas breakfast with cards and presents was supplied by Framework and the NHS for the homeless and rough sleepers and supported by our volunteers. A good time was had by all and the weekly breakfast and drop-in sessions will be able to be reinstated in 2024.

This year saw the refurbishing of the church kitchen, with the much-needed restoration of a hot water supply using 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.

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.

## **All Saints' Bell Ringers**

*Claire Goodger*

2023 has been a fairly good year for the Nottingham University Society. There was some initial apprehension when we lost many of our members in June through graduations, but we regained plenty of new ringers in September who've settled well into the society. This includes 5 who'd never rung before moving to Uni, all making good progress. Attendance has been high and members are keen to take part, giving our practices a fun atmosphere.

Outside of practices we've been active with ringing outings. Our former master led a very successful summer tour around Lincoln, and we also joined other university societies in York with the Northern Universities Association and in Derby with Sheffield's ringers. We've taken our freshers on a welcoming tour around Nottingham's towers which was met with enthusiasm, and we joined our alumni for a tour in Leicester ahead of our annual dinner.

In the past year, 21 quarter peals and two peals have been rung at All Saints'. Most notably, there was the first peal for the society rung by an all-female band with it being the first ever for one of our students, a fantastic achievement for all those involved. A quarter was also held to mark the coronation of King Charles III and on a more sombre note, one was rung by a band of mostly current students in tribute to the victims of the attacks that took place in June.

All in all, it's been an excellent year. Many thanks go to Adele and the Churchwardens for letting us use the tower as well as the help and support. Also, thanks to Ed Walker and Paul Mason for looking after the bells.

## St Peter's Bell Ringers

*Matthew Jones*

2023 was a quiet year for the St Peter's ringers. While St Mary's bells were out of action, the St Mary's ringers continued to ring for both morning and evening services at St Peter's. This arrangement concluded at Christmas when the tower at St Mary's was repaired. My thanks to the St Mary's ringers for helping with service ringing during this period.

Practices continue to be useful and productive. We have gained some students who are being pushed onto more complex methods, and we were ringing surprise major every week during the last few months of 2023. We still focus on 8 bells ringing, but occasionally have broken onto 10 when we have had a strong enough band.

25 quarters were rung during 2023, but no peals. 19 ringers also took part in some general ringing for the coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May, with both members of St Mary's and St Peter's involved. We also tolled the tenor for 30 minutes in memory of the victim of the Nottingham stabbings following the vigil in Market Square on Thursday 15th June.

My thanks to Paul Mason, Martin Jones, Edward Walker, and Edward Handbury for helping with the day to day maintenance of the bells. Thanks also to Edward Walker and Natasha Klaus for helping to run the tower when I have been away. Finally, thanks to the church authorities for being so helpful in keeping the bells and band going.

## St Peter's Church flower team

In 2023 Christine Humphries, Jane Moore and Margie Shaw, our Happy Band of Flower Arrangers picked up the baton – or rather the oasis and their watering cans from where they left them pre covid.

During last year Christine, Jane and Margie arranged fresh flowers and greenery for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Their arrangements which add so much to the beauty of St Peter's in Christine's words: 'make the church looked cared for'. She also added that lovely Ian is doing his best to preserve the flowers for as long as possible at all costs.



As well as enhancing the major feast days our Happy Band create beautiful displays for a range of personal anniversaries by request – for sad times and happy, to remember lost dear ones and to celebrate birthdays and wedding days for funerals and memorial services.

See the images above and below for some of the arrangements from 2023.

This is a very rewarding ministry which they give to the church. Any one is welcome to join the team. In Christine's inimitable words: "it doesn't have to be high profile or Constance Spry. Some fresh flowers- a bunch of roses from the supermarket and some greenery from the garden- put in a vase does the job of making the church look lovely'.

Our thanks go out to Christine and Jane and Margie (and Ian) for their creativity and dedication.

## St Peter's Centre Coffee Room

*Brian Dunn*

We managed to restart Saturday opening at the end of May, and prices were increased in July. The quarterly figures were much improved from the previous year and at £131K for the year as compared with £134K in 2019 were virtually up to pre-covid levels. This produced a net contribution for the year of £26,858 as compared to £15,049 in 2022, an excellent result with many thanks for the hard work of Lynne and her team.

## St Peter's Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

*Adele Siepmann*

2023 has been a positive year for our little shop, despite the challenges facing businesses recently. The decrease in footfall past St Peter's, thanks to the closure of many Lister Gate shops and the Broadmarsh demolition, has been noticed by us all, but we are delighted to have retained a faithful band of customers, both in the Coffee Room and Fairtrade shop.

The demise of Traidcraft last year left us in a difficult situation with regards to obtaining fairtrade groceries. Whilst there is not a comparable company on the market at the moment, we have managed to supply a wider range of groceries that we thought would be possible this time last year. However, we have seen a decrease in the sale of fairtrade food – except chocolate! – but have seen an increase in purchases of items we very widely call 'crafts'. These include cards (many of which have a bible verse), jute bags, decorative gifts and toys. The cost-of-living crisis has caused fairtrade buyers to shop in their local supermarkets rather than making a journey into town, which has taken its toll on us.

We have remained positive, however, and thanks to the perseverance of our wonderful volunteers, the shop has remained open three days a week for most weeks of the year. The Christmas and Easter seasons are always good, and 2023 didn't disappoint. Sales of the 'Real' Easter Eggs and Advent Calendars are always extremely healthy, and Christmas cards were especially popular this year. We were all very pleased to have made a good profit at the end of the year, which is put back into parish funds.

Please spread the word about the shop, and most importantly, use it! If you, or anybody you know, would like to volunteer with us, please get in touch!

## All Saints' Church student outreach

*The Reverend Anna Clarke*

I was licensed last summer as a Student Pioneer Minister. It is my great joy to pray for Trent University students and share with them the good news of Jesus.

Last September a small team of us began "Burger Nights". Once a month, on a Wednesday evening, we do a BBQ in the All Saints' garden for the students in the neighbourhood. We have seen approximately 80 students come along to each Burger Night. So far we have done six Burger Nights and we've loved each one. It has been so fun to meet the students that live around All Saints, to build relationships and to even get a chance to pray for some.

In September 2024 we hope to begin a weekly worship gathering at All Saints specifically for students. Please pray for us as we continue to engage with students at All Saints.

## Music

*Peter Siepmann*

During the course of 2023, the church choir sang for sixty-seven services across our two churches, as well as visits to two of the most famous ecclesiastical buildings in the country. The core of the choir's work continued to be, of course, the regular *opus Dei* of the parish, with the usual monthly pattern of Matins, Evensong (at All Saints') and Sung Eucharist – on first, second, and third/fourth Sundays respectively. An extra morning visit to All Saints' for the Feast of the Presentation on 29<sup>th</sup> January was memorable, not just through our first performance of Thomas Tallis's beautiful *Videte Miraculum*, but also for the dovetailing of the choir's rehearsal with the ending of the St Gabriel's service – we arrived as the church, incense thick in the air, was full to standing room only with the entirely white-robed congregation celebrating a baptism – a sight to behold, and a wonderful addition to the richly diverse All Saints' community! Coffee Break Concerts continued to grow in popularity as the year progressed with performances in February from the Quintessential wind quintet, our own Philip Sherratt, baritone James Gaughan and Trio Sonorité in association with the 'Illuminate' project.

In March, it was very good to add two new pieces to our repertoire - Leighton's Second Service and John Tavener's *Mother of God* - the sheet music for which were bought through a generous bequest by the late George Rayment – a great supporter of the choir (who would always bid a cheery "Morning, girls" to the sopranos on his way up to Communion, back in the days when we celebrated the Eucharist at the High Altar!). March would also see members of the choir sing for the funeral of another staunch choir supporter, Bryan Wilkinson.



Shortly after Easter, the choir were privileged to be in residence at York Minster for two days in April. With Phil at the helm of the newly restored organ and the choir in fine voice, this was a wonderful weekend of superb music and liturgy that opened with Evensong in the presence of the Archbishop - an exciting surprise for us all! Thanks to the now almost ubiquitous practice of live streaming, the Sunday morning Eucharist is still available on YouTube ([tinyurl.com/yorkeucharist](https://tinyurl.com/yorkeucharist)) with highlights including Phil's rousing improvisation before the last verse of the processional hymn, the choir's excellent performance of Becky McGlade's gorgeous *Missa Brevis*, and the Dean almost setting the altar on fire with a particularly enthusiastic swing of the thurible! It was also a particular joy to sing *The Fair Chivalry* at Evensong later that day (St George's Day), a dramatic anthem written by Robert Ashfield, a former Rector Chori at Southwell Minster.



*Assistant Director of Music, Phil Sherratt,  
at York Minster's nave organ console  
(photograph by Michael Gillie)*

There was no relaxation of the pace once we returned from York with the month of May seeing a service of Matins in celebration of the Coronation, and the hosting of one of the local division of RSCM's series of 'Come and Sing Evensong' events. The June series of Saturday morning concerts included performances devoted to the music of local composers Walter 'Gaze' Cooper and Richard Hinsley, concerti grossi by Handel (performed by our resident instrumental ensemble, saraBande), and a recital by pianist Ed Hodgkinson. In July, we were delighted to host one of the concerts of the Nottingham Chamber Music Festival.

The choir was off on its travels again in August, this time for four days to the extraordinary surroundings of St Paul's Cathedral in London. On the Monday, Thursday and Friday of our visit, we sang Evensong in the Quire accompanied by Phil on the cathedral's famous five-manual organ; the Tuesday saw the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus a Sung Eucharist was held under the great dome of the cathedral at which we sang Grayston Ives' quirky *Missa Brevis* (accompanied, as luck would have it, by the composer's last organ scholar at Magdalen College Oxford, Martin Ford - now the cathedral's Acting Sub-Organist). Within hours of our final Evensong at St Paul's (at which we sang JS Bach's sublime funeral motet, *O Jesu Christ, meus Lebens Licht*), we learned of the death of one of the choir's longest serving and most devoted members, Christopher Kent. Members of St Peter's Choir and the Nottingham Bach Choir came together to sing for Chris's funeral in September, which also included a superb tribute given by Andrew Davys.



*Christopher Kent (1944-2023)  
flanked by Andrew and Trevor Davys  
(photograph by Michael Leuty)*

Members of the choir were pleased to sing at the short service that opened the Parish's Envisioning Day with the Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Venerable Phil Williams. We were also honoured to have Archdeacon Phil with us at the previous evening's rehearsal, which ended with an extended discussion on the future of the parish, and the role of music within it. The enthusiasm for the Church, its mission and its music was as palpable as it was moving, as members of the choir communicated their thoughts to the Archdeacon with passion, eloquence and humour. We have been blessed over the past fifteen years to work with a Rector who deeply understands and appreciates the importance to the mission of the church of high-quality music and liturgy, and it was both reassuring and energising to see in the 'word cloud' generated by members of the congregation as part of the envisioning process, that music, choir and liturgy were central to the experience of so many of our community. But the future is a delicate thing, indeed with the choir relying on an increasing small core of singers (with visits such as those to York and St Paul's only possible with the invaluable support of various 'deputy' choristers), managing the membership of the group is something that demands constant nurture and support.



*The Choir of St Peter's at St Paul's Cathedral, August 2023  
(photograph by Andy Foan)*

Concerts in October included performances by Stephen Cooper (baritone) and Paul Hale (piano), the superb classical guitarist James Woodrow, our own Benjamin Green (Assistant Organist at All Saints') and, finally, the Choir of St Peter's in something of a 'showcase' of some of the repertoire highlights of the term - the programme was a powerful indication of the breadth of repertoire that our talented choir gets through in just one term. October also saw members of the choir (joined, again, with those from Nottingham Bach Choir) sing for the funeral of the Reverend Canon John Henson at Southwell Minster.

After several years of holding choral evening services (Evensong on the second Sunday of the month, Compline on the fourth) at All Saints', these offices returned to St Peter's as of December, where we have been pleased to see growing numbers in the congregation. An excellent Carol Service brought the year to a close.

My thanks, as ever, to Phil Sherratt - not just for his excellent organ playing (both home and away) but also for his support, counsel and eagle-eyed proof reading; to Keith Charter for his help in staging the Coffee Break Concerts and managing the Music Fund; to Adele, Ian, Chi, Mike and Paul for their administrative and logistical support, to Christopher and the clergy team, but most of all to the singers of the church choir for the time and talent they invest into the church and parish.

### PROGRAMME

*"From Trinity to Advent"  
a term in life of St Peter's Choir*

Te Deum in F	J Ireland (1914-1992)
Kyrie & Gloria <i>from</i> Missa Brevis	Becky McGlade (b.1974)
Fantasia in G major "Piece d'Orgue"	JS Bach (1685-1750)
Vox Christi	Philip Wilby (b.1949)
Introitus & Kyrie <i>from</i> Missa pro defunctis a 4	TL de Victoria (1584-1611)
Psalms Prelude in D minor, Set 1 No. 1	H Howells (1892-1983)
Light eternal	Cecilia McDowall (b.1951)
Ubi caritas	Ola Gjeilo (b.1978)
I look from afar	Anthony Piccolo (b.1946)

*The programme from the church choir's concert in October*



# All Saints' & St Peter's Site Committee

*Brian Dunn*

Membership: Brian Dunn, The Rector, Keith Charter, Lorraine Smedley, Jane Henson, 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 and the member of staff primarily responsible is the Head Verger who until recently was Mike Chappell. This job was taken over by Ian Wright who was already on this committee in his previous capacity as Ministry Assistant. 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. Ian Brothwell continues to be a tremendous help and more recently Sue Baker has started work on the St Peter's garden, and a physic garden is taking shape.

## St Peter's

- The handrails for the north steps have been successfully completed.
- We received a quotation for renewal of the sound system from Nextronics on which we have consulted the diocesan adviser, and this was actioned early in 2024 at a cost of £2610 plus VAT, well below previous indications.
- The kitchen in the church was to be refurbished by Wickes at a cost of £9K but they were unable to do the work due to our location and we eventually had the cost refunded. A lower cost more limited option was pursued with 'Handy Andy' with a new water tank and sink units etc at a cost of £2100.
- There are a number of small window breakages for which we are pursuing quotations.
- Paul is working on the church toilets and the one opposite the kitchen is nearly completed.
- The music shelving has been relocated in the St James's Room and the space created is being used for chair storage. Grateful thanks to Peter Siepmann for doing an excellent job.
- Peter Rogan has carried out the quinquennial inspection and report, which is a very detailed document, and is available.

## All Saints

- An excellent report on the trees in the churchyard has been produced by EMEC and we have instructed Apple Tree services to carry out some of the recommendations at a cost of £3K plus VAT. No work has been done on these for some years.
- A quotation for £9K has been received for remedial work to the roof over the toilet area which leaks. We have sourced most of the funding and are awaiting faculty permission.
- We have received a helpful report from Nigel Glenister on the condition of All Saints' House. At present this house is being retained, occupied by Arimathea Trust for asylum seekers on a short-term extension to the lease.

## Health and Safety

This is now dealt with by a separate committee, which was being chaired by Mike Chappell until he recently left us. We do now have reasonably up-to-date risk assessments on nearly all the relevant areas and are dealing with specific issues. The floodlights in the gallery were deemed to be unsafe and are in process of being replaced and re-located by Ken Burrows Ltd, our electricians. St Peter's paving stones are a trip hazard and Mike, and now Ian have been in touch with the Council, who are responsible. We are in process of testing the drinking water in the church kitchen.

# 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 remembers Joan Crawford's life with thanks**

In the 2022 Annual Report we shared our sadness at the death of Laurie Crawforth, a long-time supporter of the Overseas Committee and its work along with his wife Joan. This year it is with equally heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of Joan.

## **Committee Meetings**

The Overseas Committee continued to meet by Zoom every two months 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. This has continued to be a successful way of keeping together. We see each other face to face most Sundays and find that Zoom is a good way of cutting down on fuel emissions, since some of us live in far flung corners of the city and county, others have family responsibilities and Zoom makes it possible for those with young families to join in evening meetings.

## **Our Team**

Our thanks as always go to Lina Morgan our secretary. This year we were sad to say goodbye to Yvonne Harriss, who during Covid had hosted our annual face to face summer meeting in her lovely garden to enjoy each other's company and breathe country air. Our thanks go to Yvonne and her husband Chas for all their support. We will miss her.

This year we were delighted to welcome to the team Ian Bell who recently graduated from NTU and is now a volunteer for Christian Aid's Climate Justice Agenda. Ian's contribution has brought a new perspective to the overseas committee. Here is a resume of a discussion paper which came out of his sharing information about the UK's The Loss and Damage Fund and the importance of Climate Justice to us at St Peter's and we address in our summer meeting.

## **Christian Aid Climate Change Advocacy**

Ian Bell our latest member has been in contact with the Christian Union at NTU about working on the Climate justice Agenda which he and Christopher will launch with us all during Advent. Ian has found that the CU were less than willing to sign up to work with him because Christian Aid supports a wide range of people in need, not always Christians, as do we on the Overseas Committee. We assume that the 'Christian' part of CA refers to those who support the charity and not to the recipients of help.

However here are a couple of rather exciting opportunities:

- Ian working with Andy and Spencer, who attend St Peter's and are the leaders from the Luther College responsible for 10 young people studying in Nottingham for a year. Ian has made a link and is going to contact them about Climate Justice.
- Our Freshers' stalls seemed to have paid dividends - yesterday we had eight new students, four from China, one from Vietnam, one from India and one from Uganda.
- Chi wants to start a Welcome Group to make sure that new people are supported as well as initially welcomed.
- The bring and share lunch was such a success at Petertide because we knew each other. The coffee room is small, doesn't allow for circulating and has a poor acoustic which doesn't help conversations between native speakers and those for whom English is a second language.

## **Action:**

- Can we think about how we can have a get together with our new arrivals? Venue, timing, catering - some easier to decide on than others.
- The one size fits all approach of the CU suggest that that are young people who want a more inclusive church. How can we be more proactive?
- A young Indian woman who is Hindu came along to church with her Ugandan friend who is a Christian. Invite new people lunch - being in someone's home and being cooked for seemed to go down well. Perhaps we could make this part of our welcome? Look what happened when Canon Ingles asked Lina to tea at the Vicarage when she first arrived in Nottingham and at St Peter's.

## **Advent Sunday**

The Overseas Committee provided cakes and filter coffee after the Advent Sunday service in order to raise funds in support of the Shin family, our CMS mission links.

## **Climate Justice Sunday 10th December**

Ian addressed the congregation and the service was followed by a Bring and share lunch and the signing of the letter below to Lilian Greenwood, the MP for St Peter's.



Dear Rt. Hon. Lillian Greenwood MP,

*As you are well aware of, as a civilisation, humanity is well off course to meet its Climate Change targets by 2050, with the impacts of such failure being felt more harshly and brutally by the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities, even though they are least to blame. It is no secret that us in developed states have been the predominant players in driving the Loss and Damage caused by the impacts of Climate Change- through our obsession with Fossil Fuels, and the incessant desire to accumulate more and more and more. Which has in no small way contributed to the dilapidation of Earth's precious natural resources, adding to the wildfire of scarcity in basic necessities such as water, fertile land, food, and even shelter.*

*Essentially, in the developing world people are drowning in the ever-rising seas of our material dissatisfaction, with innocent families starving in the desertification of climate action and our political will to drastically alter the developed world's political, economic, and social structures in such a manner that puts ecological integrity at the heart of all that we seek to accomplish. In the midst of the sweltering heats of Climate Injustice, incarcerating people from the fundamental need to fill their bellies with the crops of their own soils, we strongly believe that more ought to be done by the developed world to remove its polluting foot off of the necks of the developing, placing the responsibility not on ordinary people who merely exist within our polluting governing and global structures, but those at the top who shape them, uphold them, and benefit from them.*

*As the end of COP28 comes to a close, we ask, as concerned citizens, as siblings, parents & grandparents, and as fellow human beings, will you meet with our Church community to discuss our desire for greater action on Climate Justice, and how you may assist us in our mission to Make Polluters Pay? Climate Justice is Racial Justice. Climate Justice is Social Justice. Climate Justice is Global Justice. Ultimately, it is by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we could ever dream to do alone.*

### **Fund Raising Events**

Shrove Tuesday 2023 saw the ever-popular Pancake Party take place on Zoom. Our Ministry Assistant Ian Wright compered the evening which concluded with the traditional quiz.

The traditional Easter Breakfast was held on Easter Monday at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan. £450 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](http://www.mercyships.org.uk)

Car Boot Sale - a joint event with the Soul of Africa Youth Leadership charity took place on a very wet summer Sunday morning raising £69 which was shared between the Overseas Committee and the charity.

The Silver Smarties Appeal - The smartie tubes given out on Advent Sunday 2022 and returned by Ascension Day raised 2023 £836.31. Our thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Book Sales - a second-hand bookshelf has been established at the west end of the church ably managed by Saxon Barrie. In 2023 sales in aid of the work of the overseas committee raised £90.06.

Turkish Earthquake 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 earthquake which are still impacting on people's lives and livelihood. £268.87 was raised which was been sent to Muslim Hands in Hyson Green. It was a privilege to be asked to attend Friday Payers at the Five Ways centre where we were warmly welcomed.

### **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. 2023 again 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. The Committee also set up stall in the week before Christmas. Supported by Rev'd Owen Page and 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. A third outreach event took place during Holy Week.

### **Annual Giving by the PCC**

In the past the Overseas Committee have been grateful to the PCC for the transfer of £3,000 to our funds on an annual basis to support CMS ([churchmissioinsociety.org](http://churchmissioinsociety.org)) USPG ([www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)) and Christian Aid ([ChristianAid.org.uk](http://ChristianAid.org.uk)). Unfortunately, charitable giving by the parish did not take place in 2023, due to the

large budget deficit. It is hoped that this giving will be reinstated in the future. Other 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 ST PETER AND ALL SAINTS**

**OVERSEAS COMMITTEE FUND**

<b>Year to 31 December 2023</b>	<b>Year to 31-Dec-23</b>	<b>Year to 31-Dec-22</b>	<b>Year to 31-Dec-21</b>	<b>Year to 31-Dec-20</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Donation				200.00
<b>Gift aid - donation</b>	75.00			
Gift aid - Silver smarties			75.00	242.00
Charities Aid Foundation -Silver smarties	25.00			
Donations -Silver Smarties	836.31	431.32	239.40	347.00
Donation - Mercy Ships	215.00		50.00	
Gift aid- re Mercy Ships			260.00	-
Gift aid- Afghanistan			70.00	
Gift aid Ukraine		20.00		
Charites Aid Foundation - Ukraine		482.00		
Collections				-
- Afghanistan			5.00	
Collection St Peter Square	19.91	139.72	-	-
Income tax recovered	18.00	30.00	101.00	85.50
Fundraising -Gift aid Pancakes- Ukraine		100.00	-	166.40
Donation Pancake		80.00	-	-
Book sales	90.06			
	<u>1,279.28</u>	<u>1,283.04</u>	<u>800.40</u>	<u>1,040.90</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Grants made				
Ukraine catholic Church		356.00	-	-
Polish Catholic Church		356.00	-	-
Purchase of Smartie Tubes		9.00	-	-
UNHCR Refugee Camps			100.00	500.00
UNHCR			250.00	-
UNHCR Lesbos			-	250.00
CMS Partners			-	500.00
Five Talents			650.00	100.00
CARF			100.00	100.00
Medecin Sans Frontieres			50.00	-
Mercy Ships	215.00		425.00	-
CMS		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
USPG		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Christian Aid		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>215.00</u>	<u>3,721.00</u>	<u>4,575.00</u>	<u>4,450.00</u>
Net income / expenditure in the year	1,064.28 -	2,437.96 -	3,774.60 -	3,409.10
Transfer from PCC	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	<u>1,064.28</u>	<u>562.04 -</u>	<u>774.60 -</u>	<u>409.10</u>
Balance brought forward 1 January 2023	907.30	345.26	1,119.86	1,528.96
Balance carried forward	<u>1,971.58</u>	<u>907.30</u>	<u>345.26</u>	<u>1,119.86</u>

# St Peter's United Charities

*Armored Young*

Through St Peter's United Charities the church is able to help some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the city by providing them with necessities that they cannot otherwise afford. It is a registered charity that is entirely separate from parish funds; its roots lie in bequests left to the parish by a number of individuals between 1617 and 1863, the income from which is administered by the trustees in accordance with the wishes of the original benefactors. In response to requests received from local organisations such as Framework and social services, grants are made for essential items such as cookers, washing machines, beds and bedding, baby equipment and clothing. Many of these grants go to individuals who are moving into an unfurnished property – often after a period of homelessness or temporary accommodation – and cannot afford to furnish and equip their new home without help. In 2023 a total of nearly £10,000 was allocated in grants to 74 people; 44 of these grants involved the purchase of white goods while the remainder covered a wide range of other items.

The charity would like to recruit additional trustees to help continue its work; if this is a role in which you might be interested, please contact Keith Charter at St Peter's or the parish office.

## Safeguarding

*Keith Mountford*

As the Church of England policy and practice guidance states '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. '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 attended the PSO 2023 Conference in Hucknall in July. The day started with an act of worship followed by two workshops and ended with lunch and an opportunity to socialise and network.

The Diocese has circulated several major documents throughout the year beginning with a draft policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders and an extensive document on the responsibilities of Pastoral Visitors. During the year the Choir of St Peter's reviewed their Policies, Procedures and House Style which ensured the safeguarding of all of its members. Transparency is paramount to the safeguarding of all people.

## Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy

*The Reverend Jo Tatum*

The opportunity to reflect on the past year comes at a very apposite moment for me, as I stand on the threshold of a period of Sabbatical.

I was commissioned in 2016 as the latest iteration of Nottingham Workplace Chaplain and much has happened during my tenure. The post has become full time, enabling me to stretch the tent pegs of the Chaplaincy tent and invest in deeper relationships with those organisations that receive Chaplaincy care.

It has also allowed me to develop a team ministry with the Nottinghamshire Police Force. It is with this team, that we met the challenges of 2023, beginning with events that shook Nottingham to its core, unimaginable violence on our streets. Walking the cordon line on that windy morning in the wake of death was perhaps one of the most sobering moments in my ministry as I, together with the Police Chaplaincy team, supported the officers who were quite literally on the front line.

That day culminating at St Peter's Church as it took its place in the heart of the city, providing a place to bring our sorrow and shock, and mark with flowers, lights and prayers the grief of the community. The repercussions of that day, continue to reverberate through city and its Police Force even now. It is a privilege to be in a place where we can support.

The city economy continues to struggle and 2023 saw many more small businesses close, the boarded up commercial units tell the story. The city council too, closing the year in administration.

But the spirit of the city is indomitable and the companies we work with, transport, retail, banking and commercial continue to reinvent themselves and some despite all the odds, flourish and grow. The Workplace Chaplains are always made welcome, wherever we go and serve in a variety of ways, providing support and a listening ear in all circumstances.

The pilot online Grief Café that began early in 2023 with County Council, soon became established and continues to run at regular intervals throughout the year. There is always a group of 10-20 people who appreciate the opportunity to be able to talk openly about their bereavement journey.

But perhaps the abiding highlights of 2023 was the invitation to baptise a young woman, who I met as I visited her place of work as a Chaplain. Her exploration of faith has given me both challenge and delight, culminating in her baptismal vows on Easter morning 2023.

The Chaplaincy continues to offer the most extraordinary opportunities for people to encounter the love of Jesus where they work.

So, whilst I anticipate my Sabbatical with eagerness, I also welcome the prospect of what God might do, whilst I am away, and on my return!

## Nottingham South Deanery

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd Tom Gillum (St Mary's in the Lace Market) and Rev'd Jamie Franklin (Nottingham, St George). We have welcomed Rev'd Fi Shouler (St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey), Rev'd Anna Clarke (Trinity - Pioneer Minister) and curates Amy Jones (Trinity), John Lees-Robinson (Nottingham, St Saviour), Daniel Tsoi (Nottingham, St Nic's). Rev'd Jonny Hughes became priest-in-charge at Nottingham St Andrew's as it joined Trinity and Nottingham St Saviour. Rev'ds Jo and John Lees-Robinson moved to Nottingham St Saviour with a team from Trinity and it re-opened on 17 December.

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 15 February we met at St Peter's in Nottingham and the theme of our meeting was "Crossing Cultures with Christ). The aim of this meeting was to help us to continue to think about the diversity of our Deanery and how we can reflect this in our churches. Our speakers were Rev'd Clive Burrows, Rev'd Liam O'Boyle and Adan Baker (from Refugee Roots).
- On 18 July we met at St Mary's, Wollaton Park. We were joined by Rev'd David McCoulough who shared with us about the varied role chaplains can fulfil. Synod then discussed the potential role for chaplains in their parishes. We also admitted churchwardens who had not been able to attend the visitation services at Southwell.
- On 23 November we met at St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey. Rev'd Jo Tatum, Area Dean, updated Synod on the renewed vision and Trevor Peel, Deanery Treasurer, explained the process for the allocation of giving for ministry for 2024. Cpt Denis Tully and Rev'd Dr Ian Paul then gave a report to Synod about General Synod including the Prayers of Love and Faith.

Our November meeting was also our AGM and a report was provided on the work of the Deanery Leadership Team during the past year. Elaine Hinchliffe had given notice that she was stepping down as Lay Chair at the end of November 2023 and she was thanked for all she had done in this role.

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: Vacant
- Deanery Secretary: Peter Horne
- Deanery Treasurer: Trevor Peel
- DLT Members: Fola Sowunmi, two clergy vacancies, one lay vacancy

We also voted the following people on to Diocesan Synod:

- House of Clergy: Rev'd Jo Tatum, Rev'd Dr Mark Wreford, Rev'd Jonny Hughes and Rev'd Andy Tufnell
- House of Laity: Christopher Gray

The Deanery paid 86.6% of its giving for ministry in 2023. Every parish is thanked for their generosity.