

St. Peter's Community Consultation Report

January 2022

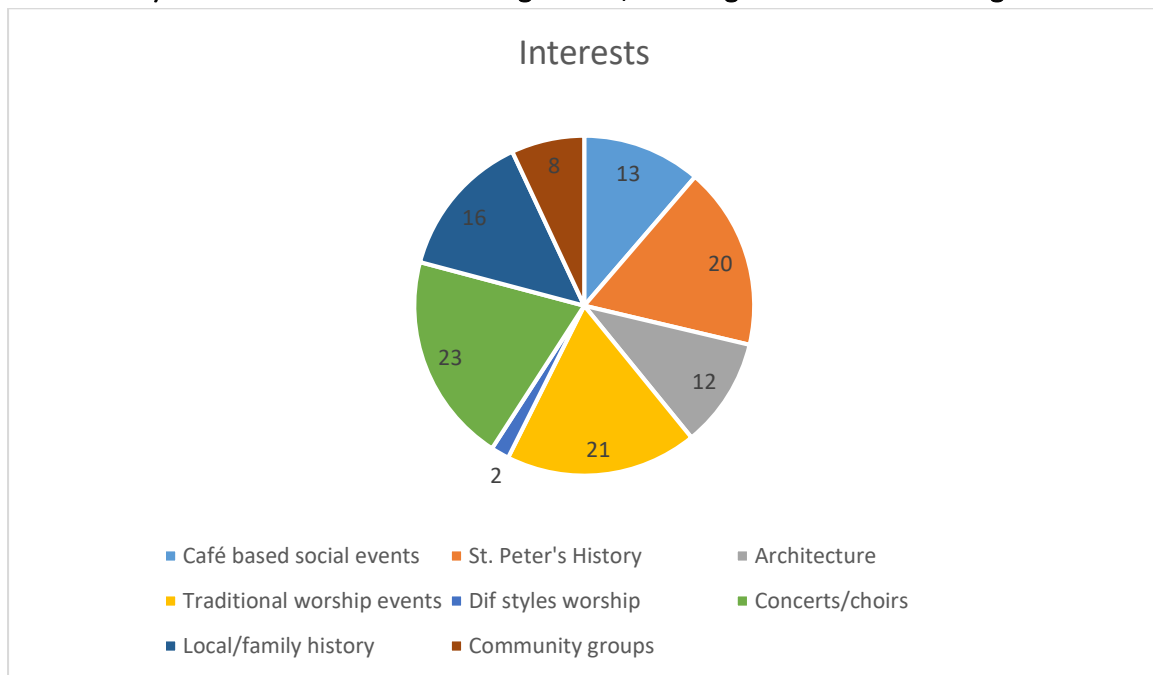
Thank you to all who completed the Community Consultation which was available online through SurveyMonkey and on paper, distributed in church to congregation and community groups, and in the Heritage Centre in St. Mary's Church, Market Place. It was important to provide both online and paper versions to ensure no one was excluded in an increasingly digital only world.

The consultation was advertised in an article the Stockport Express, on our website, Facebook Page, Stockport Heritage Trust Group's Facebook Page (6,600+ members), posters on our notice boards (with QR code) and within church. It was available from mid October until the beginning of January 2022.

A total of 38 people responded, 22 online, and 16 on paper. The greatest response was received from the Heritage Facebook Page post, but a very poor response was received from the Stockport Express article.

Responses

Q1. Would you be interested in attending events/meetings about the following?



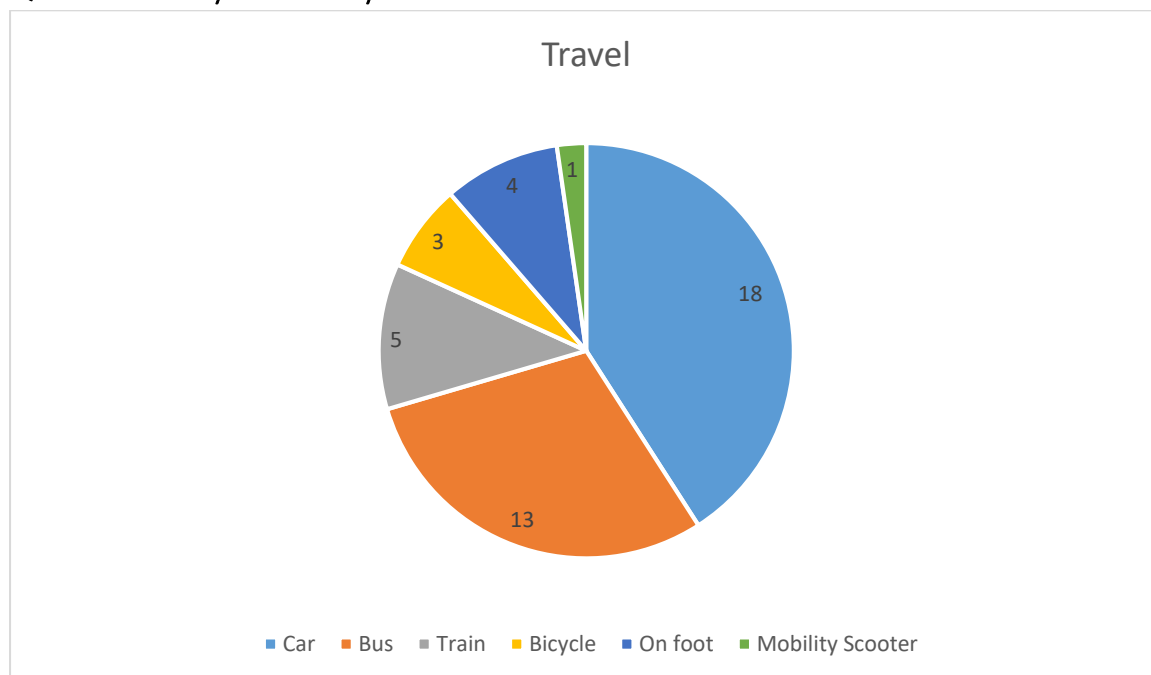
Comments left:

Voices in Achord are a Stockport based a cappella ensemble and would be happy to perform a concert in St Peters. Our repertoire covers all styles and genres of vocal music from over the last 500yrs. www.voicesinachord.com

Drop in centre for people in transit or homeless.

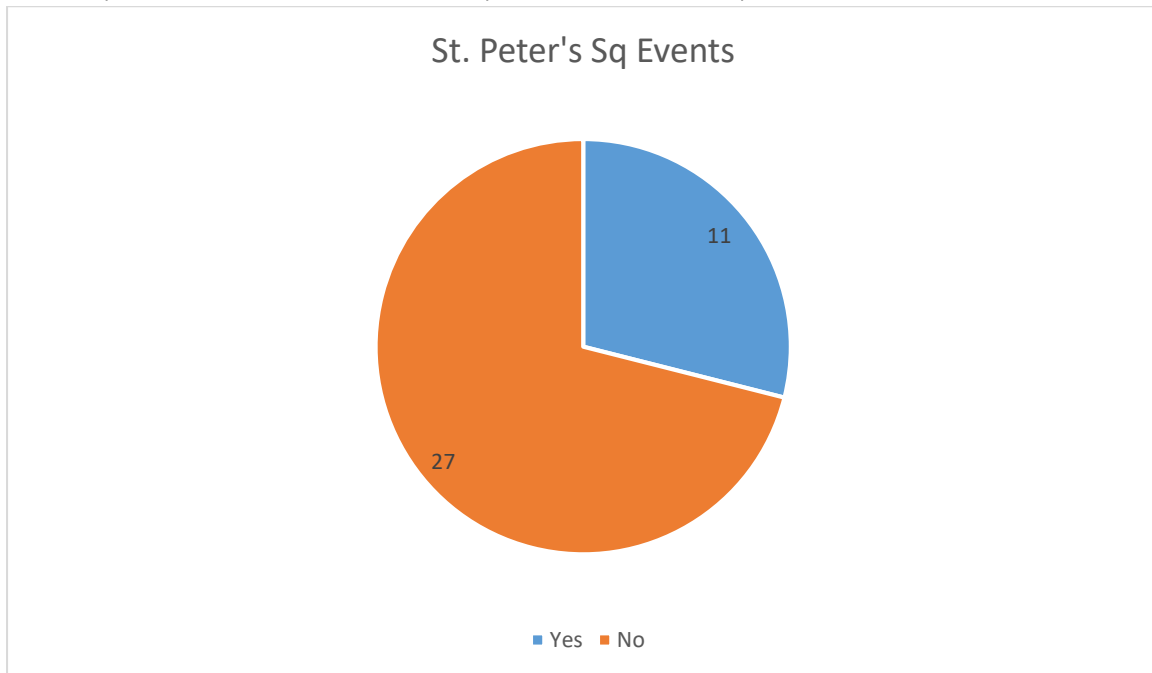
The favourite events were traditional worship and concerts/choirs, followed by St. Peter's history and then community group use. There was very little demand for events focused on different styles of worship. The drop in centre suggestion would need a lot of advice and support to consider.

Q2. How would you normally travel to St. Peter's?



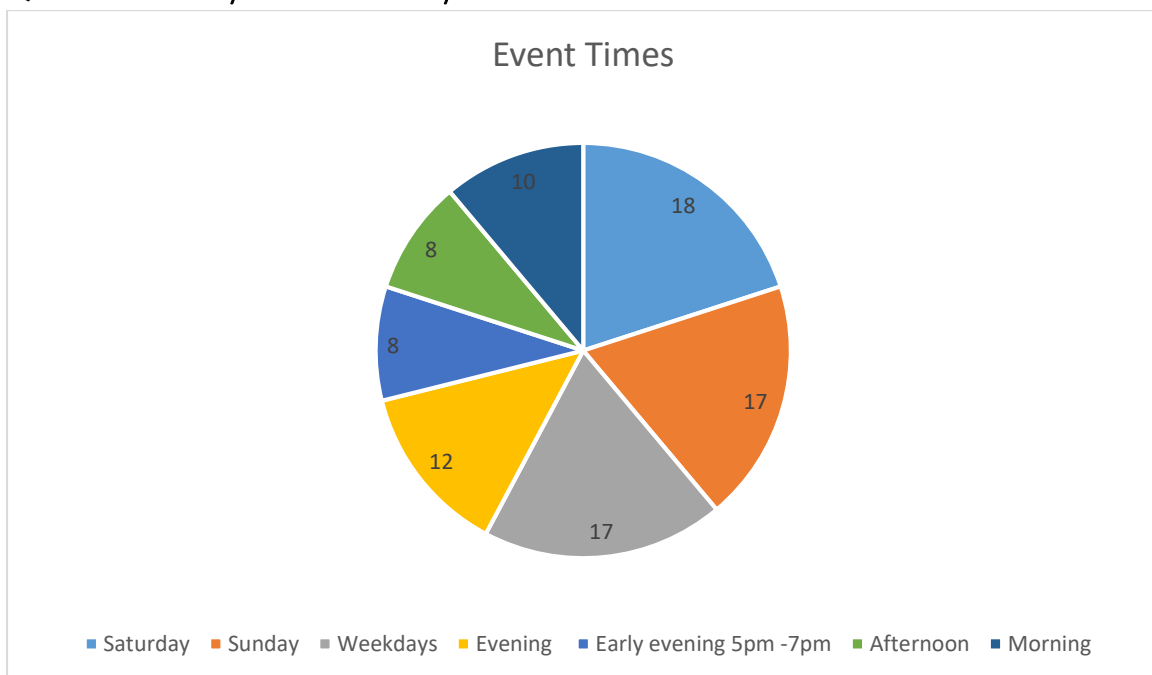
Most people travel by car to St. Peter's, but a significant number also use buses. The expansion of the cycle lane system along St. Petersgate in the near future may be of use to, or even increase the number of those who travel by bicycle. The loss of nearby car parks and increase in local residents is likely to have an effect on those arriving by car. Access for mobility scooters could be improved – see later respondent comment.

Q3. Do you attend events or use the space in St. Peter's Square?



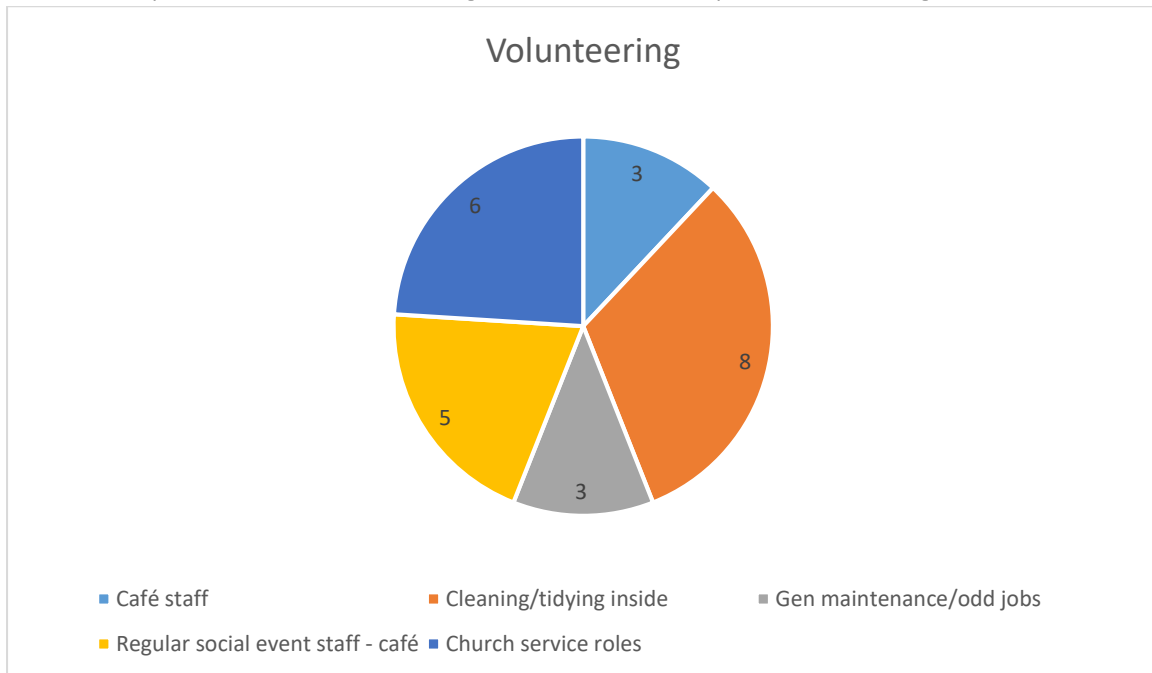
Most people did not attend events in the Square.

Q4. When would you be most likely to attend an event at St. Peter's?



Weekends are the best time for people to attend events, particularly Saturdays, followed closely by weekdays and evenings.

Q5. Would you consider volunteering at St. Peter's in any of the following roles?



This was the most skipped question, and a couple of respondents stated that they did not live locally so regular volunteering would not be possible. There are some potential volunteers out there however, particularly for general church cleaning/tidying. See suggestions to follow this up.

Q6. Do you have any connection/memories/pictures of the church you would like to share?

Five people left their email addresses for us to contact them. One lady said she had happy memories from the lace group, flower festival, family services and Women's World Day of Prayer.

Q7. Any other comments?

The following comments were made:

A permanent fixed ramp would make for easier access for disabled & young parents with buggies.

The tower needs restoration, more historical information would be welcome

From memory there was a lack of light and the surrounds were drab. Light can be created and surrounds beautified with fresh flowers or perennial plants.

Choir from local schools/colleges please

Wish it was more welcoming

Have a choir to sing the Gloria, the Creed and Agnus Dei

I enjoy the traditional service and this is the most important issue for me. Other events would secure funds for the church as far as I am concerned

Please keep the traditional style of Mass alive. In this age, the tradition of the Church is sacred.

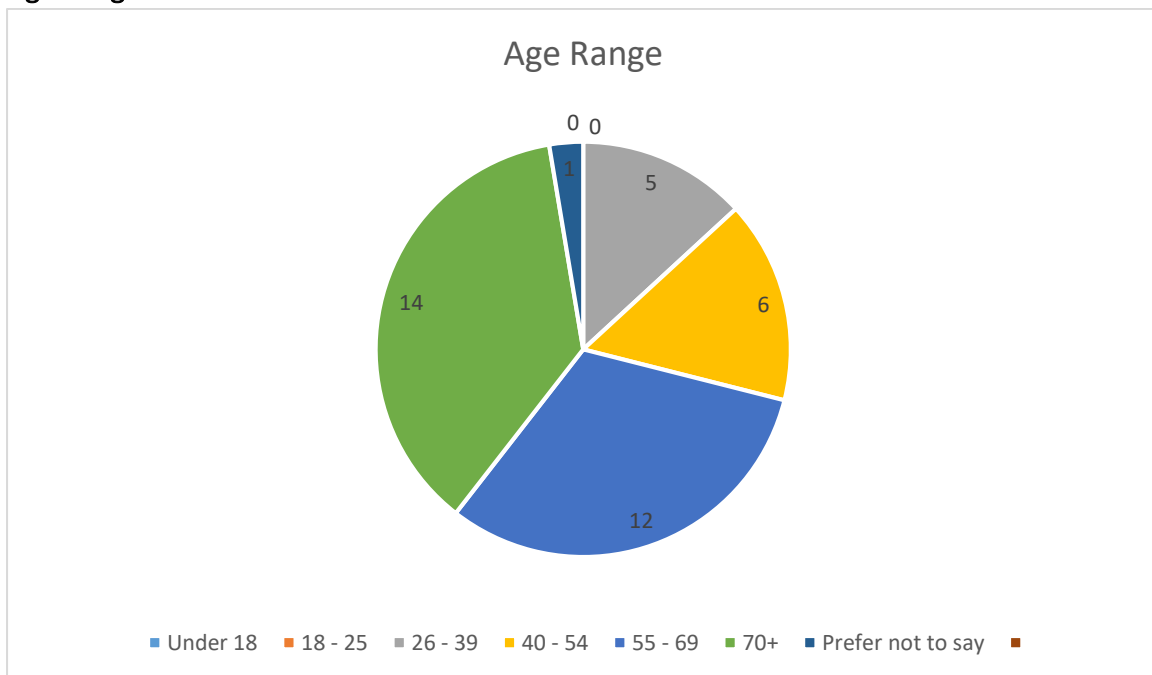
Choir with help of local university music students, occasional Mass on the square

Get more funding from lottery grants to repair St Peter's Church

There is a demand for a choir, and restoration both inside and out to make St. Peter's brighter and more welcoming. See suggestions.

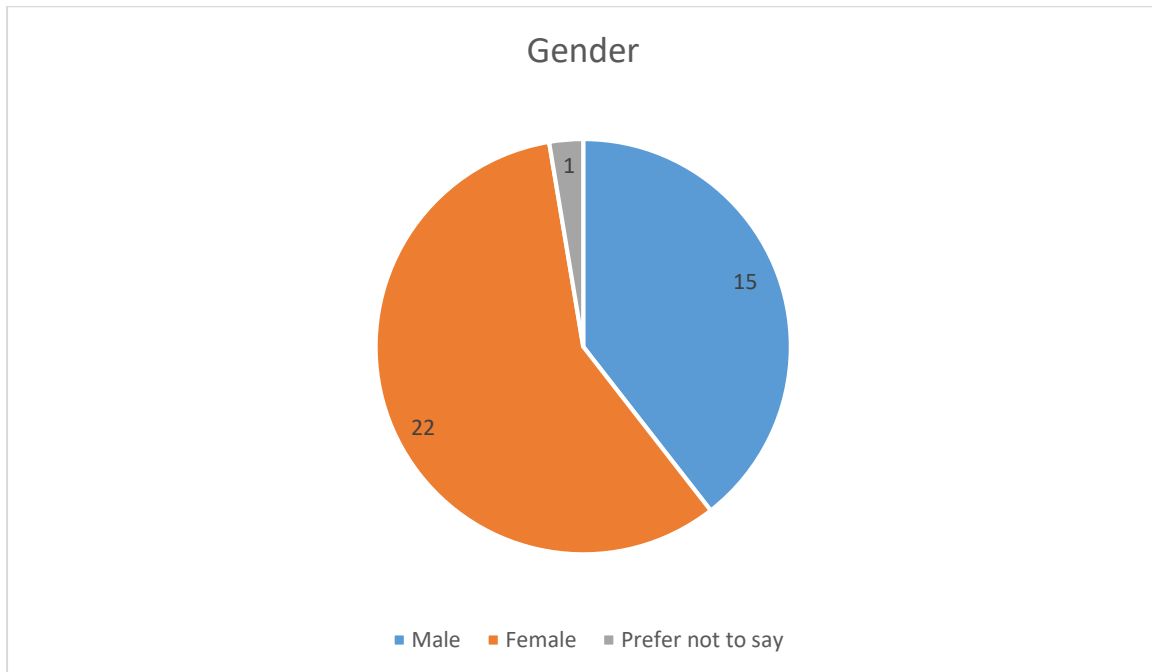
Demographics

Age Range



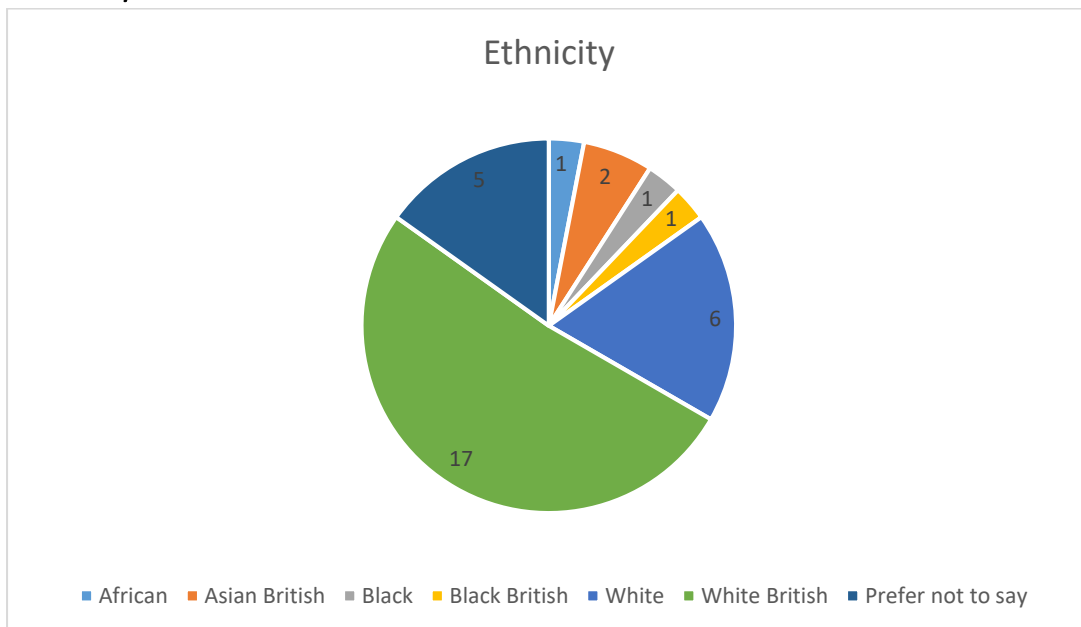
Sadly no one under 26 responded to the consultation, and a younger demographic responded online compared to the paper version. People aged 55 and over provided the majority of responses, with some interest from those aged 26 and over. It was hoped that the posters and QR code outside would attract responses from the young people using the square, but this did not happen.

Gender



There was higher proportion of female respondents than male, although the demographics for Brinnington & Central Ward have a slightly lower female population¹. One preferred not to say.

Ethnicity



This was the second most skipped question.

¹ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/1140857057/report.aspx#pop>

Conclusion

Question 1 and the comments section show that concerts/choirs and traditional worship services are the most popular type of events, closely followed by St. Peter's history and these would be most convenient at weekends or evenings. The monthly organ concert did well in a Saturday morning slot before the pandemic, and should continue to do so when life returns to a post covid normal.

According to the Local Authority, the ongoing and future redevelopment of the surrounding area will bring 15,000 new people into the town centre in the next ten years, providing an opportunity for St. Peter's to reach out this new community and provide services both spiritual and physical.

New opportunities to work with SMBC, Sector 3 and local community groups, particularly in St. Peter's Square, should help reach a wider audience and hopefully entice some into St. Peter's.

Improvements to the cycle path network nearby may encourage more people to cycle to St. Peter's, but there will be increased pressure on car parking as existing car parks close and new residents move in.

Suggestions

- Proceed with restoration programme as planned.
- Follow up the offer of a concert by Voices in Achord.
- Enquiries to local schools etc. to look for a choir to sing in St. Peter's on a regular basis.
- Continue to work with SMBC and other groups to identify opportunities linked to events in St. Peter's Square.
- Look into holding our own outside events/Mass.
- Explore possibilities of worker closer with Forward in Faith to attract more people.
- Further investigation into St. Peter's history and production of a booklet/ display could form part of the Activity Plan for the Lottery application. The connection to the riots in 1852 could be the focus of a collaboration with local Catholic churches, Stockport Archive Services and Stockport Heritage Trust to raise awareness of the event and promote/pray for peace and cooperation.
- Consider the provision of a bicycle stand or further consult cycle users for suggestions for improvements.
- Provision of a permanent ramp for wheelchair users etc.
- Display notices asking for volunteers for specific roles.
- Advertise for volunteers on SMBC's Volunteer Hub.
- Advertise St. Peter's as a venue for community groups/meetings on the Sector 3 list.
- Respond to those who left their email address re pictures/memories – consider a memories event.