

**Report to the Fellowship of Saint John the Evangelist**  
Holy Redeemer Mission Partnership Development Worker

The Development Worker position has been filled after Lizzie's departure by Ian Burgess. He has continued building on Lizzie's good work helping the churches of the Mission Partnership reach their parishes with the good news of salvation in Christ.

The strong pattern of communications, branding, and marketing established by Lizzie and undergirded by a strong web presence has played a key part in the steady increase in attendance at St Matthew's leading to the best attended Easter weekend since at least the 1980s. We have also been able to reach many who are not yet considering the Christian faith through high quality occasional events such as concerts, craft fairs, and civic services.

As you know, shortly after Ian took on the role St Matthew's began a bold fundraising effort to regenerate the interior of their Victorian building. The combined total from fundraising events, sponsorships, individual gifts, and grants won stands at **over £200,000**. One of the Development Worker's responsibilities is to ensure the smooth operation of this challenging project including keeping apprised of developments between the architect, contractors, the Building Committee, and the DAC. So far these are all walking in step and should be able to bring the project forward as originally envisioned.

Ian brings some new skills to the role including a comprehensive knowledge of web design. This has enabled St Peter's Hoyland to gain an elegant and simple website ([stpetershoyland.co.uk](http://stpetershoyland.co.uk)) to publicise their events and services, as well as present information for the many individuals and families who contact them for Occasional Offices - a key aspect of their mission in the Hoylands community. For this ministry to continue growing they have discerned a need for a more accessible entrance and this will form the next large development project. The early stages have begun with fundraising beginning later this year. They have also been developing their pastoral visiting team and have asked Ian to consult with them about safeguarding policy and best practice.

St Catherine of Siena on Richmond Road are resuming their development plans from before the pandemic with renewed confidence thanks to an information-gathering survey to guide their outreach. Building on their engagement through hall hire they are seeking funding to improve the storage available on site. They are also pursuing building development to increase capacity in their weekday coffee shop which now serves over 100 people a week.

## Music Director at St Matthew's

A reliable high quality music programme at St Matthew's is not only responsible for making our Masses more beautiful and winsome to those who do not yet call themselves Christians but also for providing new ways for people to be included in the life of the church. A growing Choir allows people to take new steps in their faith journey by becoming a key part of Masses and other services proclaiming the Gospel in song, and drawing closer to the spiritual fellowship of the church.

As well as elevating the standard of music week to week and growing a confident choir, the Music Director role extends the outreach of St Matthews through collaborative efforts with other local music groups. We have hosted the Steel City Choristers and the Sea Cadets Band on various occasions, which has brought more families into contact with the congregation and leaders of St Matthew's. A highlight of the Music Director's work was a collaboration between the St Matthew's Choir, professional singers, and orchestral elements bringing together more than 30 musicians to deliver a Mozart Mass for our Easter Vigil. For the first time the attendance at the Vigil matched the attendance on Easter Day with many first time visitors.

Musicians and music groups in the Sheffield area find a warm welcome and a beautiful venue in which to perform in our monthly Sounds of the City concert series. Our Music Director helps facilitate these Saturday morning concerts which act as a fundraising opportunity for St Matthew's as well as an occasion of warm hospitality and welcome to people who might have no other connection to a church or the Christian faith.

