

PARISH PROFILE

PARISH OF CENTRAL WOLVERHAMPTON

ST PETER | ST JOHN | ST CHAD & ST MARK | ALL SAINTS

Welcome to the Parish of Central Wolverhampton

In the heart of the city, the Parish of Central Wolverhampton combines active historical tradition with contemporary community life. Our parish, comprising four cornerstone churches - St Peter's Collegiate, St John's-in-the-Square, All Saints' and St Chad & St Mark - has a rich history that dates back to the 10th century, yet successfully engages with the needs and aspirations of today's community.

A Rich Historical Tapestry

St Peter's Collegiate Church has its roots in a charter of 994. Over the centuries, St Peter's evolved from a church endowed by the Lady Wulfrun to a collegiate church of significant importance, adapting through changing times while maintaining its central role in the community's spiritual life.

In 1978, St Peter's joined with the neighbouring parishes of All Saints, St Chad and St Mark (all once part of its ancient parish) to form a team ministry, to which St John's was added in 1998.

This model of ministry has strengthened our collective mission, enabling us to serve a population with diverse needs. However, the churches now work in very different communities and it is felt that the time has come to review the pastoral needs of the area.

Vibrant Parish Life Today

Each church within our parish offers unique spaces for worship, community engagement, and social action.

- **St Peter's Collegiate Church** continues to be a hub for celebration of tradition and heritage, drawing people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds into a journey of faith enriched by centuries of history. In particular, its strong choral tradition inspires the choirs to produce music of the highest quality.
- **St John's**, also in the city centre, provides a tranquil setting for reflection and connection, hosting spiritual and cultural events that nurture the soul. Recent residential developments have increased the opportunities for mission in its immediate neighbourhood.
- **All Saints'** has a tradition of inclusive community work, offering support services and outreach programs that address the needs of the most vulnerable.
- **St Chad's & St Mark's** has a focus on service to the local community. It has a significant ministry amongst asylum seekers and has an inclusive approach, fostering a welcoming, multi-cultural environment for spiritual growth.

Our Mission and Outreach

Looking forward, we seek to follow the four principles of the Diocesan strategy for mission:

To be purposeful about evangelism within our local areas and in the civic life of the City

To engage creatively with local communities through work on social justice and interfaith dialogue

To become more diverse by developing approaches to worship which appeal to all

To grow younger through work with schools, educational initiatives and the expansion of work already undertaken with children in our congregations

We look to strengthen our collaborative spirit, enabling us to tackle the challenges of modern urban life while grounded in our rich spiritual heritage.

Join Our Journey

We invite you to explore the busy life of our parish, where ancient traditions meet modern worship styles in a vibrant community. Whether you're drawn to the solemnity of traditional worship or the active engagement of community service, there's a place for you here.

***Together, we continue to write the story of faith, hope,
and love in the heart of Wolverhampton.***

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THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

A word of welcome to the Diocese of Lichfield

Cradled at the intersection of the Midlands and the North, and the interface between England and Wales, the Diocese of Lichfield is the ancient centre of Christianity in what was the Kingdom of Mercia.

We are rightfully grateful for the inheritance we have from our first bishop St Chad that leads us to focus on Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism as we live and serve among the communities of Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country.

By answering God's call to minister in Lichfield Diocese you will benefit from being part of a wide family, mixing with people serving in a variety of contexts – from the grittiest inner-city neighbourhoods of Stoke and the Black Country, to the leafiest rural parishes of Staffordshire and Shropshire, to the sparsest upland communities of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Welsh Borders.

And we embrace the widest spectrum of church traditions – evangelical and catholic, liberal and conservative, choral and charismatic – as we journey together in mission. As a colleague recently put it, it is our goal to be a 'spacious and gracious diocese'.

It is my determination and that of my episcopal colleagues that your calling to minister with us in Lichfield Diocese will be a time of encouragement, fulfilment, challenge and joy. You will not be alone in your ministry; as part of the wider team our colleagues among the diocesan staff keenly bring their various specialisms both spiritual and practical to offer resource and support as you serve our parishes, fresh expressions, schools and chaplaincies.

+ Michael Ipgrave

Wolverhampton Deanery



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Wolverhampton Deanery includes the 17 churches within central Wolverhampton and Bilston as well as the Chaplaincies from the University, NHS and HMYOI. It is one of three deaneries covering the city and surrounding area. As a member of the clergy team you would be included within a mutually supportive and yet diverse chapter who meet regularly together.

The purpose of our Deanery Synod is to encourage parishes to seek to work in a spirit of unity and collaboration to support one another in ways that enable us to proclaim the gospel more effectively. Working within the diocesan framework of developing Discipleship, Vocations and Evangelism in our churches.

Beyond the Anglican Church there is a strong ecumenical network of different denominations who work together to seek unity across the diversity of the Church in Wolverhampton. You would become a valued and vital member of these networks.

Revd. Richard Merrick.
Rural/Area Dean

Priest-in-Charge and Rector-designate of St Peter's and St John's-in-the-Square

The Wolverhampton Team was formed in 1978 by the union of the parishes of St Peter, All Saints, St Chad and St Mark, becoming the Parish of Central Wolverhampton when St John's joined in 1998. The congregations of St Mark's and St Chad's joined together in St Chad's building in 2001; the church has since been known as St Chad & St Mark. The parish has been served by a team rector and several team vicars.

The current allocation of stipendiary clergy is two:

Team Rector (1)	Vacant
Team Vicar of St Chad & St Mark (0.5)	Revd Ray Gaston (appointed 2015)
Team Vicar of All Saints'(*) (0.5)	Revd Ray Gaston is now Team Vicar (Interim), initially for three to six years from March 2024.

() The last appointment made was of a Team Vicar for All Saints' and St John's, but in recent years, the Team Rector has taken responsibility for St Peter's and St John's.*

The PCC and the Bishop have together come to a mind that a team ministry is probably no longer the appropriate model and that a pastoral review should be undertaken. The review will explore the possibility of dividing the parish into two distinct parishes, one covering the centre of the City and the other the areas served by All Saints' and St Chad & St Mark.

This appointment is therefore of a priest-in-charge of St Peter's Collegiate Church and St John's-in-the-Square, who would work within the existing team during the review and would also be Rector-designate of the new city centre parish.

This is an exciting time to join us as we seek God's vision for reshaping our mission and ministry in the 21st century, serving our wonderful and diverse city.



THE PARISH



The parish lies at the heart of the city of Wolverhampton. The residential population of about 19,000 is concentrated in the areas to the southwest and southeast of the Ring Road and around West Park. Many University of Wolverhampton students are accommodated in the area to the north of St Peter's.

Recently, many city centre commercial properties have been converted into flats. Further schemes for the regeneration of the area within the ring road to the southeast and southwest of the centre are now proposed. There is a clear trend towards an increasing population in the central area.

The residential population boasts a diverse mix of ethnicities and religious beliefs. Figures from the 2021 Census (for an area approximating to the parish) are:

Ethnic Group (%):

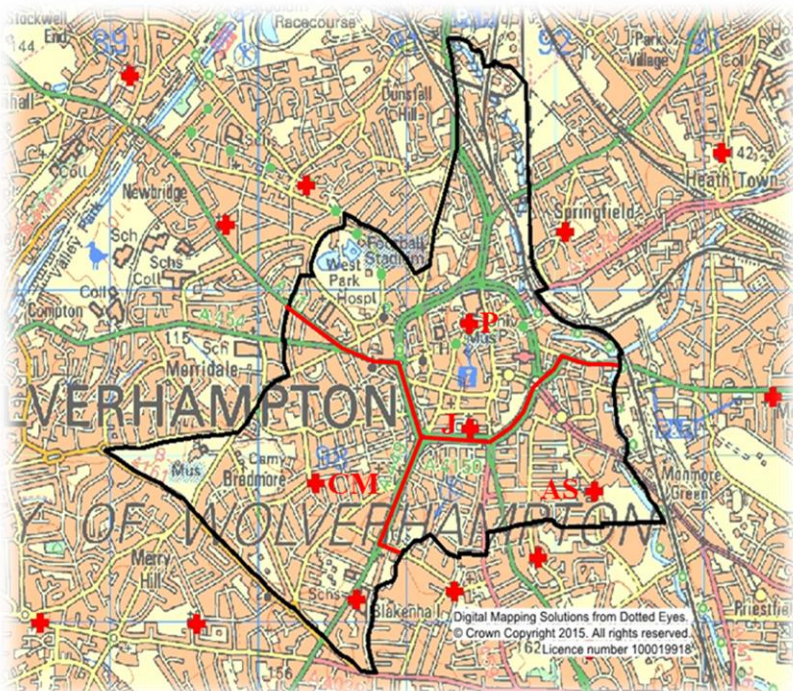
White (41.5)
Asian (31.5)
Black (16)
Mixed (6)
Other (5)

Religious affiliation (%):

Christian (38)
Sikh (13)
Muslim (12)
Hindu (6)
Other (2.5)
Unanswered or None (28.5)

The Census also shows that 42% of the population was born outside the United Kingdom, about one third of these having been in the country for less than five years. This figure is undoubtedly influenced by the size of the student population.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation places all but two areas of the parish in the 20% most deprived nationally, two of them being in the 10% most deprived. The measure of Household Deprivation in the 2023 census shows that 65% of households across the parish were deprived in at least one dimension, with 28% deprived in two or more dimensions.



St Peter's Collegiate Church and St John's in the Square, in the Central District
All Saints', in the Southern District
St Chad & St Mark in the Western District

The other church building marked within the parish boundary is the chapel of the Royal School.

Parish Boundary

District Boundaries

THE PARISH

Parish Statistics

(Electoral Roll figures are those reported at the 2024 APCM; numbers of pastoral offices are for 2023).

	Electoral Roll	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals
All Saints'	20	1		1
St Chad & St Mark	97	30		1
St John's	26			3
St Peter's	114	7	3	7
Total	258	38	3	15*

*The total includes three 'crematorium only' funerals.

The parish has traditionally been a training parish, but there is no curate at present. An ordinand from Queen's joined Chad-Mark for a placement in the summer of 2024.

Parish Organisation

In 2004, a revision of the Rule 18 Scheme split the parish into three districts - Central, Southern, and Western - each governed by its own district church council. The Central District, covering St Peter's and St John's has since found it convenient to establish a separate management group for each church. The Southern District covers All Saints' and the Western District covers St Chad & St Mark. The PCC is a registered charity (No 1130297).

Parish Finances

The Parish Treasurer, Kim Benton, oversees all Church finances, with the assistance of individual church treasurers, and produces annual accounts for the parish as a whole. Accounts for 2023 are in the Appendix. The common fund for 2023 was paid in full; the assessment for 2024 is £51,858, of which St Peter's will pay 60%, St Chad & St Mark 25% and St John's 15%. St Peter's and St John's hold substantial endowment funds.

Ecumenical and Interfaith partnerships

Reflecting the area's diversity, a broad spectrum of denominations and faiths are represented within the Parish. There are two Roman Catholic churches within the Ring Road; the Methodist Church is represented by a city centre Chaplain. Many other Christian denominations have a presence in the immediate area. There are also Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh places of worship within the parish. All faiths are represented at the annual Civic Service, held at St Peter's and there is an active Interfaith Wolverhampton organisation.

THE CHALLENGES

The plan to review the pastoral needs of the parish has two main motivations. Firstly, there is a perception that the city centre has different needs from the surrounding inner city residential areas. Secondly, it is clear that, with a team of only two stipendiary clergy, we have for some years, and especially since the pandemic, been working more or less independently. The immediate challenges are therefore:

- Together with the Team Vicar of St Chad & St Mark and All Saints' to work with the Deanery and congregations across the Parish to discern the best way to take forward the pastoral care of the area.
- Together with the Team Vicar of St Chad & St Mark and All Saints' to work with the PCC and DCCs on the detailed arrangements needed to put in place the pattern of pastoral care that is chosen.

The individual needs of the churches will be discerned as part of the review process but common strands, in relation to the Shaping for Mission framework, include:

Discipleship and Vocation

It would be good to encourage more people to consider their vocation within the church by building congregations where every member's spiritual journey is nurtured by encouraging group study and fostering the culture of a learning community. Such exploration should enable us to work towards the development of lay ministry teams in Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Mission and the Leading of Worship. We need, especially at St Peter's, to find a way for the increasing diversity of our congregation to be fully represented in leadership and other areas of church life.

Mission and Evangelism

Working within a changing city centre, where shopping has been in decline in recent years and where the resident population is expected to grow, there is an opportunity for a priest to lead the Central District towards a growth in faith and numbers, developing congregations able to pursue a mission and evangelism strategy that aims to reach and retain a multicultural congregation.

Community Engagement and Diversity

The expected growth in, and increased cultural diversity of, the residential population presents an opportunity for us to engage with the local community with more outreach and cultural events. We would like to open up our churches beyond our existing congregations and to be more proactive regarding the social needs of the city centre, working with existing organisations which look to aid the homeless and the needy.

Finance

Whilst we have paid the Common Fund, as the Central Parish, in full, it will be important that whatever new arrangements are established, all churches can move towards individual financial sustainability. Guidance will be needed in fostering stewardship, generating new income streams and planning finances strategically, working together in resourcing our worship and mission.

Buildings

As custodians of our historic places of worship, we need to ensure that they are maintained for future generations of worshippers and visitors. Plans for financing the necessary works need to be put in place.

You will need to navigate these diverse needs and aspirations, fostering the individual identities of St Peter's and St John's whilst working towards common goals in discipleship, diversity, vocation, and evangelism.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

We seek a priest to work with the Team Vicar of St Chad and St Mark and All Saints' and diocesan staff in reviewing the pastoral needs of the Parish of Central Wolverhampton and to lead the churches of the Central District during the review and after its completion. With an appreciation for our traditions and an understanding of our ministry in a busy, multicultural city, you will lead us in our mission to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love in Wolverhampton.

This description should be read in the context of the principles of shaping for mission discerned by Lichfield Diocesan Synod:

- **Be purposeful about evangelism**
- **Engage creatively with local communities**
- **Become more diverse at every level and in every way and in particular**
- **Grow younger**

As Priest-in-Charge and Rector-Designate of the Central District,

work with the congregations of St Peter's Collegiate Church and St John's-in-the-Square to:

Encourage and enable the ministries of church members and raise up lay vocations

Lead and facilitate worship, upholding the parish's liturgical standards and supporting the choral tradition of St Peter's.

Inspire congregations through dynamic preaching and teaching, catering to a range of ages and backgrounds.

Maintain and develop the ministry of St Peter's both in its civic role and to the city centre community.

Explore and develop the ministry of St John's to new residents in its local area.

Foster partnerships and initiate outreach projects aimed at social justice and community welfare.

Engage actively in interfaith dialogue and work collaboratively with other denominations and diocesan bodies to strengthen community relations and ministry impact.

Provide compassionate care and counselling, visiting the sick and bereaved, and supporting parishioners through spiritual and life challenges.

Pursue continuous personal and professional development, including theological education, spiritual retreats, and leadership training, to enhance ministry effectiveness.

Serve as an ex-officio governor at St Peter's Collegiate Academy, playing an active role in enhancing the partnership between the church and the school.

In addition, during the initial period as Priest-in-Charge:

Collaborate with the team and leadership of the existing Parish, the Deanery and diocesan staff in reviewing pastoral needs and developing a new scheme.

***You will be deeply committed to the Gospel,
and passionate about the church's societal role.***

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Spiritual Leadership and Inspiration

You have the ability to lead by example, inspiring growth in faith and community through dynamic worship, teaching, and inclusive engagement.

Communication and Relational Skills

You have the ability to bridge differences and promote inclusivity, essential for fostering a cohesive and harmonious community. The congregations of St Peter's and St John's include members from a wide range of ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. You have adeptness in cultivating meaningful relationships with and between individuals from diverse walks of life.

Collaboration

You have a commitment to working collaboratively with lay members of the churches, recognising, and utilising all gifts and talents within the parish.

Appreciation for Liturgical Heritage

You have a profound appreciation for the liturgical traditions of the parish, especially for the choral tradition of St Peter's, and a willingness to engage with the breadth of the Anglican tradition.

Pastoral Sensitivity

You have a passion for addressing social justice issues, providing support for the vulnerable, and engaging in projects that benefit the wider community.



THE RECTORY

42 PARK ROAD EAST, WV1 4QA

The Rectory is a Victorian house, ideally situated on the corner of Park Avenue and Park Road East, with views overlooking the beautiful West Park and offers a welcoming space for both fulfilling pastoral duties and enjoying family life.

Location and Surroundings: Just a short walk from St Peter's, St John's and the city centre, the Rectory is perfectly placed for engaging with the parish and local community and is in close proximity to a selection of highly regarded primary and secondary schools. Additionally, the beautiful Shropshire countryside and the cultural offerings of Birmingham are easily accessible.



Ground Floor: The ground floor has recently been remodelled, to ensure that the study, which retains its original fireplace, is separate from family areas with access to a separate WC. The hallway has access to a sizeable cellar, with original storage areas. The large sitting room, with its open fireplace and Victorian moulded ceiling, is complemented by views of West Park and the garden. The dining room features wood panelling and garden access. The large kitchen, equipped with built-in appliances supports the practical needs of daily life and leads to a refurbished utility room with access to the rear garden and outbuildings.

Upper Floor: The house has five good sized bedrooms, with one bedroom benefitting from an en-suite shower room, and a family bathroom. The attic room has a small balcony with panoramic views of West Park.

Outdoor Living: The Rectory has an established garden that encircles the house, with outbuildings, a patio area and space for off street parking.

Other points of note: While retaining its historic character, recent work to the Rectory includes: a new central heating system, with new boiler and radiators, insulation to parts of the downstairs flooring and re-pointing of some of the external walls. There is a security alarm system in place.



THE TEAM



Revd Ray Gaston was appointed Team Vicar (0.5) of St Chad & St Mark in 2015, with an additional (0.5) responsibility for interfaith work in the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area. He is now full-time in the Parish. He had previously been on the staff of Queen's Theological College, Birmingham and prior to that was Vicar of the parish of St Margaret and All Hallows in inner city Leeds (1999 - 2008). From 2018 - 2024 he was also an Associate Tutor at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.



Revd Valerie Fairclough (SSM), having been licensed to the Parish for two years, now has permission to officiate. She was ordained priest in 2021 after a career in further education. She is based at St Chad & St Mark



Revd Chijioke Ikenna was ordained priest in Nigeria and came to the UK to follow a course at the University of Wolverhampton. He has permission to officiate. He is based at St Chad & St Mark.



Clare Whitney is licensed to the Parish as a Reader. She came to the Parish in 2019 with a professional background in education. Clare is a member of the Deanery Synod and supports lay training in the Diocese. She exercises a significant ministry as a Hospital Chaplain and is a licensed funeral minister.



Though not a member of the team,

Revd Prebendary Dr Sarah Schofield, Senior Chaplain at the University of Wolverhampton (and former Team Vicar of All Saints'), is keen to work in collaboration with the Parish. She provides some thoughts on this later in the profile.

Four members of the congregation at St Chad & St Mark and one from St Peter's have recently undertaken the Chad Foundations course.

The newly appointed priest-in-charge will be directly responsible for the city centre churches, which are first described:

ST PETER'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH

[St Peter's Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

Styles and Traditions of Worship: Nurturing Legacy whilst Embracing the Future

Located in the centre of the city, St Peter's has served for over 1,000 years as a cornerstone of faith for the community, with a liturgical practice rooted in the long-standing traditions of The Church of England. Worship at St Peter's is characterised by the traditional liturgical forms of Eucharist and Choral Evensong, augmented by special services for major festivals. We use liturgical vestments, candles, bells, and incense for major saints' days and festivals such as Easter and Christmas.

Choral music has for many years played an integral role in enriching the worship at St Peter's, with the choirs contributing significantly to the liturgical framework of the worship, fostering a spiritually uplifting atmosphere which is much appreciated by our congregations. The choirs' repertoire includes a diverse range of musical styles, from early plainsong and polyphony to 21st century composers. Accompaniment is provided by the magnificent and recently rebuilt Father Willis organ.

Although there is no desire to replace our current, traditional style of Sunday worship, we are open to enriching our offering with additional services that explore other styles of worship.

The pattern at present is:

Sunday Choral Eucharist (Common Worship), held at 11:15. This is our principal service celebrating the Eucharist and featuring choral music, hymns, and a sermon. This service is the heart of our community's worship life, drawing members from the rich diversity of cultures and walks of life which make up the population of Wolverhampton.

Friday Midday Prayer or Holy Eucharist is a midweek service offering a quieter, more contemplative space for worship, reflection, and receiving the Eucharist.

Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer), held on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, is a highlight for those who cherish the Anglican choral tradition.

A Civic Church

Serving as Wolverhampton's civic church, St Peter's also hosts key services including the annual Civic Service, and Remembrance Day commemorations. These events underscore our role in uniting residents and local leaders in reflection and remembrance. From time to time, the Rector has, at the invitation of the Mayor, acted as Mayor's Chaplain. Our commitment to these civic responsibilities highlights St Peter's role as a cornerstone of community and spiritual life in Wolverhampton.



Wolverhampton War Memorials



War Memorial Chapel



View into the Nave from the rear

ST PETER'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Junior Church

Junior Church takes place during the Sunday morning service each fortnight in term-time, in St Peter's House. It is a vibrant and engaging session for children (typically ages 3-10), designed to nurture their faith and understanding of the Bible through interactive play, activities, and discussions. Run by a team of volunteers, Junior Church plays an important role in engaging our younger members and gives them a platform to tell the adult congregation what they have learnt. Children's ministry is an area that is ripe for expansion and we would welcome their input into more of our services.

Pebbles

Pebbles is a weekly service in term-time for pre-school children and their parents/carers, introducing them to the church and the Bible through stories, songs, and play. It provides a welcoming space where young children and their parents/carers can begin their spiritual journey and connect with one another over toast and tea/coffee and is run by a small group of volunteers. Over the years, Pebbles has brought many families into the church life of St Peter's, with some former Pebbles now choristers and servers and their parents/carers playing an active role in the life of the church. Currently small in number, it is a group that has previously had upwards of 10 regular members and we would welcome a return to this number.

School Visits

We welcome many school groups into St Peter's each year. Some come for a couple of hours to find out about the history of the church and to learn about Christian services, while others come for a whole day and do various activities, such as designing a stole, decorating a chalice and creating a 'stained glass window'. We are always happy to lead such visits as they allow us to introduce children to the Christian faith and inspire their curiosity for exploring places of worship and asking spiritual questions. In the last academic year we hosted around 850 children from 10 local schools and have 480 already booked for 2024/25. There has also been a tradition of parish clergy visiting local schools, especially to lead assemblies.

The Choir

Over the years, the choir has been an important part of our ministry to children. The Voice for Life training they receive involves learning about the Bible, the Eucharist and understanding the words they sing within the services of Eucharist and Evensong. Many of our choristers go on to confirmation and their involvement with the church has deepened our community ties, as many of their parents and carers have become actively engaged in church life and remain long after the children have graduated from the choir.



ST PETER'S MUSIC

Music is a cornerstone of worship at St Peter's Collegiate Church, deeply rooted in our tradition and community. Our congregation's feedback in a recent survey emphatically highlights the choir's central role, reflecting a collective desire for the continuation and growth of our musical heritage. The Choir comprises a 'front line' of boy and girl choristers, supported by a 'back row' of volunteers. The boys and girls generally sing separately but come together for major services.

The Music Department

The music department is traditionally made up of a Director of Music, an Assistant Director of Music and an Organ Scholar. Following the departure of our Director of Music this year (to a teaching post) and our Assistant Director last year (to a postgraduate course in the USA), we are currently in the process of appointing an Interim Director and have appointed our Organ Scholar as Organist. Adult choir members will take on the responsibility of leading the choirs until an interim appointment is made.

The leadership provided by a Director of Music guides the choir and ensures the high quality of our musical offerings, as witnessed by the two BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong recordings in the last two years and many successful visits to cathedrals around the country. Each summer the choir has a week-long residential visit to sing services at cathedrals. In 2023 this was to Lincoln Cathedral and in 2024 to Exeter. Additionally, day visits in the past few years have included Westminster Abbey and the cathedrals of Hereford, Gloucester and St Paul's, London.

We have been fortunate in the past few years to have secured funding from the Cathedral Music Trust, the Edington Festival and the Ouseley Trust to support the work of the music department and further grants will be sought in the coming year.

The Choir's Future

Our choir, known for its dedication and talent, is looking to bolster its numbers of children via an outreach programme with local primary schools. Welcoming more children into our choir will not only enhance our musical tradition but also deepen our community ties with local schools.

Lunchtime Live!

For approximately six months each year, on Friday lunchtimes, we open our doors to a wonderful array of local musicians who give recitals that span a wide range of musical styles. These recitals are free to the public and have proved an excellent way of encouraging more people to come and visit St Peter's.

Friends of the Music

This independent charity provide essential resources and encouragement to our musicians, choir members, and music leadership. Their work not only helps sustain the high quality of music that enriches our worship but also fosters the growth and development of music initiatives, ensuring that music remains a central pillar of the life of St Peter's.

The Organ

The church is home to a magnificent organ, a centrepiece of our musical heritage, which has recently undergone a significant rebuild. The organ's revitalisation represents our dedication to preserving our musical traditions while providing an inspiring experience for both our congregation and visiting musicians.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Ecumenical Lent Talks

The series of ecumenical Lent talks are a cherished tradition at St Peter's, featuring a series of thought-provoking discussions led by leaders of the local churches within the city centre, including speakers from the Roman Catholic, Church of England and Methodist churches. These lunchtime talks, with a bread and soup lunch provided, give an opportunity for deeper reflection and spiritual growth during the Lenten season, fostering a sense of community and shared learning.

Christmas and Summer Fairs

Our Christmas and Summer Fairs bring the community together for celebration and fundraising. Both events are organised by volunteers and support our desire to welcome as many people as possible into our church.

Christmas Tree Festival

2023 saw our first Christmas Tree Festival which, whilst being relatively small, was a great success in encouraging local people to visit the church, many for the first time. It is hoped that this will be repeated on a larger scale in 2025.

Bring and Share Lunches

In order to bring our congregation together while sharing food, we organise several bring and share lunches each year. These help to integrate the many cultures represented in our congregation as we encourage people to bring and share their own traditional cuisine.

Ordinations and Confirmations

As one of the larger churches in the Deanery, we are often asked to host priesting ordination services for the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area and Deanery confirmations. With a large team of experienced stewards we can host these important landmark services in people's faith journeys with confidence.

Community Events

St Peter's is used by a wide range of external organisations for concerts and other events. As well as bringing people into church, these events, when a charge is made, are an important source of income for us. Events in 2023 included: three visits by a local art group, six concerts, including two by Ex-Cathedra, three organ recitals, three Nurses' Badge Ceremonies from Wolverhampton University, a three night run of performances by Wolverhampton Youth Theatre, two memorial services for Co-operative Funeral Care and a weekend when the Council used the west facade of the church for a son et lumière display.

The Gift Shop

The gift shop, which is situated inside St Peter's serves both as a shop and as a place of welcome for many visitors to the church. Open every day, while the church is open, it offers a range of books and gifts as well as acting as a supplier of liturgical products, such as wafers, candles and wine for local churches.



TEAMWORK

One of the strengths of St Peter's is the team working ethos.

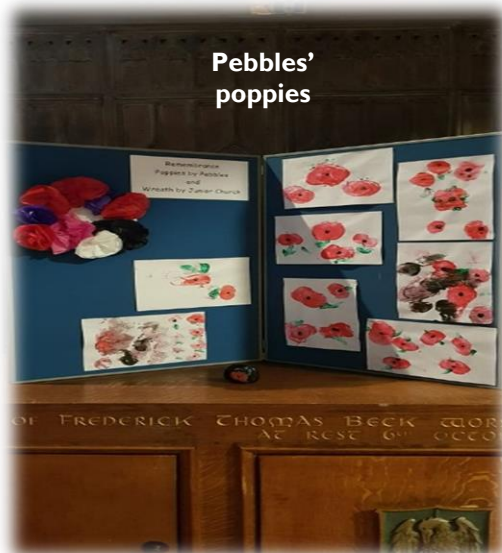
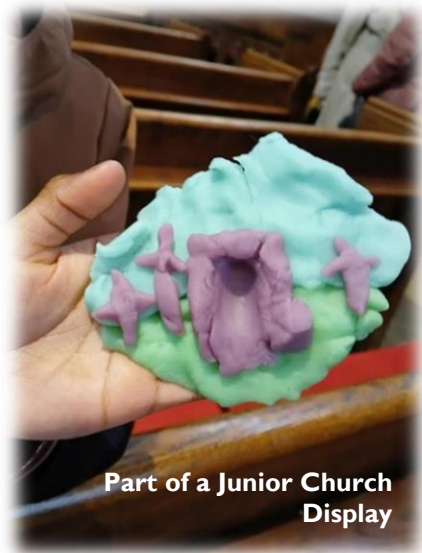
We have many committed teams who work on a voluntary basis to ensure that things get done and that the local community is cared for as best we can. These teams include:

- **Stewards**, who welcome people to our Sunday services
- **Altar servers**, who play a vital role in supporting the clergy during services. We are eager to grow this dedicated group, welcoming individuals who are interested in participating in the liturgical life of the church through various roles during worship. They are associated with the Servers' Guild.
- **Church opening helpers**, who make sure that the church is open to the public between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from Monday to Friday and who keep the church clean and tidy
- **The Flower Guild**, who are responsible for maintaining the displays of floral arrangements in church, enhancing the worship experience and marking special occasions with grace.
- **Bell ringers**, who are a committed team, maintaining the rich tradition of campanology by offering their skills for Sunday services, weddings, and special occasions and hosting other bands, which often visit to ring the bells
- **Pastoral Care Assistants**, who look out for the vulnerable in our congregation
- **Coffee and tea providers**, who make sure that refreshments are available after our Sunday morning service and for music events such as evening recitals and concerts
- **Lectors and those who lead the intercessions** play an important role in the lay ministry of our church
- **Junior Church leaders**, who work to introduce our younger generation to the Christian faith
- **Pebbles leaders**, who work with parents, carers and the very young as they experience their first encounters with the Christian faith

However, many of our volunteers are in more than one team and, although we do our best to keep things going, it would be wonderful to have more people come forward to help spread the load.

Photo credit:

*Dr. Aidan Byrne, Senior Lecturer English
Taken during a University of Wolverhampton visit*



ST PETER'S BUILDINGS

St Peter's Collegiate Church, a Grade I listed building

St Peter's stands at the highest point in Wolverhampton as a beacon of Christianity and historical and architectural significance in the heart of the city.

The oldest part of the building is the crossing under the tower, which probably dates from 1200. In the fourteenth century much of the church was rebuilt and in the middle of the fifteenth century it was again extended and substantially altered. The tower was rebuilt around 1475 to a height of 120 feet and houses the bells, which are the second oldest complete ring of 12 in the country and the third oldest in the world, all twelve being cast in 1911. The chancel, which was rebuilt in 1865, is in a Gothic style.

Recent Improvements and Restoration

The Church Commissioners have legal responsibility for the maintenance of the chancel. During 2024, they have embarked on a major restoration project which is still in progress. This essential work not only addresses structural concerns but also preserves the historical integrity of this sacred space for future generations.

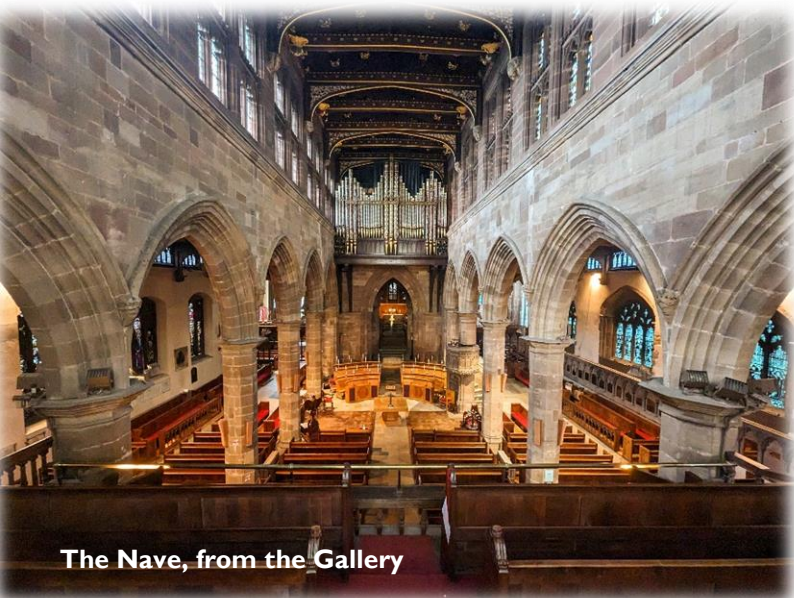
Improved and more cost effective lighting is in the process of being installed and the heating system has also been modified to reduce running costs.

Outstanding Essential Work

Despite these improvements, there are areas within our church that require further attention. Following the Quinquennial Report of December, 2021, work is needed to make good the roof and the stonework, where there is a need for re-pointing. With limited funding, this is an area of concern and seeking suitable grants to cover this work is a priority.

The interior of the building is generally sound, but ingress from rainwater has caused some damage.

We are committed to the preservation of our building's historical and architectural integrity while ensuring it remains a safe and welcoming space for worship and community engagement.



The Nave, from the Gallery



St Peter's Gardens

ST PETER'S BUILDINGS

The Gardens

St Peter's is surrounded by peaceful grounds, a space of tranquillity and reflection for the whole community. The Gardens are under the care and maintenance of Wolverhampton City Council.

St Peter's House

Adjacent to St Peter's Church stands St Peter's House. This facility serves as a hub for both church-related activities and wider community events, reflecting our commitment to fostering connections with and supporting the diverse needs of our congregation and local residents.


Within St Peter's House there is a café, staffed by volunteers, which is currently open from Tuesday to Friday (10am – 2pm) and which is a great asset in that it provides a safe and welcoming place for individuals and groups to meet together, whilst generating a small income for the church. The first floor contains office space, which is rented out commercially and the second floor is a large flat, which is also rented out, with the income going to the church.

St Peter's House is a valuable asset, but can be costly to maintain so it is essential that thought is given to how it can best be utilised in the future.

Parish Office

The clergy vestry in St Peter's church doubles as the Parish Office, although it is mainly used for carrying out business related to St Peter's. It is equipped with a computer and photocopier and supports the efficient running of our church's daily operations, from preparing service materials and bulletins to managing correspondence.

Since the covid pandemic we have been without a paid daily office manager, but during the Vacancy, we have been able to support a paid assistant for 2 half days a week. Much of the office work is presently done by volunteers.




Mid-15th Century
Pulpit



St Peter's Café



Visitor Centre



St Peter's House

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The diocesan Shaping for Mission Strategic Framework for the next 6 years asks us to consider the 4 areas of:

**Growing Younger,
being Purposeful about Evangelism,
becoming More Diverse and
Engaging with Local Communities.**

We are looking for a Priest who will help us to do these things, building on what is already happening and taking it forward.

We believe we are well placed to engage more with schools and to grow younger and that we are a diverse congregation, although the representation of the diverse cultures is not apparent in our management structure.

Our challenges are to do with evangelism and engaging more closely with our local community.

We are concerned about our financial situation. Without the two substantial legacies we have received this year, we would be in financial difficulty.

We need to expand our teams of volunteers and encourage others to take part.

We need a strategic plan to ensure that the church building is repaired and maintained for future generations.





St Peter's as seen by its congregation

During the vacancy, we canvassed for feedback.

Comments included:

For many of the congregation at St Peter's the reason we choose to worship there is the traditional nature of worship and particularly the quality of the choral services.

I believe it is important for sermons to be focused on developing our understanding of scripture, and making us look at biblical texts in greater depth.


We have attended St. Peter's for a while now and enjoy the solemnity and clarity of the services/liturgy.

The choir is vital and the style of service currently suits the beautiful environment of the church.

The congregation is diverse in lots of senses and the new Rector needs to be able to embrace that.

I would like the new Rector to be as friendly and warm as our former Rector who always found time to talk to those who came to church requesting solace or advice.

I think the new Rector has to focus on encouraging skills and passions of people in the congregation, and build teams.



WHAT OUR CONGREGATION SAYS

Reflecting on the detailed feedback from this recent survey, it is evident that the members of St Peter's cherish our community's rich tradition and the welcoming atmosphere that defines our church. The survey sheds light on the congregation's deep connection to the liturgical practices and musical heritage of St Peter's, while also expressing a desire for greater involvement in both church life and the wider community.

Responses from the survey are summarised below:

Tradition and Worship: A strong affinity for traditional worship styles among congregation members, with many expressing appreciation for the solemnity and reverence of our services, highlighting the need to maintain our liturgy for the rich spiritual experience it provides for our members.

Music Programme: The music programme is a source of pride for many within our community. Feedback indicates a collective wish to support and expand this programme, recognising its role in enriching worship and attracting new members.

Community Engagement: Respondents expressed a keen interest in increasing the church's outreach initiatives. There's a clear call for more community service opportunities and educational programmes that engage with local issues and support those in need.

Welcoming Atmosphere: The survey reaffirms St Peter's reputation as a welcoming community. Members value the sense of belonging and support they find at St Peter's, and wish to extend this welcoming spirit to newcomers.

Diversity: An encouraging trend has been the growing diversity within St Peter's congregation, with increasing numbers from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. This shift not only enriches our community with a wealth of cultural perspectives but also challenges us to continue fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where every individual feels that they are valued and their heritage is celebrated.

This diversity is a testament to our church's commitment to being a space of belonging and spiritual home for all.

Conclusions:

Drawing from this valuable input, it is clear that our congregation sees St Peter's as much more than just a place of worship—it is a community hub where tradition, music, fellowship, and service converge to create a vibrant and inclusive church life.

As we move forward, these insights will guide our efforts to strengthen our community bonds, enrich our worship experience, and extend our outreach, ensuring that St Peter's continues to be a place where all are welcome and faith thrives.

ST JOHN'S-IN-THE-SQUARE

[St John's-In-The-Square | Facebook](#)

Our Mission Statement

- **We will** continue to be a welcoming, worshipping presence in the heart of the city.
- **We will** develop links with businesses and service providers in our vicinity to bring them into contact with the church for worship and charity fundraising, using St John's as a resource for all.
- **We will** develop our connections with groups who come to St John's for occasional or 'special event' services.
- **We will** develop the concert life and other cultural uses of St John's to enable us to have the church open more often and to attract new people into our building and fellowship.

The congregation at St John's is small, but friendly and welcoming. We are very proud of being inclusive of all and have willing volunteers to altar serve, read, and lead prayers.

There are currently two church wardens and two assistants who help out.

The congregation at St John's is keen to grow according to our Mission Statement and hope for a priest who has a good sense of mission and outreach and who will be excited by the challenge to grow and shape St John's church community for the future.

In return, the congregation offers support, friendship, commitment as well as openness and honesty.

We are looking for someone who...

"Shows love for God and the congregation"

"Can give direction and encouragement in our faith"

"Shows compassion towards those with disabilities and special needs"

"Wants a challenge in the opportunity to grow and shape our church community for the future"



A PLACE OF WELCOME FOR CULTURAL AND OUTREACH EVENTS

Weekday activities at St John's are characterised by their ad hoc nature, primarily revolving around concerts and musical events, often hosted by outside groups who hire the church for their gatherings.

Notable among these groups are the City of Wolverhampton Choir, Wombourne Choral Society, and the Wolverhampton Music Service. Furthermore, St John's welcomes two ecumenical partners, the Asian Calvary Church, and the Fountain of Grace Church, who occasionally utilise its premises for their events or services. Regular visits are also made by children from Graiseley Primary School, particularly for their annual Christmas Carol Service.

One of St John's distinctive features is its organ, which predates the church itself. According to legend, the magnificent Renatus Harris Organ was played by Handel during the inaugural performance of Messiah in Dublin in 1742. Originally constructed by Renatus Harris in 1684 for the famed battle of the organs at the Temple Church in London, it ultimately found its way to Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin after losing to a rival organ built by Bernard Smith. Acquired by St John's in 1762, the organ remains in pristine condition. An appointed organist utilises this historic instrument to lead congregational singing on Sundays, as well as during Weddings, Funerals, and other special services.

Moreover, St John's is renowned for its superb acoustic, earning recognition as one of the city's premier venues for choral and orchestral concerts. Its modern amenities, including well-maintained toilet and kitchen facilities, further enhance its appeal and facilitate its frequent use for a variety of events and performances.

Styles and Traditions of Worship

Worship at St John's is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, characterised by the use of eucharistic vestments, candles, bells, and incense for feast days.

Sunday Sung Eucharist (Traditional Language), held at 09:30, is our principal service, a celebration of the Eucharist featuring hymns and a sermon.

Wednesday Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), held at 10:30, is a more intimate setting for prayer and reflection in alignment with the traditional Anglican liturgy.



ST JOHN'S-IN-THE-SQUARE BUILDINGS

A Grade II* listed building

The Church stands as a testament to Georgian elegance. A Grade II listed building, built between 1758 and 1776, it has undergone comprehensive redecoration within the past decade.

Originally serving as a chapel of ease to St Peter's Collegiate Church, St John's attained parish status in 1848. In 1998, it joined with four other churches to form the Parish of Central Wolverhampton.

St John's-in-the-Square is situated within the city's business district, though some neighbouring office buildings have recently been converted for residential use. It sits within a two-acre churchyard which, while no longer accepting new coffined burials, reserves two designated areas for the interment of cremated remains.

St John's makes strategic use of its churchyard by leasing parking spaces to local businesses, generating a steady and substantial income. This arrangement not only benefits the church financially but also serves the practical needs of the surrounding community.

Part of the Central District

The Central District, which covers Wolverhampton city centre inside the Ring Road and an area to the north of the city centre, takes in St Peter's Collegiate Church and St John's-in-the-Square.

Due to the discrepancy in size between St Peter's and St John's, the PCC decided to establish individual Management Groups for each church. These groups convene separately, allowing for a more focused approach to addressing the unique needs and concerns of each institution. However, they also convene jointly as a unified DCC when collective decisions or discussions are warranted.

This pragmatic approach has proved effective in ensuring that the interests and priorities of both St Peter's and St John's are adequately addressed within the broader framework of the Central District,

The newly appointed priest-in-charge will not be responsible for the other two churches, but will initially join them in the same parish team, so their work is also described on the following pages:



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

[All Saints Church Wolverhampton | Facebook](#)

All Saints', built with a capacity of 800 in 1877/79 and extended in 1892, originally served a densely populated residential area on the south eastern side of Wolverhampton. During the twentieth century the area became more industrial and the population declined. In the 1970s, the original nave was converted for use as a community centre and leased to the Council. The church now occupies the chancel, Lady Chapel and vestries of the original building.

In the original conversion, there was no internal access between the church and the community centre, but work in the present century re-opened this link. Solar panels were also fitted to the south facing roof, providing a useful source of income.

Although all the churches in the Parish now describe themselves as Anglo-Catholic in worshipping tradition, All Saints' has the clearest history of this style of worship.

The regular Sunday service is the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist

All Saints' has a long tradition of engagement with the local community and of work amongst the most disadvantaged in the area. Of all the churches in the parish, however, it has found recovery from the pandemic the most difficult, and some regular activities have not resumed.

The former All Saints' School next door is now a major community resource, All Saints Action Network, with which the church has strong and developing links

The School merged with The Grove Primary School, with which the Church has maintained links.

The residential population of the area has now begun to increase, with new housing on the sites of the former Royal Hospital and bus garage. Houses are still being built on land formerly used for industrial purposes in the immediate area. The opportunities for mission are clear.

Following the pandemic, services were maintained with help from the rest of the parish, especially clergy from St Chad & St Mark. Earlier this year, the arrangement was formalised by the appointment of Ray Gaston as Team Vicar (Interim) for a period of three to six years. The time of the Sunday service has now been changed to make it possible for him to take services at both churches and there has been a certain amount of sharing of worship resources between the two. There are signs that the congregation is beginning to grow and a Sunday School has recently been started.



ST CHAD'S & ST MARK'S

[Church of St Chad & St Mark \(chadmark.blog\)](http://chadmark.blog)
[St Chad & St Mark | Facebook](#)

Formed in 2001 by the merger of the congregations of St Mark's and St Chad's, the church plays a pivotal and growing role in the surrounding community.

Chad-Mark is an inclusive church with a liberal-Catholic approach and a strong focus on liturgy and the eucharist. We are committed to promoting diversity, inclusion and social justice in our community and wider society. Chad-Mark values hospitality, compassion, justice and respect for all people, regardless of their background, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ability or socio-economic status. We continue to work together to build bridges and overcome the challenges inherent in a diverse congregation.

Ministry and Leadership

Ray Gaston leads and manages a diverse ministry team, including not only Revd Valerie, Revd Chijioke and our garden chaplain Annie Heppenstall but leaders from all sections of the congregation. Four members of the congregation have also undertaken diocesan-level training through the Chad Foundation Course. We have two committed wardens and an active DCC.

Worship

The Sunday Eucharist, following Common Worship, order 1, begins with a period of musical worship, led by our music group, at 10:30 am, with the formal liturgy starting at 11. In 2023, the average weekly attendance was 70 adults and 17 children. We regularly run preparation for baptism and confirmation, for both children and adults. The standard of teaching at Chad-Mark is extremely high.

A Changing Congregation

Chad-Mark's link with the asylum-seeker community began in 2017, with the arrival of a group of Farsi speakers. We now have an extremely diverse congregation with a focus on welcoming and supporting the asylum seeker population erratically housed in city centre hotels. While the liturgy is in English, we have bilingual service sheets and the three readings are available in a variety of languages including Persian, Kurdish, Spanish and French – readings could be in any of these languages. We regularly sing worship songs in languages other than English and also use food as a way of bridging cultural gaps.



ST CHAD'S & ST MARK'S

All God's People

In 2023, a successful grant application through the Diocese provided substantial funding from the Church of England Innovation Fund to establish the All God's People Project, which aims to bring multiple communities together in shared, meaningful worship and mission. This has allowed us to employ two additional workers for a three-year term. Payam Hemmatpour is our Persian and Kurdish Discipleship Development Worker, working closely with our Farsi and wider refugee community and running a weekly Persian Bible study class. The Intercultural Music and Events Enabler will lead the music group and work to extend the range of music styles used, incorporating all the traditions represented in the congregation. This post is currently vacant, but we hope to make an appointment soon.

Children's Church

Chad-Mark has an active children's ministry with a variety of DBS checked adults running Sunday worship for children. As children grow older, they are encouraged to participate through altar-serving. We are currently thinking and discerning around provision for our older children as we are aware this is a gap. We have strong links with Merridale and Nishkam primary schools, running Experience Christmas and Easter, inviting children into the church, and going into the schools to run assemblies and share the Gospel.

Community Initiatives

We host a Sunday Community lunch after the service, with meals prepared by a range of certified volunteers within the congregation. This is open to the community, so we have a number of people who come for the end of the Sunday service, experiencing the last hymn and blessing (and often a baptism!) and then eat alongside the congregation. Chad-Mark also hosts various parties and celebrations throughout the year, some religious and some cultural, such as Yalda Night (a Persian celebration of the longest night) and a summer BBQ.

The church building (dating from 1908) was divided in 1979/80, when the western end was leased to the local Council as a Community Centre. After many years of active involvement in the community, the effects of the pandemic, following upon a period of declining use, resulted in the virtual closure of the community end of the building. Recent Church-led initiatives have allowed the whole building to open up again and the church is now playing a much greater role in the management of the Centre. The building is now used nearly every day. In particular, grant funding from the Marsh Trust and the Council has allowed us to install a modern kitchen, opening many exciting possibilities.



ST CHAD'S & ST MARK'S

Partnerships and Community Endeavours

Chad-Mark sits in an area of significant deprivation and hosts a range of initiatives from recycling/repairing furniture, CV writing and interview preparation, to sewing, gardening and yoga. There is a surplus food market every Saturday with drivers collecting from a range of local shops. We also host external charities, such as Hub for Grub which provides hot meals on Tuesdays, using the new kitchen and Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary, which is now hosting drop-on sessions on Wednesdays. All these groups use the church space, the community room and the kitchen, welcoming visitors from the immediate area and throughout the city. We are pleased to provide a warm, safe environment for those of all faiths and none, growing relationships and friendships with those around us.

The Future

Recent developments in the use of the building have brought us closer to the vision of a Church at the heart of the community, serving throughout the week. The Council's lease comes to an end in 2029, so there is much work to be done in making the arrangements viable beyond that date.

Ray's recent appointment as, in addition, Team Vicar for All Saints', encourages us to hope that we can co-operate more fully with the wider parish through the congregation there, but it is also a challenge because there will be even greater demands on Ray's time. The well-established ministry team will have a key role to play in maintaining and developing the work of Chad-Mark in the immediate future.



ST PETER'S COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Overview:

St Peter's Collegiate Academy, a Church of England Academy in Wolverhampton, serves approximately 1350 pupils, including 250 in the Sixth Form. Established in 1844, it has a rich history and attracts students from diverse backgrounds across the city.

Ethos and Values:

Faith is central to school life, with values of Service, Respect, and Aspiration integrated into the curriculum and pastoral care. The Academy aims to nurture lifelong learners who seek to love God and serve the community.

Infrastructure and Development:

Despite being oversubscribed, the current facilities are ageing. A DFE-funded rebuilding program started in January 2024, aiming to revamp 80% of the Academy by January 2026. Student outcomes are commendable, with most progressing to further education or apprenticeships.

Spiritual Associations and Partnerships:

St Peter's Collegiate Church holds a special place as the spiritual home. Traditionally, students have worshipped at St Peter's Church each term. In recent years, this tradition has become more difficult whilst maintaining supervision and safeguarding responsibilities. To ensure the worshipping life of the school continues, partnerships with other nearby churches and other forms of worship have been explored. Maintaining the link with St Peter's Church is an evolving and key area of work for the future.

Future Prospects and Collaborative Opportunities:

Exciting prospects lie ahead, especially with the recent addition of St Regis to the Three Spires Trust. This collaboration offers opportunities for academic and spiritual growth, enhancing the Church of England's influence in Wolverhampton's education sector.

Governance Structure and Oversight:

Representation of St Peter's Collegiate Church is integral to the Academy's governance, with the Academy Committee overseeing its operations. This committee ensures effective oversight and strategic direction. This committee includes:

- Ex-Officio Foundation Governor (usually the incumbent of St Peter's Collegiate Church)
- 5 Foundation Governors (all proposed by the PCC and appointed by the Trust)

Visit www.threespirestrust.org for more information.

The Academy's core aim:

"To support our students in their pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, allowing them to flourish as lifelong learners seeking to love God and serve the community."



UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON CHAPLAINCY

Thoughts from the Lead Chaplain, **Rev'd Prebendary Dr Sarah Schofield:**

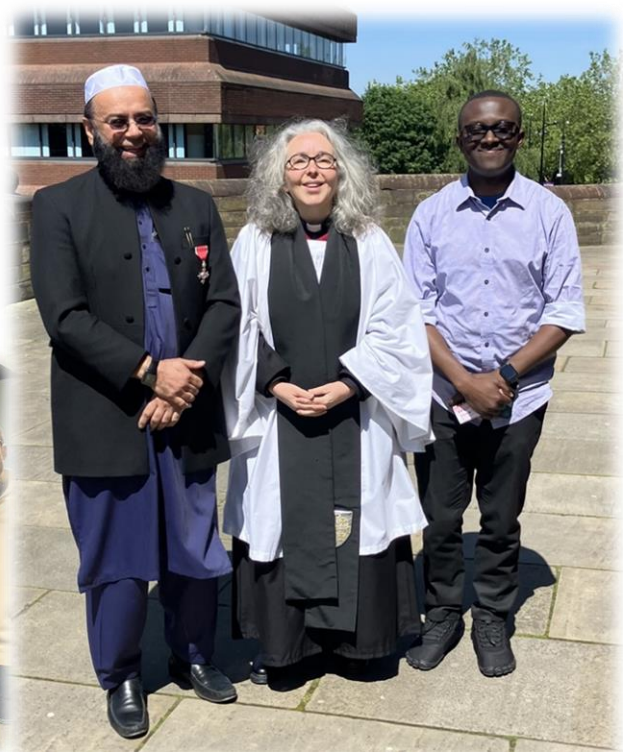
The University of Wolverhampton sits right on St Peter's doorstep and has a long and varied association with the Parish of Central Wolverhampton. As Lead Chaplain of a multi faith team and Assistant Rural Dean I pray that a new incumbent will enthusiastically support a renewed Deanery wide desire for ministry amongst and alongside our students and staff. Each church in the parish has students and staff as part of its congregation and in some cases leadership teams. Representatives from St Peter's and St Chad & St Mark attend 'Chaplaincy Open House Coffee Mornings' and the Deanery will have a stall at Freshers' Fair for the first time this year.

The University regularly hires St Peter's for its carol service and nursing badge ceremony bringing in important income. During the vacancy I was delighted to be able to collaborate on a Holy Week programme complementing St Peter's traditional extensive Holy Week offering. Dr Rob Francis led a poetry workshop, students and alumni contributed to midweek Eucharists from a Global Perspective, students were encouraged to become servers and a Maundy Thursday vigil for Gaza was led by Chaplain Imam Mohammad Asad and myself. Attendees at the University's interfaith iftar walked to St Peter's to gather outside after the stripping of the altar, gifts of candles and dates were exchanged. In the past year it has been good to arrange informal visits to St Peter's for the Christmas Tree festival and a very popular bellringing taster session. Both of these events drew individuals into the life of St Peter's.

Most importantly for any new incumbent will be how you personally respond to the blessing of a university on your doorstep within the congregations you serve. I believe this vacancy has one of the most exciting ministry contexts of any currently on offer, there is huge potential for an incumbent to grow not only the churches' ministry but also their own potential and talents.

Although there is no formal tie between my role and St Peter's, as a priest based inside the Central Parish boundary you will always have someone open to praying with you, a first port of call for holiday cover and help with midweek services.

I hope you have a vision for the relationship with the University and can join the congregations and myself in exploring what this might be.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

There are a number of good primary and secondary schools within the area around West Park.

Local secondary schools, apart from St Peter's, include Wolverhampton Girls' High School, St Regis Church of England Academy (part of the Three Spires Trust), The Royal School, Heath Park School and Wolverhampton Grammar School (independent).

Thomas Telford CTC at Telford also has a considerable number of students who travel from Wolverhampton.

Nearby primary schools include West Park Primary School (very close to the Rectory), St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy, The Royal School and Wolverhampton Grammar Junior School (independent).



THE CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Cultural Heritage

Wolverhampton boasts rich historical roots, with landmarks such as Wightwick Manor and Moseley Old Hall offering insights into England's past. Wolverhampton's Art Gallery and Grand Theatre (both recently refurbished) are close to St Peter's.

Green Spaces

The city is home to numerous parks and green spaces, including West Park and Bantock Park, providing environments for relaxation and community activities. There is also easy access to the countryside of Shropshire and South Staffordshire.

Educational Institutions

The area fosters a lively academic community and offers numerous educational opportunities through The University of Wolverhampton.

Art and Music Scene

The Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Grand Theatre and the £50m refurbished Civic and Wulfrun Halls (now known as University of Wolverhampton at The Halls) host a wide range of exhibitions and live music events.

Transport Links

Exceptional transport connections via road and rail, including direct train services to London, Birmingham, and Manchester.

Shopping and Dining

A bustling city centre offering a wide range of shopping, dining, and entertainment options. The main shopping area lies between St Peter's and St John's.

Community Spirit

A keen sense of community, with many events and festivals throughout the year, such as the Wolverhampton Literature Festival and the Vaisakhi Parade.

Sports and Recreation

Wolverhampton Wanderers' Molineux Stadium is in the Parish and former Rectors have maintained a good relationship with the Club. There are facilities for a variety of sports and outdoor activities in the local area.

Regeneration Projects

Ongoing investment in the city's redevelopment is improving infrastructure and public services, making it an exciting time of growth and opportunity.

THE WIDER REGION

Cultural Heritage

The West Midlands is a region rich in cultural history, featuring landmarks like Warwick Castle and the Black Country Living Museum, all offering a window into England's past. The region also celebrates its industrial heritage, with sites such as the Ironbridge Gorge, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Green Spaces and Countryside

With its diverse landscapes, the West Midlands offers numerous green spaces and natural attractions. From the scenic hills of Cannock Chase to the rolling landscapes of the Malvern Hills, there are ample opportunities for outdoor activities, including walking, cycling, and wildlife watching. The region's extensive canal network also provides a tranquil setting for boating and leisurely walks.

Educational Institutions

The West Midlands is a major centre for education, home to several prestigious universities such as the University of Birmingham, Aston University, and Coventry University. These institutions foster a dynamic academic environment and contribute significantly to research, innovation, and cultural exchange in the region.

Art and Music Scene

The West Midlands boasts a thriving arts and music scene, with Birmingham at its heart. The city is home to the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and a variety of theatres including the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Hippodrome.

Transport Links

As a central hub of the UK, the West Midlands enjoys exceptional transport connectivity. Birmingham New Street station provides direct rail links to London, Manchester, and other major cities. The region is well-served by motorways like the M6, M5, and M42, and Birmingham Airport offers both domestic and international flights, making the region easily accessible.

Shopping and Dining

The West Midlands offers a diverse shopping experience, from the contemporary Bullring and Grand Central in Birmingham to the charming streets of Stratford-upon-Avon, filled with independent shops and boutiques. The region's dining scene is equally varied, featuring everything from Michelin-starred restaurants to authentic street food, catering to a wide range of tastes.

Community Spirit

The West Midlands is known for its strong community spirit and cultural diversity. The region hosts a variety of festivals and community events throughout the year, such as the Birmingham International Dance Festival, Coventry Motofest, and numerous local food and music festivals, fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

Sports and Recreation

As a vibrant sporting region, known for its passion for football with clubs like Aston Villa, Birmingham City, and (the mighty!) Wolverhampton Wanderers. Recently, the region was showcased by hosting the successful Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which brought together athletes from across the globe and left a lasting legacy of enhanced sports facilities and community engagement.

APPENDIX: PARISH ACCOUNTS (2023)

Parish Accounts for 2023 Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	87,615	3,980	116,797	—	208,394	171,902
Income from charitable activities	33,973	4,338	177	—	38,488	39,324
Investments	55,274	—	1,688	—	56,963	52,082
Other income	12,503	—	—	—	12,503	13,158
Total income and endowments from:	189,367	8,318	118,663	—	316,348	276,466
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	244	—	—	—	244	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	248,448	4,048	158,632	—	411,130	257,541
Total expenditure on:	248,693	4,048	158,632	—	411,374	257,541
Net income / (expenditure)	(59,326)	4,269	(39,969)	—	(95,025)	18,925
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	312,001	—	20,368	—	332,369	125,967
Gross transfers between funds - out	(297,825)	(344)	(34,200)	—	(332,369)	(125,967)
Net income / (expenditure)	(45,150)	3,925	(53,801)	—	(95,025)	18,925
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	2,320	—	(507)	36,740	38,553	(90,823)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(467)	—	—	—	(467)	7,962
Net movement in funds	(43,296)	3,925	(54,309)	36,740	(56,939)	(63,935)
Total funds brought forward	492,645	9,358	271,767	831,975	1,605,746	1,669,681
Total funds carried forward	449,348	13,284	217,458	868,715	1,548,806	1,605,746

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023	2022
Fixed assets - Investments						
CCLA St Chad & St Mark	10,250	—	19,897	—	30,148	27,555
St P Harris Allday C047910 -	232,427	—	—	—	232,427	235,638
CCLA W'ton St Peter Church Repair	—	—	—	213,145	213,145	194,816
CCLA W'ton St Peter Collegiate School	—	—	—	97,406	97,406	89,029
CCLA Wolverhampton TNI504 -	—	—	—	248,400	248,400	249,982
CCLA Wolverhampton Trust 28 I.R A/C	—	—	28,279	—	28,279	25,847
AFH Wealth Management St John	—	—	—	309,763	309,763	298,146
Totals	242,677	—	48,177	868,714	1,159,570	822,870
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
St Peters House -	247,683	—	—	—	247,683	254,940
Fridge -	—	—	299	—	299	599
Totals	247,683	—	299	—	247,982	255,539

APPENDIX: PARISH ACCOUNTS (2023)

Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand

All Saints C/A -	2,124	—	1,083	—	3,208	648
St Chad & St Mark Current Account -	11,506	—	(1,994)	—	9,512	9,436
Parish Current Account -	311	—	5,946	—	6,257	9,788
St Peters Current Account -	(45,824)	13,284	58,550	—	26,010	37,072
St Peters Reserve Account -	—	—	12	—	12	12
St Peters Flowers Account -	—	—	753	—	753	702
St Chad & St Mark No 2 Account -	17,317	—	18,659	—	35,977	68,139
St Peters House Current A/C -	1,865	—	2,240	—	4,105	9,672
St Chad & St Mark Little Eden Project	—	—	1,602	—	1,602	1,781
Petty Cash Bells -	—	—	299	—	299	—
Petty Cash St Peters Church -	60	—	—	—	60	10
Petty Cash St Peters House -	63	—	—	—	63	28
Petty Cash St Chad & St Mark -	16	—	8	—	25	25
St Johns Reserve Account -	1,698	—	—	—	1,698	1,698
Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministry C/A -	—	—	33,797	—	33,797	33,537
St Johns Current Account -	(4,329)	—	23,058	—	18,728	31,440
CCLA St Mark Wton TN 1637 -	—	—	21,265	—	21,265	33,265
CCLA St Peters House Reserve [C] -	—	—	17,228	—	17,228	24,802
Manlove Street Vicarage Decoration A/C	—	—	3,354	—	3,354	2,991
Park Road East Vicarage Decoration A/C	—	—	3,666	—	3,666	3,303
Southern Vicarage Decoration A/C	—	—	4,234	—	4,234	4,172
Totals	(15,189)	13,284	193,768	—	191,863	272,531

Current assets - Debtors

Accounts Receivable -	1,280	—	450	—	1,730	—
Totals	1,280	—	450	—	1,730	—

Liabilities - Agency accounts

Agency collections -	—	—	25,237	—	25,237	9,444
Totals	—	—	25,237	—	25,237	9,444

Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

LDBF - All Saints Loan Due after 5 years -	13,777	—	—	—	13,777	13,777
LDBF - All Saints Loan Due 2 - 5 years -	10,660	—	—	—	10,660	10,660
Totals	24,437	—	—	—	24,437	24,437

Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year

LDBF - All Saints Loan Due within in one -	2,665	—	—	—	2,665	2,665
LDBF Common fund Liability -	—	—	—	—	—	6,794
Totals	2,665	—	—	—	2,665	9,459

Grand total	449,348	13,284	217,458	868,715	1,548,806	1,605,746
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