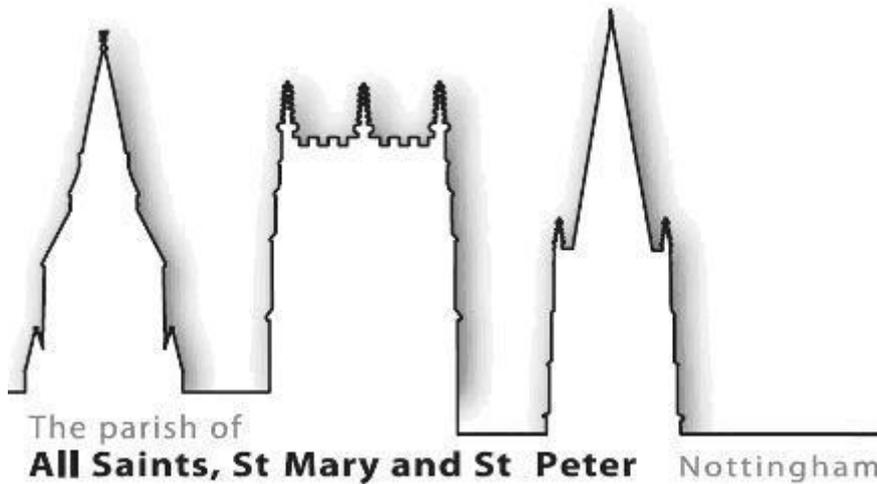


# Annual Report 2017





# Vicar

## The Reverend Christopher Harrison



2017 was of course a particularly significant year in the life of the churches of All Saints, St Mary and St Peter in that it was the last year of the combined parish prior to its division into two parishes as from the beginning of 2018. As

was to be expected, significant work took place prior to the formal creation of the parishes of St Peter and All Saints, Nottingham, on the one hand, and St Mary the Virgin, the Lace Market, Nottingham on the other. The vision set out by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Rev'd Paul Williams, takes as its starting point the premise that churches which are given scope for independent leadership and development will generate more energy and growth than those which are joined together under shared leadership.

Many people devoted substantial time and considerable commitment to enabling the process of transition to two separate parishes to take place relatively smoothly. All seven churchwardens made their own distinct contribution; many of the administrative complexities were overseen and resolved by Keith Charter as PCC secretary. The financial aspects of the separation were not easy, but the parish treasurer, Peter Moore, supported by other members of the Finance Committee and office staff, enabled a careful course to be navigated until agreement was finally reached on the division of the parish's finances.

My withdrawal from St Mary's Church at the end of August was a moment of very mixed feelings for me. Over recent years many developments have taken place at St Mary's, and I will look back upon these, and upon the way in which these have reflected the considerable expertise and gifts of many people, with considerable satisfaction. I will miss working with those who, over the years, have been key members of the lay and clergy team at that church. However, I can also see the merit in the steps that have now been

taken in the direction of an appropriate level of staffing for the three churches, and look forward to seeing how things continue to develop at St Mary's under the new leadership of Tom Gillum. The leadership of Stephen Morris at St Mary's during the interim period has been especially valuable and much appreciated, alongside all that the shadow PCC and newly appointed officers have contributed to the transition process.

Whilst much of the focus, during the period of transition, has been on the establishment of St Mary's as a separate church, our ministry at All Saints' and St Peter's Churches has continued to develop and evolve in ways which reflect the contexts of each church and the gifts and skills of their members. At St Peter's the musical life of the church has gone from strength to strength under the wise and diligent oversight of Peter Siepmann, supported by his team. The social life of the church and its fellowship as a caring, friendly and welcoming community are regularly commended, and it has been good to see an increasing number of young adults from a range of backgrounds, including students, worshipping at the church. The weekday services continue to be well supported, and are a vital element of the life of St Peter's. In recent months St Peter's has had to respond to the growing incidence of rough sleeping in the vicinity of the church, which is a worrying reflection of wider trends. Michael Scott and Paul Stevenson have worked hard to balance our desire to support and help those in such need with the importance of standing firm against anti-social behaviour.

At All Saints, the worshipping community has developed in various encouraging ways, notably through the development of the drama and music groups, the 'Saturday Matinee' film showings, the linking of All Saints with the national 'Places of Welcome' scheme, and our growing friendship with the Chinese Church ('Nottingham Enlightening Word Church') whose members worship at All Saints' on Sunday afternoons. The Women of Faith group, which meets on the first Thursday of each month, had a successful year, with various fund-raising events, an outing, and a holiday club for

children of members of the group. The support given to this group by church members and other friends has been outstanding. Our links with the Nottingham University Society of Change Ringers have also been growing stronger, and we look forward to submitting an application shortly to the Heritage Lottery Fund for help with the establishment of a bell ringing training centre at All Saints'. I would also wish to commend those who have contributed tirelessly to caring for the building and churchyard, including the Peace Garden, over the past year.

Across the parish as a whole, the Overseas Committee has continued to be active and to contribute valuably to the life of the parish, alongside the 'Caring for our Common Home' group, which was set up following the series of Lent talks on this theme. The Coffee Room has had a relatively good year following the falls in sales of some earlier years, and its paid staff and all the volunteers are an invaluable part of the life of the parish.

I would finally like to thank all my clergy and reader colleagues, office and verger staff, musicians, churchwardens, office holders and other PCC members, and all those others who play such an important role in the life of our churches for all they do to make this a splendid team in which to work. Our support for one another is so important at a time when churches in general face many pressures; we do have so much for which to be thankful, however, and I pray that, under God's guidance, we may enter this new chapter in our parish life with confidence and much hope.

# All Saints' Churchwardens

Lorraine Smedley & Julia Atkins

All Saints continues with its weekly traditional Sung Eucharist and Tuesday morning said Communion service. Our drama group introduced a new aspect to the Palm Sunday reading of the Passion story and the arrival of organist Richard Syner began a fledgling music group which includes an accordion, mandolin, guitar and trombone. Together with the singers, it works very well in a folksy kind of way.

The Nottingham Enlightened Word (Chinese) Church continue their worship, twice weekly and we again joined forces for a Sunday service followed by delicious Chinese food. The Women of Faith goes from strength to

strength. Fundraising included a very lively and well attended concert with Freddie Kofi. Among other things this enabled the children to go to see Paddington 2 as a Christmas treat.

The Saturday Matinee is well established and the variety of films brings a variety of people. A relaxing way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Towards the end of the year we made plans to join the national 'Places of Welcome' scheme and going forward open the church Tuesday mornings for free refreshments and hospitality.

The annual bonfire party this year was a great success where we welcomed the

surrounding community and their contributions of food and friendliness.

Finally, following on from the Lent talks we joined in a parish wide 'Care for our Common Home' group and through that, working with Emmanuel House arose the 'Occasion to remember homeless people who have died'. The pastoral care at All Saints' takes place quietly and sensitively with visits, phone calls and help with transport. Throughout the year the people of All Saints' are very supportive of one another and for this we give thanks.

# St Mary's Churchwardens

Paul Sibly & Martyn Jewers

Beyond the regular and faithful worship of the church and care for people in its community, St Mary's again played host to a large number of events and special services, many of which feature in other sections of this Annual Report.

The churchwardens' year has been dominated by decoupling of St Mary's from the City Parish towards a future role as an independent entity with its own life and mission.

Bishop Paul visited the City Parish in March and outlined his vision for St Mary's. This was accepted by the PCC and arrangements for setting up the 'new' Parish began to take shape.

We said our farewells to Rev. Christopher Harrison at the end of August and, although the holiday period made arrangements for a formal thank you difficult, we are most grateful to Rev. Dr Richard Davey, Rev. Dr Helen Hall, Rev. James Saxton and several other clergy for their valued contributions to our services.

In September, Rev. Stephen Morris arrived

'back home' from his four year term as vicar of St Mary Magdalene in Newark and was warmly welcomed as a key player in the transition arrangements put in place for us by Archdeacon Sarah.

In the Parish Office, Wendy Pearce and her assistant Serena Lindsay (covering for Adele Siepmann's maternity leave) provided excellent admin and other support. Latterly Wendy gave generously of her time, expertise and wide-ranging knowledge as our own team began to take shape. Not enough people realise how complex the work of a Parish Administrator is, nor the tact and diplomacy required!

We were delighted when Jean Hammonds and Martyn Knight volunteered for the key tasks of treasurer and assistant. Their initial task was made more straightforward thanks to the kind support and advice given by Peter Moore; we cannot underestimate our gratitude to Peter for his tireless work as treasurer of the City Parish over many years. In achieving a straightforward financial settlement with our partner churches we

were also much assisted by David Simpkin, who came to us highly recommended by the diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Len Simmons, our new/old PCC secretary, quickly became the key to guiding us through the formalities of decoupling and setting up new structures.

In December, Rev Tom Gillum was appointed Vicar of St Mary's, and thus, in the short space of nine months, an old chapter ended and a new era began in the long history of St Mary's. We look forward to the future with genuine excitement whilst recalling all the good things achieved during the ten year life of the former City Parish.

Finally, we are most grateful to Head Verger Michael Scott, to Duncan Purves, to John Keys and all our musicians and to the excellent and hugely loyal teams of volunteers and Friends of St Mary's without whose input our magnificent building could not continue as a living witness to presence of God in all our lives.

# St Peter's Churchwardens

Brian Dunn & Laurie Crawford

St Peter's continues to be busy with opportunities for ministry to a broad spectrum of the population of Nottingham, the surrounding area and overseas visitors. We continue with the normal range of Sunday services throughout each month. Mid-week services include Communion services on Tuesdays and Thursdays, after the latter we join together for tea and coffee and a selection of biscuits, and at 12.15 pm there is now a bible study group as well. On Monday lunchtimes there is a time of quiet meditation. On Wednesdays we host a group for homeless people in the morning, and in

the afternoon the Gateway group welcomes and supports people with varying levels of mental health problems.

All of this, of course, does not happen without a great deal of input from members of staff and volunteers alike. Special thanks are due to our vergers, Michael and Paul, who get involved in a wide range of tasks, in part arising from the use by rough sleepers and others of the church and churchyard.

As well as the weekly events we have continued to host the usual range of carol services leading up to Christmas with the

final church one on Christmas Eve which was once again very well attended.

Thank you to Keith Charter for arranging the stewards rota, and to Cynthia for doing the other rota – readings and chalice. We are also most grateful for the work of Keith Mountford, our parish safeguarding co-ordinator.

Here at St Peter's we continue to support the Mount Zion food bank and we thank Chris and Harriet Ward and Ann Hardy for delivering the donations.

Finally our thanks are due to the clergy and readers, and to Peter Siepmann and the choir, for the splendid standard of services throughout the year.

## Workplace Chaplaincy

Len Simmonds

It seems to me that those who serve as workplace chaplains are at the cutting edge of the Church's ministry and mission as they get alongside ordinary people in their daily lives and work.

The Nottingham Workplace Chaplaincy is supported by the Workplace Chaplaincy Council which helps to keep its Chaplain, Jo Tatum, focused and provides a sounding board for her and the team of lay chaplains. The primary skill of the chaplains is that of relationships, being able to build them and creating trust within the context of the workplace. The second important skill is that of listening to both what is said and sometimes to what is omitted.

Our chaplains can be found in department stores, courts, theatres, shopping centres, tourist attractions, legal firms and hotels. We have relationships with very large organisations such as EON, Capital One and Nottingham City Transport and charities such

as the YMCA Nottinghamshire. The largest organisation has 5,000 employees and the smallest just 50.

Many individuals tell us what a difference having a chaplain has made to them simply because there was someone to talk to - a listening ear. On occasions companies have called in the chaplaincy team to help employee's come to terms with the tragic death of a colleague, which does indicate the organisations do value the resource.

The Workplace Chaplaincy INSIGHT meetings are engaging with even more people on a monthly basis. We now get over 60 people attending from businesses, charities, the public sector and church communities. The Chaplaincy's Interesting to Know monthly information mailing is now seen by 1,000 people.

The Chaplaincy has been engaging with, and getting to know, key people at two other new developments in the diocese. - The Young

Leaders College and Trinity Church.

An important aspect of the work of the Chaplaincy Council is to champion the bringing of the world of work to the forefront of the minds of those people engaged in the life of the church. Jo has been preaching regularly at Sunday Services around the deanery and in 2017 the diocese had its very first Workplace Sunday. This provided parishes with an opportunity to celebrate God's gift of work and to engage with the workplace. Jo has also been feeding into and supporting training programmes for diocesan clergy on aspects of the workplace. All of this has developed from the foresight St Peter's Church had way back in 1989 about the importance of engaging with people in their place of work and the groundbreaking work of the first occupant of the post of Workplace Chaplain, Wally Huckle.

## Music at St Mary's

John Keys

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

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

Good Friday saw a performance of Bach's Johannes-Passion with the 18th Century Sinfonia playing on period instruments. It is remarkable that all the solo items are taken by current or former members of the Choir. We are so grateful to the late Gordon Solway for giving funds to support the difference between the collection and the expenses incurred.

In early June the Choir performed two operas as the main Summer Concert. With soloists drawn from the current Choir and returning Alumni and the Orchestra of the Restoration a double-bill of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Handel's Acis and Galatea was given the same evening. Many thanks to those who,

behind the scenes, managed to make sense of my visual concept and turn it into a reality. As ever, our Scholar's Concert showed our talented Choral Scholars' talents in ensemble and solo items in a relaxed atmosphere.

The October concert broke tradition by not featuring the Choir. However, we were treated to a solo-concert featuring Jeneba Kanneh-Mason playing Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No.2, Stephen Kenny (whilst working for his PhD at UoN the Orchestra of the Restoration's First Trumpet) playing the Hummel Trumpet Concerto and Rose Hsein (standing-in for an indisposed Braimah Kanneh-Mason) playing an amazingly invigorating Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

In response to an invitation from the Mairie de Calais and the gracious permission of the Clergy, the Choir was able to travel to Calais to give a concert in Nôtre-Dame de Calais on Armistice Day. An English programme, with some accompaniments by Andrew Abbott, appealed to an audience of more than 800 who gave us a standing ovation. This was a most moving occasion facilitated by the good offices of Jean Hammonds and Daniel

Hanson who gave so much time, patience, goodwill and generosity to ensure the success of this visit. It was heartening that so many supporters from the Congregation and the City joined us on this trip. The Reverend and Mrs Christopher Harrison were welcome fellow-travellers who were able to join us not only for the musical event but also for the Calais Civic commemoraton. Thanks to the High School Chamber Choir and their Director of Music, Stefan Reid, the Remembrance Service the following morning was brilliantly sung with Mr Timothy Lole in charge of the organ playing.

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

# Music at St Peter's & All Saints'

Peter Siepmann

The year 2017 was characterised for me by an ever-increasing sense of *consistency* in the quality of music offered in church week-by-week, helped along by a slightly altered membership paradigm within the music department: the choir survives thanks to the exceptional commitment of our core of full-time singers complemented by our brilliant set of term-time choral scholars, but this year we began to regularly welcome choristers on a more part-time basis. Indeed, at the time of writing, we have some sixty-one singers 'on the books', which includes everyone from singers who are able to be with us almost every week of the year, to those who join us once or twice. An online 'sign in' system enables me to ensure we have a quorate and balanced choir for each service. An unusual and labour-intensive way of running a choir perhaps, but one that seems to be working well in today's busy (and increasingly baby-filled!) world.

Musical highlights Sunday-by-Sunday are too many and too frequent to list here, but a particular highlight of the Lent Term was a musically and socially fulfilling collaboration with the Southwell Minster Chorale during which it was most rewarding to revisit Rheinberger's wonderful Mass in E-flat. It was also good to add to our repertoire movements of Vierne's famous *Messe Solennelle*, Harold Darke's F-major set of evening canticles and the first part of Tallis's incomparable *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. I was particularly touched by the response of a first-time visitor to St Peter's on Easter Sunday, who said "I just wanted to say how hugely impressive the music was this morning - so carefully and lovingly put together, and such high quality. I wasn't at all sure what I expected, but it certainly wasn't music-making of that standard."

The Summer term saw further additions to the repertoire: Peter Philips' energetic Ascensiontide motet *Ascendit Deus*, and Ēriks Ešenvalds' fabulous setting of the Te Deum. At the very beginning of September, the choir enjoyed a wonderful weekend singing the services at Wells Cathedral, where we received a warm reception by the cathedral's congregation and clergy.

Much of the choir's time during the Michaelmas Term was spent preparing for a Coffee Break Concert celebrating of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation at which two Bach cantatas were performed – a significant achievement. This year's Carol Service was a particularly memorable one, with much of

the choir's contribution based around Bob Chilcott's charming carol cycle *On Christmas Night*.



*The Choir at Wells Cathedral*  
[photo: Michael Leuty]

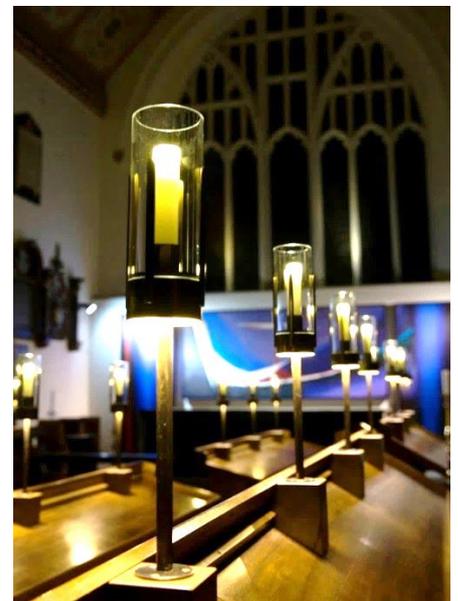
The Saturday morning 'Coffee Break' Concerts continued to prove a great success, with proceeds received at the door and in the kitchen funding all non-salary running costs of the St Peter's music department, including choral bursaries. Performances in 2017 included those by music students from the University of Nottingham; cellist Elisheba Stevens; pianists Julia Wallin, Richard Hinsley and Adrian Lord; organist Kyoko Canaway; violinist Yulia Nortridzh accompanied by Neil & Jane Millensted, the Marian Trio; Tricksy Trobairitz; students from Repton School; soprano Harriet Astbury; guitarist James Rippingale; violinist Frans van Schoonhoven accompanied by Chiahu Lee; baritone Stephen Cooper accompanied by Paul Hale; Nottingham Bach Choir; and of course, the church choir and resident instrumental ensemble, saraBande.

I was greatly touched in September to receive a gift from the church community to mark my ten years as Director of Music. It is interesting to consider how the choir and the church has changed over this time: As I write, numbers in the choir are strong and balanced; although the tradition of having children on the top line has faded away, we now enjoy an exceptionally fruitful relationship with the University. My first Sunday on the job back in September 2007 marked the unification of the Parish of St Peter's & All Saints' with the Parish of St Mary's; as I write, the reversal of that process is complete. We have all got older (whatever that means for each of us!); we have rejoiced as a number of us have married and had children; we have mourned as members of our extended 'choir family' have died. The world has continued to become an ever busier place, with people's time more in

demand than ever, and we have seen the impact of this on how much of a commitment members of the choir feel able to make when balanced against time at work and at home with family.

Given this 'anniversary', I hope readers will forgive my closing with a brief personal reflection: honestly, I never thought I would spend ten years in this job, but the fact of the matter is that there aren't that many church choirs around as good as St Peter's is on the days when we have a balanced group of singers all happily working together and bringing the best out in each other, united by their enjoyment of each other's company, each other's voices, and their desire to make music of the highest quality we, collectively, collegiately, can. When this happens, there are few things that bring me greater joy.

For this, my heartfelt thanks, as ever, go to Keith Charter for his support and counsel (and particularly this year for the very significant part he played in the bring the long-anticipated choir stall lighting project to fruition), to all the concert artists; to the players of saraBande; to the music team, Michael Leuty, Lee Rooke and Richard Ward; but most of all to the singers of the church choir who maintain the weekly round of worship and contribute so much of their time to the vibrant musical life of the parish.



*The new choir stall lights (designed by former chorister Michael Garber) and installed in February 2017*  
[photo: Susan Baker]

# St Peter's Centre Coffee Room

Brian Dunn

The coffee room has had another busy year, despite the vagaries of the weather, and after several years of the sales diminishing slowly they have now stabilised, and our net margin, which makes a vital contribution to the parish finances, has increased.

At Christmas we said good-bye to Krystina, who took a well-deserved retirement after

more than ten years of invaluable service. We thank all the staff for their commitment and hard work during the year – the paid staff Lynne, Tracy and Krystina, Peter, Tony and Callum who do most of their work on a voluntary basis, and the volunteers, all of whom do so much to make it a friendly, welcoming and efficient place for our many

customers. We did have a little party before Christmas to thank them, including those behind the scenes who do an invaluable job baking cakes for us.

We have an excellent team ably led by Lynne, Tracy has settled in very well, and we face the future with confidence.

# Fairtrade & Christian Book Shop

Adele Siepmann

The shop at St Peter's continues to flourish. Sales of food, gifts, special occasion cards and books have continued to do well, and sales and profits were again up on the previous year.

As always, we couldn't operate without our faithful band of volunteers, who keep the shop open every day during the week, and after the morning service on Sundays. We also have a regular group of 'Fair Traders', who purchase goods for their own church stalls and events. However, it is still important to spread the word, and to encourage members of our own congregations to support the shop when they can. A small, regular purchase could make a big difference in creating 'a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where

trade is just and people and communities can flourish'.

Christmas and Easter were particularly busy times in the shop, with 'Real' Advent Calendars and Easter Eggs in usual demand. New products, especially 'crafts' can regularly be seen on the shelves, both from Traidcraft and Shared Earth, another Fair Trade organisation we support. Both organisations create a lot of products made from recycled materials, which are particularly popular.

The shop is open Monday-Friday, 10.30am-2pm and on Sunday mornings (after the service). Do pop in a have a look around if you are able to.



# St Mary's Bell Ringers

Emma Jones

2017 has been a steady year for the ringers at St Mary's, with relatively few changes to the make-up of the band.

In general, the bells were again rung for all possible Sunday services at St Mary's, and although the number of times 12 bells were rung has decreased, we have maintained a minimum of 8 bells rung for Sunday service, which shows the continued commitment of the local band. The average attendance on our weekly Monday practice remained consistent at 15 people, and we held 51 practices. The majority of ringing took place on 10 bells.

This year saw 3 successful peals at St Mary's, including the traditional half muffled peal on

Good Friday. The other two peals were visiting bands, but of particular note is the one on 23rd December, as it saw the significant achievement of the first female bell ringer to attain 5,000 peals which, at around 3 hours per peal, is no mean feat! 20 successful quarter peals were also scored, mostly by members of the local band. There were 6 weddings throughout the year with bells.

The Heritage Open Day took place again in September, with the ringers running visitors up the tower once more; the weather was slightly better than last year, so I believe attendance was somewhat higher than previously.

Another venture that has had some modest success is a bi-monthly practice in conjunction with some ringers from Derby Cathedral, which has seen a mutually beneficial arrangement allowing both sides to practise ringing on 12 with a strengthened band; we hope to continue with this in 2018. I'd like to again thank the local ringers for their dedication and support for the past 12 months, particularly Martyn for all his hard work steeple-keeping, and hope that this will continue into 2018 and beyond.

# St Peter's Bell Ringers

Matthew Jones

The St Peter's band has been through another year of change, losing several experienced ringers but gaining new recruits in their place. We rang for 14 Sunday Services, with all 12 bells being rung for eight of them. From March, we started weekly practices, therefore there were 44 practices in all. Attendance has been variable however, from as little as eight to as many as 21 attendees. Our method repertoire on a practice night has decreased somewhat, with methods on six being more the focus. However, we now have enough ringers who list St Peter's as their 'home tower' to start ringing for Sunday morning services.

Nine quarter peals were rung in 2017. Richard Henley and Paul Wysocki were the first 'home-grown' recruits to ring their first, and Lucy Baird-Murray rang hers as well. Richard also managed a second to celebrate the birth of his son, Arthur Robert, who I am already lining up to be a future recruit! Two were rung for Remembrance Sunday, a

visiting band after morning service, and a home band before Evensong. In September, one was rung on 13 using a unique composition of "Plain Bob" on diminishing numbers (starting at 13 down to 7); this was a first in ringing history.

Outside of service ringing and general practices, we entered the Crawford Cup heat at Trowell in March, but unfortunately neither of our teams got through to the final. September saw a tower open day as part of the Heritage Weekend, with talks, demonstrations, and a camera amongst the bells, with around 60 people visiting the tower. Finally, in November we had our first tower outing to the Boston area, which was very successful.

With regards to maintenance, as to be expected when teaching new recruits, we have had to replace a broken stay. Between Christmas and New Year, myself, Emma, Paul Mason, and Edward Handbury spent several days clearing the dust out the belfry and

giving the bells their annual 'MOT'. We have identified that several clappers require re-bushing, and that the 11th is shifting in its pit. We attempted remedial work, however, at a subsequent inspection it was obvious that it requires the attention of a professional bellhanger. It should be noted that the bell does not pose a danger to personnel or property, it just affects the 'go' of the bell. Little issues with ropes and other items were spotted, and we are compiling a snag list.

I just wish to thank the Reverend Christopher Harrison and all the church officers for their unwavering support this last year, and the whole congregation for making us feel so appreciated. I also wish to thank my wife Emma for helping me organise another year's worth of ringing, Paul Mason and Edward Handbury for all the help with the tower maintenance, and Simon Telford and Paul Wysocki for running ringing the few odd times I have been away. Here's hoping that 2018 will be another successful year.

## St Mary's Fabric Committee

Paul Sibly

During 2017 major work was undertaken on the Chapter House. New drainage was installed to deal with the huge volume of rainwater that has to be carried away underneath the floor. The interior was restored, new lighting was provided and a 'secret door' was constructed to provide access to the inaccessible void between the chapter house and chancel; this enables the drainage system to be inspected; it has also become very popular with young visitors! The room is now fully functional for meetings and as a green room for an increasing

number of events. The adjoining washroom has also been brought back from near-derelect condition.

Outside the church building, the main access steps from High Pavement were lifted and re-laid on new foundations and - to commemorate the centenary of the sacrifices made during the Great War - the War Memorial was sensitively cleaned and its inscriptions restored.

Generous legacies paid for the Chapter House works; an existing restricted fund and a generous private donation paid for the War

Memorial.

The north-east entrance gate to the churchyard was re-opened after work to make it safe and the principal west end and south porch doors were beautifully restored by Beckwith decorators, again funded by a generous gift.

Many minor but important works have been undertaken by Duncan Purves and we are most grateful to him for sharing his wealth of knowledge, expertise and skill in a huge number of areas.

## All Saints' & St Peter's Site Committee

Trevor Davys

The committee meets four times a year and is responsible to the Finance Committee in ensuring that the buildings and the surrounds both at St. Peter's and All Saints are maintained, made safe and kept in good order whilst routine roof leaks, breakdowns, damage-both deliberate and accidental-tests and checks are attended to. In general, problems which are all so well managed by our vergers Mike Scott and Paul Stevenson with notable assistance from Ian Bothwell. Many thanks to them all.

During the past year the following significant matters were:

### *All Saints*

Funding Application to HLF for repairs to the tower and planning for the bell training centre in conjunction with University of

Nottingham Change Ringers is now awaiting presentation.

The Quinquennial Report was carried out by the Church Architect (although not received until Feb 2018). Recommendations were made which are currently under consideration as are also works to make the main entrance more attractive/welcoming, the ramp safer and the rear of the church nave more user friendly.

Repairs to and improvement of the nave lighting was completed as was the serious leak in the heating system.

### *St Peter's*

The issue of Rough Sleepers and how to manage challenging anti-social behaviour in and around the church has been much discussed with time also spent meeting with

the police and other agencies. This has had some beneficial results despite it being a sensitively difficult area to manage.

The toilets in church were redecorated by former assistant verger Duncan Purves.

The organ blower was replaced.

Unfortunately the application for Heritage Lottery Funding for roof repairs was unsuccessful. The committee were extremely appreciative of Keith Mountford's efforts to secure this funding but there was fierce competition for a limited pot of money.

### *Parish Centre*

A metal bridge was constructed on the roof and a safety wire installed to enable safe access for maintenance and repairs.

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

## January 2017, Toilet Twinning:

In December 2016 we launched this initiative. By collecting everyone's loose change during January 2017, our strap line was 'spend a penny for a month of Sundays', we raised funds for 'Toilet Twining' a scheme whereby safe sanitation and hand washing facilities are provided to disadvantaged communities around the world. People were keen to participate, and Keith Mountford valiantly spent many hours counting out small change and taking it to the bank. By the end of January 2017 we had raised over £372.78 from donations which, coupled with a top up from our own funds bringing it up to £420, enabled us to support 7 toilets throughout the world. Each toilet costs £60 to sponsor and as part of the scheme Toilet Twining sent us framed photos of the toilets with which our church and coffee shop toilets are twinned.

## Twinning Locations:

Latrine in Gabura, Satkhira District, Bangladesh, Asia, twinned with The Coffee Shop disabled toilet

Latrine in Bimbi, Mwanakasongo, Kasongo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa twinned with St Peter's

Latrine in Drill, Greenville, Liberia, Africa Twinned with All Saints

Latrine in Tistung VDC, Makawanpur, Nepal, Asia Twinned with St Mary's Ladies' Toilet

Latrine in Hyder Shah, Ghumro Goth,

Pakistan, Asia, twinned with St Peter's

Latrine in Ndanga, Bangui, Central African Republic, Africa Twinned with St Mary's Men's Toilet

Latrine in Prey Ta Pov Village, Tay Ninh, Cambodia, Asia Twinned with St Mry's Disabled Toilet

Our thanks go to Rachel Farrand of St Mary's for introducing us to the idea of raising funds to provide this most basic facility which is so vital not least to women and girls in remote rural areas of the world

*For more information about Toilet Twinning visit [www.Toilettwinning.org](http://www.Toilettwinning.org)*

## February 2017, Retiring Collections for Syria

In response to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria a retiring collection was held at the end of the morning services in each of our three churches over a period of three weeks. £500 was raised.

## Our Mission Links:

Our CMS mission partners Beom and Marie Laure Shin began their work in the field of education in South East Asia early in 2017. Our prayers and support for their work and for their family of two small boys continues.

## 28<sup>th</sup> February Pancake Party Shrove Tuesday

A good time was had by all when members of our three congregations met to together to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with traditional pancakes and delicious toppings. Amelia Delbridge, our Ministry Assistant and a member of the Overseas Committee, prepared a quiz which was very popular and looks like becoming a regular part of our Shrove Tide celebrations.

## 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Easter Breakfast

On Easter Monday a goodly number gathered at the home of Lina and Wilfred Morgan for a hearty cooked breakfast. Donations and a raffle raised £177 for Mercy Ships.

**Mercy Ships:** This organisation is run by a team of nurses, doctors, surgeons, and other crew-members from all over the world, who donate their time to help on board the world's largest non-governmental floating hospital. As such they can sail directly to some of the world's poorest people to deliver life-saving medical care and provide safe, state-of-the-art facilities in which to treat

them. As supporters we are a vital part of the team, paying for essential medical supplies and ship repairs. Mercy Ships have helped transform the lives of more than 2.42 million people in the poorest countries of the world since 1978.

## May 2017 Christian Aid Week

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

## December 2017 Silver Smarties Scheme

Our thanks again go to Rachel Farrand of St Mary's for suggesting this engaging and popular fundraising venture.

The money collected is not for one particular cause or charity but will replenish the Overseas Committee funds which are often depleted by unlooked for demands and disaster appeals. We hope to match fund the moneys which have continued to come in for Toilet Twinning over the year in order to sponsor another toilet in the coffee room.

Launched on Advent Sunday 2017 by the end of the year over 40 tubes of Smarties had been given out and many people had already returned their tubes- now empty of the sweets and filled with 20pence pieces or as in one case £1 coins.

The Silver Smarties scheme is open until Ascension tide 2018.

## Regular Giving:

In 2017 The Nottingham City parish donated £1,000 to each of the following Christian Missionary Societies:

**Church Missionary Society, CMS:** a mission community to encourage each other and work together - to pray together, learn together and work together

**United Society of Partners in the Gospel, USPG:** sharing God's love through action, and seeing lives transformed, working in direct partnership with people and communities around the world

**Christian Aid, CA:** dedicated to helping the world's poorest people

## Membership

As a committee we are delighted that we have kept our members from St Mary's and welcome new members from All Saints who join us in 2018.

# Friends of St Mary's

Rachel Farrand

The membership of the Friends remains above 100, the majority of whom live in Nottinghamshire. Sadly, several long-standing members have died in the past twelve months.

The Friends' main income comes from annual subscriptions and proceeds from the sale of refreshments at concerts by the Orchestra of the Restoration/Choir of St Mary's and the Bach Choir and from other events. The Friends' gift box in the church has also continued to attract generous donations.

The Friends supported more than a dozen functions at St Mary's during the period of the report including the Lord Mayor's carol service, the Legal Service, Heritage Open Day and Light Night. The committee gratefully

acknowledges the support of members of the Friends for their invaluable help on these occasions.

The Friends' 2017 lecture was given by Brian Miller who with his wife Pauline compiled the history of the church for the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project. Brian gave a fascinating insight into both the hidden and the visible history of St Mary's drawing attention to masons' marks and all manner of details that even if not hidden in plain sight are easily overlooked by visitors and even those who are regular attenders.

A small group visited Chesterfield St Mary and All Saints Church in the summer to enjoy an excellent tour led by the verger who has spent his working life caring for the church. Those with the energy to climb the steep

flights of steps up the tower enjoyed a superb view over Chesterfield and a very close view of the famous spire and the intricate pattern of beams that support it.

Generous donations to the Friends' special project to gild the angels in the roof of the nave has enabled the committee to anticipate the work being carried out in the summer of 2018, subject to the application for a faculty being approved.

As part of the transition to single parish status in 2018, the Friends of St Mary's agreed to transfer its website domain ([www.stmarysnottingham.org](http://www.stmarysnottingham.org)) to the new parish; the Friends will have a dedicated web page on the site.

# Friends of St Peter's

Keith Charter

During the year, the work of the 'Friends' – carried on so faithfully by Ena Stalley and Dennis Lord for many years – came to an end or perhaps might better be described as 'put on hold'. Numbers had fallen with many ex-parishioners being able to keep in touch through either the church website or social

media rather than receipt of a magazine through the post! The final grant was made to the choir to support the cost of some replacement robes.

Thoughts have been given to the possibility of a re-launch based, initially at least, to a large extent on the historic choir alumni list

but this would require some further exploration and a new constitution. So it's really 'watch this space' although suggestions – or perhaps offers of help – would be most welcome.

# Parish Electoral Roll

Keith Charter

At the time of writing this report, the annual review of the Electoral Roll (as opposed to the six-yearly preparation of a complete new Roll due in 2020) is underway. An added complication towards the latter end of 2017 was the fact that the Roll of the now former parish of All Saints, St Mary and St Peter had

to be split at the end of December so that each of our new parishes could start afresh. This proved more complex than at first thought but the numbers of the two new Rolls going forward were agreed at 169 for St Peters and All Saints with 100 being the figure for St Marys. That combined total of

269 reflects a net drop of 10 members across the old parish during 2017. This figure, though, was not a drop in real terms as the splitting of the Rolls revealed a small number of names no longer appropriate to be on the Roll.

# Nottingham South Deanery

Kirsty Cowley

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd John Tomlinson (leaving St John's, Carrington) and Rev'd Nick and Anne Ladd (St Barnabas, Inham Nook) and welcomed Rev'd Stephen Morris (transition priest at St Mary the Virgin, Lacemarket) and Rev'd Andy Tufnell (to Christ Church, Chilwell, with St Barnabas, Inham Nook). We also welcomed three curates to our Deanery Rev'd Michele Hampson (working with Megan Smith at Holy Trinity and The Priory, Lenton), Rev'd Garreth Frank (training with Steve Silvester at St Nic's) and Rev'd Naeem Bahadur (with Clive Burrows at St Stephen's, Hyson Green). We held elections for our Deanery Leadership Team which now consists of:

Rev'd Steve Silvester (Area Dean), Sarah Holt (Lay Chair), Gary Stephenson (Deanery Treasurer), Peter Horne (Deanery Secretary), Mark Gilmore, Rev'd Colin Bourne, Rev'd Naomi Hill, Rev'd Megan Smith and Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator).

We held three synods during the year: 23 February, 6 June and 22 November 2017.

In February we visited Nottingham St Saviour's – an appropriate venue to look at community engagement and social enterprise. Members of Synod gave presentations to help us think around this subject and we then broke into groups to consider:

- What has God resourced you with in your church?
- How are you currently engaging with needs of your community?
- What are you blessed with to bless your community?
- What or who is your community network?

Synod closed by praying for St Saviour's and St George's in the Meadows.

In June we met at St Michael's, Bramcote and were joined by the Dean of Southwell Minster, the Very Reverend Nicola Sullivan. She intends to visit all deaneries to share her

vision for the minster and to ask the following questions:

- What do you think that the Cathedral is for? Does it fulfil your needs and expectations?
- How can the Minster better connect to YOUR parish and deanery, in service and partnership?

We swore in two church wardens who had not been able to make the visitation at the Minster in May. Mark Gilmore challenged Synod to discuss the suggestion that the only value we share as a Deanery is that we want to see our own church grow. Synod broke into groups to discuss this and these discussions fed into the formulation of our emerging values listed below.

We closed the meeting by praying for the parishes in vacancy in the Deanery.

Our final synod of the year was at St Ann with Emmanuel when we were joined by Jane Holloway from the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham who spoke on encouraging prayer in our parishes. We launched our

Deanery Prayer Card (electronic copies available) and finished the evening by praying for each other. This was a Synod that was challenging and valued by all who attended. Members of the Deanery Leadership Team were also appointed without the need for an election at this meeting.

Each of our Synods offered the opportunity to speak in groups to build relationships, share good practice, consider actions to take back to our parishes and perhaps most importantly to pray for each other. This theme was continued in a large interdenominational celebration at Trent Vineyard on 3 June for the culmination of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative. The deanery confirmation at St John's, Beeston, on 18 November was also a time of great rejoicing as 40 candidates were confirmed, many of them first generation Christians from the Iranian community at St Stephen's. Over the year we have also been looking at our Deanery values and have agreed that our emerging values are:

- We are the people of God and we will act as such
- We unite for the good of each other and the wider community
- We see each other as an asset not as competition
- We pray for and encourage one another in the mission of God

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thess 5:11)*

Several meetings on finance for incumbents and treasurers this year have widened participation in discussion on financial matters. The deanery has again paid a large percentage of its giving for ministry allocation (89.0%, compared to 97.6% in 2016). Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness and generosity in contributing to the ministry received in this deanery and diocese and is asked to engage in the ongoing consultations in 2018 about how we allocate in the future.

## PCC

### Keith Charter

The PCC is the governing body of a parish and is constituted within the requirements of the Church Representation Rules. The Council therefore, with the Vicar, is responsible for the management and running of the parish and has a Standing Committee (SC) empowered to transact business of the PCC between meetings. The PCC and SC met 6

and 5 times respectively during the year. The formal 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statements document to be presented at the APCM on 25 April 2018 contains more information on the working of the PCC and its Committees. Those on the Electoral Roll may, on request from the parish office, obtain a list showing all the major topics discussed in

2017 although it will come as no surprise that a continuing theme was work on the decoupling proposed by Bishop Paul. Going forward into 2018, the 'old' PCC, a registered charity with its PCC members as Trustees, continues for St Peters and All Saints with St Marys being required to establish a new PCC registered with the Charity Commission.

## Safeguarding

### Keith Mountford

The parish is committed to the respectful pastoral ministry to all adults, young people and children within our church community and to the safe guarding and protection of all

vulnerable people. Copies of our Policy and Procedures are displayed in all three churches. The PCC is kept up to date by the input of a small committee representing all

three churches. The parish has a Safeguarding Coordinator supported by named people from each church.

## Emmanuel House Appeal

### Paul Sibly

The City Parish three-year appeal to raise funds for Emmanuel House reached its target of £30,000 by March 2017 thanks to one-off

gifts, standing orders and special events such as the candles of hope and bucket collection on Light Night. We hope that many will be

inspired to continue their support of this essential lifeline organisation in the heart of Nottingham.

## St Mary's Junior Church

### Deborah Sibly

St Mary's small but loyal group of Junior Church members met once a month during Sunday morning service until July 2017. The themes used were connected to the church season or the gospel for the day. Junior

church members also helped construct the Christmas crib and the Easter garden. After five and a half years with a few stalwart members, and others who joined occasionally, a natural break came in July and

the regular monthly meetings were discontinued. We continue to keep in touch and see each other regularly at St Mary's. Thank you to all who helped support Junior Church sessions.

# St Mary's Events

Paul Sibly

Dovetailed around our services and other activities (and sanctioned by faculty approval) St Mary's Church attracted a wide range of outside bookings and other events during 2017.

In February, well over 4000 people visited the church on Light Night to view high-quality art and other exhibits, to listen to the ethereal singing of the choir and to donate generously to the Parish appeal for Emmanuel House.

Later in the year, in addition to our own

concert series, there were ten other evenings of high-quality music-making, including a sensational performance of Bach's Mass in B minor sung from memory. The Nottingham Music Hub held two singing days; one of these involved over 400 children. There were three fashion shows, including the three-day 'Fashanne' event (featuring six regional universities) and a return visit from our neighbours at the very creative NCN Fashion department. We also hosted conference and

private dinners and two important networking receptions for the city business community. We welcomed bookings from Nottingham University, NTU and the High School.

Overall, our outside bookings brought many new people into the church (including many locals who'd not previously visited) and generated some useful income (around £30,000) for the City Parish as a whole.

## Mothers' Union

Mary Davey

Our Mothers' Union branch has had a successful year with interesting and varied talks at our monthly meetings. These included talks about the police convoy, the history of the Mothers' Union, Philip Hobson's very amusing poems, and Anne Hardy talking about her visit to Santiago de Compostela. David Towers kindly held a garden party in aid of the Burundi appeal.

Several members attended the service and AGM in October in Southwell Minster and we were most fortunate in having the worldwide president Lynne Temby preaching and telling us more at the AGM of the wonderful work the Mothers' Union does in 83 countries by some 4 million members. This diocese gave 84 people a holiday. Runs a contact centre at Retford and members make fiddle pinnies for

dementia patients, and knit baby clothes for the neo-natal unit for babies in Africa. These are just a small sample of what the mothers union does. Our subs help pay for these very important projects worldwide. Without our members this work would not go on. Anyone interested in joining or learning more please contact the Mothers' Union please contact Maureen Black or Mary Davey.