



INSPIRE

St John's Church
Ranmoor, Sheffield

July/Aug
2020

£1.00

Featuring:

- * 2020 Vision
 - * Refurbishment of Parish Centre
 - * Toilet Twinning
-and much more.



Scarecrows exhibited in support of key workers during the pandemic



St John's Church

Ranmoor, Sheffield

Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre,
5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX

Tel: 0114 230 1199

Website: www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

St John's Church is a community whose vocation is to extend to all people the same welcome that we ourselves have received from God in Christ. Our worship, enriched by our strong musical and choral traditions, is at the heart of our community's shared life. The gospel calls us to lives of discipleship, informed by reflection and marked by care for one another, by a passion for justice, and by a commitment to the service of our local and wider community.

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Cover photo by Philip Walshaw: Red admiral on a buddleia

Large print versions of Inspire are available

Foreword: Goings and Comings



Recently, there have been a few significant movements at St John's. We are very sorry that Edward Barbieri has decided to resign as our Director of Music. Edward has been an inspiring leader of our choirs and has created some wonderful music during his time with us. We hope to pay a fuller tribute to him in next month's magazine but for the moment we would like to thank him for all that he shared with us during the past three years and to wish him every success in the future.

On a happier note, we are delighted to welcome Matt Wood, our Curate, and his wife Clare. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19, Matt's ordination has had to be postponed until the end of September but Matt was licensed as a lay worker on 27th June and he will spend the next few months getting to know St John's and Ranmoor. If you would like to have a socially distant chat with him, or a conversation on the phone, he would be delighted to hear from you.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be starting to have services in church. We plan to have socially distanced congregations at some of these while others will be live streamed or recorded. Please look out for further details in the weekly notices. It will be so good to be able to use our wonderful building again.

One of the Bible passages that has stayed with me during this time is Psalm 139. It reminds us that in all of our comings and goings, our worship at home or in the church, God is always with us, wherever we are. Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? Here are verses 6 to 9:

*If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.*

Matthew

2020 Vision

This time last year we had a Vision Day in the Parish Centre. I was so grateful to everyone who came and contributed their ideas and enthusiasm. A lot has happened since then!

We have been able to achieve quite a few of the things that we wanted to do. Before lockdown, these included the development of our All Age service with a children's choir and the re-establishment of our contemplative service, Sanctuary. We started providing coffee on Wednesday mornings for people on their own and began to think about becoming a more dementia-friendly church. In addition, we established some new groups like the Men's Group, Social Committee and an Environment Group. In spite of lockdown, we have been able to achieve our Bronze Eco Church Award and have furthered our social justice agenda with amazingly generous contributions to Christian Aid and the Burngreave Foodbank. So we have a lot to be thankful for.

That doesn't mean that we have done everything we set out to do of course. Sadly, the quinquennial report on the church building has been delayed. Hopefully this will be done soon so that we can then present some ideas for the future of our building. Our young people have missed out a lot during lockdown and there is a great deal to do in terms of youth work but we are delighted that Matt Wood, our new Curate, is here and will be able to help us with this.

Last July when we had our Vision day, none of us could have imagined a pandemic and its effects on our lives. But we have risen to the challenge. Our services on Zoom and YouTube reach large numbers of people. It has been a great sadness that we have not been able to hear our wonderful choirs but amazingly, many of our singers are able to contribute music from their homes. Meanwhile, Claire and the Pastoral Group have done a wonderful job of keeping us in touch. We have also been able to do a lot of building work in the Parish Centre and now have a disabled lavatory there. In addition, we have started work on restoring the organ. So even though our church building has been closed, church has continued and in many ways is thriving. It has been a real privilege to witness the love and care that people have shown to each other during this time. No doubt the past few months have changed us and our priorities for the future but we have good foundations on which to continue to build.

Matthew

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Refurbishment of the Ranmoor Parish Centre

As we started to come out of lockdown and the construction industry started to work again, we were able to engage Keith Langton to undertake some important ceiling repairs in the Centre. Keith was responsible for repairing the ceiling in church in 2018. The Trustees have been aware for some time that the ceilings in Rooms 1 and 2 were in need of securing and some issues had started to emerge in the hallway.

Because it is not possible to view the damage from above (that would involve taking up the floorboards in Flat 2, an inspection from below showed that repinning the ceilings in Rooms 1 and 2 was all that was needed. However,



when the ceilings in the hallway were inspected, serious issues were identified. A considerable amount of historic water ingress had occurred, and some joists had substantially rotted. Fortunately, the damage had only occurred in two sections of the ceiling and Keith's team were able to save most of the fine ceiling architrave and central ceiling rose. Where the architrave could not be saved,

moulds have been taken and like for like replacements installed.

Following the ceiling repairs all three areas are being redecorated and new carpets laid. These improvements, along with the new disabled toilet that was completed just as the Centre had to close, mean that the Centre has had a substantial refresh. At the time of writing this article, we do not know when the Centre will be able to reopen again.

Brian Parfett



Lockdown in the Editor's Chair



Have you sinned during lockdown? Now I don't wish to appear nose-y and, even if you have transgressed, I don't wish to know, however trivial that sin may have been. I am only referring to lockdown sins, but have you read all the temporary pandemic legislation, including the small print of the rules and regulations and observed them to the letter? The media, of course, have had a field day recently with high profile alleged "transgressors". Enough has been said

about the Barnard Castle incident, but when the Prime Minister was asked if his Government's messaging was so unclear that only his chief aide did the right thing while the public did not understand the restrictions, it made me smile. How ironic then that the MP who asked that question was exposed as having broken the lockdown rules herself. "*Let the person who is without sin cast the first stone*" is a well-known phrase that comes to mind.

Whilst this pandemic has brought out the best in many people, it has also created conflict with those who haven't observed the social distancing rules. I have also been disappointed to read about overzealous people reporting their neighbours and others to the police for alleged (and often unfounded) breaches of lockdown rules. Then week 12 of the lockdown saw temporary pandemic legislation being introduced that criminalises adults who live in separate dwellings for the sin of being intimate with their beloved. The risk factor there is probably much lower than visiting your local supermarket - places where, I am told, some people have not been strictly adhering to the self-isolation and social distancing rules.

And lead us not into temptation? How many times have I wanted to go to the local store to buy something we have suddenly run out of? During lockdown, many of us will have done those things which we ought not to have done and not done those things which we ought to have done, and there is no health in us - although we hope we've avoided contracting Coronavirus. Many of us may have high moral standards, but maybe that hasn't stopped us from sinning, however trivial the erring and straying might have been.

Most of us, however much tempted to do otherwise, strive to do the right thing in life but the modern world makes it nigh impossible to be perfectly virtuous. Take climate change, for instance. I'm a great believer in doing as much as we can to save the planet; how ironic it is then, thanks to Covid-19, that we are now being encouraged to use our cars instead of public transport, and the use of plastic has increased with disposable gloves, masks and personal protective equipment. Plastic bags are in greater use again due to more home shopping deliveries. But then again, the organic cotton "bag for life" we bought in order to cut down on using plastic bags will have to be used 20,000 times to make up for the extra resources that went into making them.

For a number of reasons, we try to avoid buying products containing palm oil, but an oil palm produces more oil per hectare than any other plant and whatever replaces it might lead to worse devastation. Factory-farmed chickens have a smaller carbon footprint than free-range ones, because birds need less food when confined indoors. I can't fill my Children's Society collection box because the "contactless" age we live in means I no longer get any loose change, although shopping has become a distant memory: others kindly do it for us.

Am I trying to be too virtuous? Have I sinned during lockdown and am I just being a hypocrite? Answers on a postcard to the editor, but I will leave you to think about the words written by the English cleric Thomas Fuller: "*He does not believe who does not live according to his belief*".

Philip Walshaw

Sophie M Pepper

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The Pastoral Care Group in Lockdown

The sudden change from life as we knew it to life under Lockdown at the end of March has created both challenges and opportunities for pastoral care at St John's. This article aims to describe them.

Change in itself is de-stabilising. This particular change has been so much more. Fear of the covid-19 virus individually and communally has led to unprecedented social isolation and widespread economic uncertainty. This has created generalised hardship in matters of daily living and threats to physical and mental wellbeing, including anxiety, low mood, fearfulness and helplessness. The Pastoral Care Group (PCG) has accordingly tried to assess and meet the needs of our parishioners.

Currently the PCG comprises seven individuals: (Janet Atkinson (Chair), Jean Couldrey, Liz Dwyer, Rosemary Farkas, Mary Grover, Trudie Kelly, Barbara Wozencroft) plus Matthew Rhodes, our vicar, and Alison Wragg, our Reader. Its activities were organised into short term care, long term care, the Wednesday Lunch Club, provision of transport and communion within the community. This was provided largely by volunteers from the congregation, numbering approximately 50. We met approximately every 6 weeks in each other's homes. We have an agenda for each meeting and notes circulated after it.

We have been meeting every 7-10 days since lockdown through April and May, using Zoom, which was a new experience for most of us. We are all extremely grateful for the unstinting efforts of Brian Parfett, who has contributed so much time and expertise in helping so many people in the parish to communicate with each other. Our first task was to determine who might need assistance and who could give it. We already had a data base with names and contact details from 'normal' times. This was expanded by Matthew's input and brainstorming at March and April meetings. For the first few weeks, one of us attended the Ranmoor Afternoon Tea (RAT) club on Zoom to pick up any new problems.

All the information was digested and presented as a spreadsheet by Mary Grover and Liz Dwyer, who normally oversee short-term care. This included relevant information: circumstances, social support, likely assistance required

and provided. It was updated by Mary, initially every week, using a different coloured type each time so that developments could be followed easily. Mary and Liz divided the names between them and acted chiefly as coordinators of care rather than helpers themselves, utilising the many volunteers already delivering or willing to deliver care. The first version had 79 names and the most recent 101!

Many of our parishioners are aged over 70 and others have medical conditions requiring them to self-isolate or shield, so it has been very important to provide social contact. This is usually by phone, but there have also been distanced conversations from garden or pavement, and a large number of people have learned to use Zoom, with the benefits of being able to see each other and participate in services or celebrations, such as Tom Dakin's 90th birthday party at the end of April. The Wednesday Lunch Club has not been able to meet. Trudie Kelly and Jean Couldrey between them telephone all the regulars every week to check how they are. Parishioners who need advice or help for themselves or others can refer themselves via the Office phone or by email (administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk). Whatever the future brings and however worship at St Johns adapts, the Pastoral Care Group and its many volunteers will remain an integral part of our church community. We are confident we can rise to meet the challenges ahead.

Rosemary Farkas



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“How Green is your Church”? - Part 2

“Quite a lot’ would seem to be the answer from A Rocha to our application for Eco-Church recognition. Whilst we have been awarded Bronze status, as Cathy Rhodes wrote last month, we have been graded Silver in three of the five areas of the checklist - Worship & Teaching, Buildings and Lifestyles - which is good news. The other two areas are Land and Community & Global Engagement, so the Climate Group has started work on improving our scores and achieving Silver overall.

“Land” at St. John’s includes the Parish Centre as well as the areas around the church building. The top priority is encouraging wildlife, which in a suburban setting like ours, mainly involves bird, bat and hedgehog boxes as well as bug hotels to support insect life. Our young people’s groups have already made a start and we hope they will enjoy this next challenge. The other key issue is flowers and particularly wildflower areas to attract insects and pollinators such as bees.



If you look closely, the ‘grass’ at the front of church is mainly ‘weeds’, also known as wildflowers and plants. Leaving some islands unmown until late June (2021) would encourage them to flower and, with a bit of judicious planting, look as interesting as the roadside verges that the University

Landscape Department created along our main roads. Eco-church encourages participation in wildlife surveys through the year, so we will have a way of checking progress.

In Community Engagement there are more challenging issues, particularly with catering. Whilst we have used Fair-Trade tea and coffee for many years, food prepared in the Parish Centre kitchen has to meet Environmental Health standards before any others, if we are to retain our four star accreditation, so using eco-cleaning products could be a problem. Sourcing

Fair-Trade, organic, locally grown food within a tight budget, is also challenging financially, when buying the ingredients.

Eco-Church encourages involvement with environmental groups and local sustainability programmes and events. Hosting a “Green Fair”, at St. John’s, which brings together groups and agencies concerned with environmental issues is another possibility as well as promoting global involvement through Christian Aid and events such as Earth Day (22nd April) and “Faith for Earth”, both promoted by the United Nations Environmental Agency. One such initiative that we have already supported is the Tearfund “Toilet Twinning” scheme. The new disabled toilet in the Parish Centre is already twinned with a toilet in Africa. In the article that follows this, Cathy has written in more detail about extending this to our other toilets.

The Thursday afternoon Bible Study Group discussed Ecology this month and explored in more detail some of the issues from the Advent Study series last December. The book we are now studying is by Sam Wells, the Vicar of St. Martin’s in the Field in London called “*How then shall we live?*” This covers a wide range of contemporary issues from a Christian viewpoint and has certainly challenged us on a Thursday afternoon. The model he uses when discussing ecology and climate issues is an equilateral triangle that connects us as Christians with God and the rest of creation. They are tightly connected in that we cannot contemplate the nature of God without reference to his creation, nor study creation without witnessing the hand of God. Or as Sam Wells puts it “Earth is the theatre of God’s glory” through which God reveals himself to us; or as Dylan Thomas described it in his (secular) poem “*The force that through the green fuse, drives the flower*”.

The Climate Group has started to draw together an action plan to enable us to achieve the Silver standard (or higher!), so if you are interested in helping, we would love to hear from you. Please contact John Green or speak to Debbie Timms or Cathy Rhodes.

John Green
St. John’s Climate Crisis Group

**WE ARE
TWINNING
OUR TOILETS**

1 in 4 people
worldwide don't
have somewhere
safe, private or
hygienic to go to
the toilet

Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases.
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food.
- Children often miss school, as they are sick or busy collecting water.
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms.
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt.
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if they have to go out at night.

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about handwashing and other hygiene principles. Toilet Twinning raises funds in support of Tearfund's water and sanitation programme. For a £60 donation, they twin your loo with a family's household latrine in a country of your choosing. Your certificate includes a photo and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location online. Tearfund works through local church partners who are well-placed to serve local people, tend to know who is most in need and can implement culturally appropriate, cost-effective, sustainable development programmes.

The partners work with the whole community to set up local water and sanitation committees; programmes benefit people of all faiths, and none. Everyone in the community benefits as partners explain the link between sanitation and health, and encourage households to build toilets, have clean water, and learn about hygiene principles. This is especially important during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a 'tap twinning' initiative has just been launched to raise funds for specific public health programmes. Any funds remaining after toilet twinning will go towards tap twinning.

In Malawi, where over 62% of the people live below the poverty line, this programme can change lives. Fourteen-year-old Ireen knows only too well that it's hard to do well in school when you miss at least one week every month. AG Care is providing schools with toilets and changing rooms for girls. At Chikuluti primary school in Salima, girls now have a changing room with water, soap and a mirror for use during their periods. It's so important that we overcome our inhibitions and taboos, including in the UK, and talk about issues surrounding periods. This happens monthly to about half of the world's population for a significant proportion of their lives!

The story continues at toilettwinning.org: *"I had to repeat a year of school because of monthly absenteeism due to my periods",* says Ireen. But not any more. Now, she enjoys school, and she's one of the top students in her class. *"I was poorly performing before but now I can clean up and get back to class straight away. I have passed all my subjects,"* she says, pointing proudly to the weekly published results in the corridor. Five months on from the building of the new block, the school's matron, Chifundo Chilala, says the number of girls missing school had "drastically reduced".

Could you donate to help sponsor twinning all our church toilets, total cost £180? At St John's, we already twinned our new disabled toilet in the Parish Centre. We would like to twin the other two toilets in the centre and the one in the church, and this is part of the A Rocha Eco Church programme. It is also a great present idea and I have had it as a family Christmas present for two vicarage toilets. The certificate and photos of our toilet twins in Afghanistan and Malawi make me very happy every time I see them! If you feel able to donate towards twinning of toilets at St John's Ranmoor, please contact Claire (0114 230 1199) or administrator@stjohnsranmoor.co.uk



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9am Morning Prayer (note new time)

8pm Compline

Sundays

10.30 Holy Communion

(A pre-recorded service will also be published on a you tube link before the live service)

6.30pm Evensong

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- If you have a web cam on your computer—great, but you do not need to join with video.
- Speak to Claire Webber or Brian Parfett who will help you to gain access.

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Using your telephone to take part in our Services

While the church building is closed, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, we have been holding twice-daily Services over the internet using a product called Zoom. The use of Zoom has been very popular, although I recognise that people without access to the internet have been unable to join in. A facility has now been introduced that people with landline or mobile phones can use to access these Services. This is very similar to listening to a radio, but you will know all people speaking or singing.

The numbers to dial are the same for all our Services. These are:

Dial 0203 481 5237 (this is a London number, call charges may apply)

Listen, a voice will ask for the meeting ID: dial 816969789#

Listen again and press the # key again

Listen again and enter the password: dial 662736#

The voice will tell you that you are in the meeting. Actually, you have joined our Service.

Currently, we have Services on Sundays at 10.30am (Holy Communion) and 6.30pm (Evensong). Also, during the week (Monday to Saturday), Morning Prayer is at 9.00am (note new time) and Compline at 8.00pm.

On the internet, we will see a phone and part of your telephone number. We would find it very helpful to know who is on the phone as the phone number can be changed for your name. So the best way of doing this is to let me know (Tel 0114 230 4137) if you plan to join our Services in this way. I just need your name and the last three digits of your phone number.

Also, arrangements can be made for you to receive an Order of Service and the hymns. While Zoom is in many ways an excellent product, it does have some restrictions. One of those is that only one person can be singing at a time. So, during Services, we mute all the congregation except for the person who is speaking or singing. This means that you can sing yourself, again much like you might do when listening to a Service on the radio.

I hope you are able to join us and look forward to seeing that you are taking part in our Services.

Brian Parfett

Returning to the Church Building

Lockdown, back in March, was relatively straightforward for many people, unlocking is proving to be far more of an issue. As I write this article, on 21st June, we know that private prayer is permitted in church and funerals also. From Sunday 5th July worship can recommence. Social distancing remains at two metres, though we are being led to believe that this will be reduced to one metre shortly. No music, singing or instruments, are permitted in church at present. The Church of England is expected to provide further guidance shortly. Football, for those interested, has recommenced, but behind closed doors.

So, what can we expect at St John's? We plan to open the church for at least one Sunday service as soon as we are able; whether the organ can be played or singing is permitted who knows. We plan, even when the church building reopens, to continue to offer our Services through Zoom and, as my article of last month said, via your telephone. We continue to be challenged by technology, although recognise that without it many more people would have felt isolated during the period of lockdown. Perhaps live streaming our Sunday morning through YouTube will be possible shortly.

We are making arrangements to have a one-way system in church, coming in through the south door and out through the north. The central aisle will be used for coming in and the side aisles for leaving. People who are unable to use the steps to the south door will continue to be able to use the north door to enter the church. Some pews will be taped off and only groups who live together will be able to sit together. Social distancing rules, whatever they are, will be adopted. At least initially, communion will not be available, and the Peace will be carefully managed to ensure the virus is not spread. People who feel unwell or who have a temperature are asked to stay away.

Undoubtedly, these are very difficult times for many people, particularly for people who have not been able to access Services online and are continuing to be isolated. Without a vaccine and with evidence of a second round of Covid-19 causing deaths in other countries, it remains essential that opening the church building is undertaken with care and prayer for our safety. If you, a family member or friend would like to join our Zoom services (they are twice-daily), then please contact the office (0114 230 1199) for details.

Brian Parfett

Parish Registers: THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Marjorie Potts, Maisie Presky, Herbert Gordon and Jen Bailey

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of those names listed.

Please pray also for the couples who were due to be married this month and for the families who were due to have their children baptised.

All these special events have been postponed due to the Coronavirus Lockdown.



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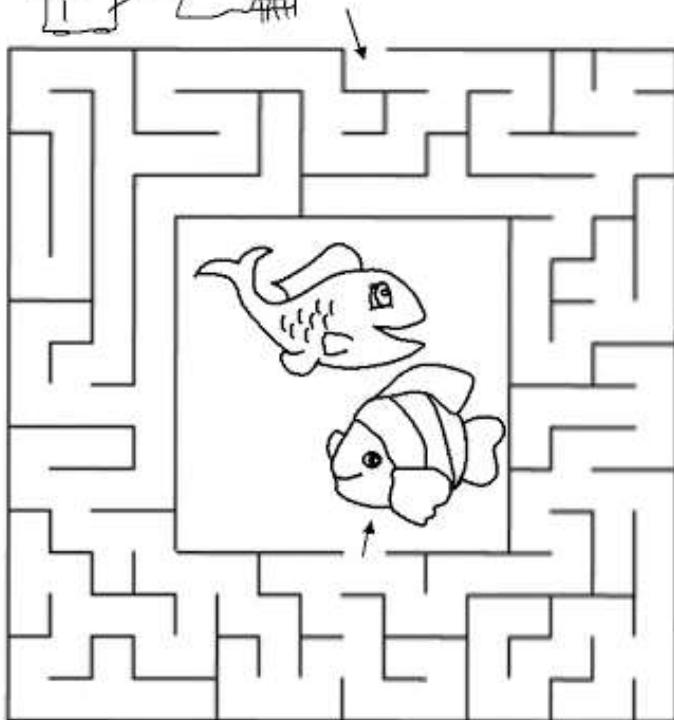
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Small Voices **Big Ideas**



Help the disciples find the fish they caught.



WORDSEARCH

The words beneath the grid have been used in this month's issue. Can you find them in the grid and then in the magazine? The words appear forwards, backwards, diagonally or up and down.

V	A	S	S	L	A	R	O	T	S	A	P	C	N	L
I	X	Z	A	F	J	B	T	R	E	P	A	I	R	S
S	A	F	H	N	P	F	E	T	A	L	O	S	I	S
I	U	P	Y	O	C	T	E	L	I	O	T	U	V	O
O	O	Y	R	D	L	T	I	O	C	C	J	X	J	L
N	I	C	C	N	W	D	U	L	H	A	X	B	M	O
C	H	W	S	H	J	Q	I	A	Q	N	T	G	L	C
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Reading Abbey

“Summer is a comin’ in”. Well, it was when I started writing this article, but by the time you read it, you may feel that it’s been and gone! Summer, of course, officially began on 20th June and that’s a fact. And talking about facts, did you know that the song “*Sumer is a icumen in*” was composed as long ago as 1240 and is the earliest known six part harmony from Britain? It was first written down in Reading Abbey and the original document is held in the British Library. A copy of it was reproduced and is on display at the Abbey.



For those who don't know much about Reading Abbey, it was the focus of a major £3 million project called "Reading Abbey Revealed", which conserved the ruins and Abbey Gateway and resulted in them being re-opened to the public on 16 June 2018. Alongside the conservation, new interpretation of the Reading

Abbey Quarter was installed in the town centre. The Abbey was founded by Henry I in 1121 "for the salvation of my soul, and the souls of King William, my father, and of King William, my brother, and Queen Maud, my wife, and all my ancestors and successors". According to the twelfth-century chronicler, William of Malmesbury, the abbey was built on a gravel spur "between the rivers Kennet and Thames, on a spot calculated for the reception of almost all who might have occasion to travel to the more populous cities of England".

The adjacent rivers provided convenient transport, and the Abbey established wharves on the River Kennet. The Kennet also provided power for the Abbey water mills, most of which were established on the Holy Brook, a channel of the Kennet. When Henry I died, in Normandy in 1135, his body was returned to Reading, and was buried in the front of the altar of the then incomplete Abbey. Other royal persons were subsequently buried in the Abbey. It was frequently visited by kings and others, most especially by Henry III who often visited three or four times a year, staying several weeks on each visit. Because of its royal patronage, the Abbey was one of

the pilgrimage centres of medieval England, and one of its richest and most important religious establishments. Following its royal foundation, the Abbey was established by a party of monks from Cluny Abbey in Burgundy, together with monks from the Cluniac priory of St Pancras at Lewes in Sussex. Here is an illustration of how Reading Abbey looked.



It also hosted important state events, including the meeting between Henry II and the Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1185, the wedding of John of Gaunt and Blanche of Lancaster in 1359 and a meeting of Parliament in 1453.

The Abbey was mostly destroyed in 1538 during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. The last abbot, Hugh Faringdon, was subsequently tried and convicted of high treason and hanged, drawn and quartered in front of the Abbey Church. After this, the buildings of the Abbey were extensively robbed, with lead, glass and facing stones removed for reuse elsewhere. The traditions of the Abbey are continued today by the neighbouring St James's Church, which was partly built using stones of the Abbey ruins. Reading Gaol was built in 1844 on the eastern portion of the Abbey site, replacing a small county Gaol on the same site.

Interestingly, at the time of the conservation works, an analysis of the Abbey grounds, using ground-penetrating radar, revealed that grave sites were found underneath the car park at Reading Gaol. Britain's kings appear to be making a habit of this. First, it was Richard III, whose bones were found under a car park in Leicester. Now it appears that Henry I may have met a similarly undignified fate.

Next year sees the 900th anniversary of the Abbey's foundation and a visit to Reading's historic Abbey Quarter to find out more about its fascinating history sounds appealing. If you aren't able to get to Reading in the current circumstances, the next best thing is to visit the website: www.readingabbeyquarter.org.uk It makes interesting reading.

Philip Walshaw



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Summer 2020: Another poem by Ann Bird

Following on from the poem that Ann Bird wrote for the last issue entitled *Spring 2020*, we have now moved on a season and, looking to the future, here is another one of Ann's poems entitled *Summer 2020*:

*Slowly the world comes alive again.
Routines are changing
and endless days are now becoming a distant memory.
The silence is no longer deafening as
cars, once confined to their resting places,
zoom past on journeys once forbidden.
People venture out from their hiding places
to view the brave new planet.
The smiling sun still shines brightly,
birds continue to sing, dogs bark
and animals graze in the lush, green fields.
Are they aware of our changing world, I wonder?
We lived in fear – our freedom gone
and now face a strange, unfolding future.
But with renewed strength and energy
and God by our side
we'll climb the upward slope
where time once stood still like a broken clock.*

QUIZ: The next quiz will appear in the September issue.

Answers to the June quiz (*British rivers*): 1. Porter 2. Blackadder 3. Severn 4. Medina 5. Welland 6. Windrush 7. Test 8. Wensum 9. Great Ouse 10. Parrett 11. Torridge 12. Isis (pictured) 13. Mersey 14. Witham 15. Soar
The winner of the May quiz (*Country Houses and Palaces*) was Janet Anker, who receives a box of chocolates.

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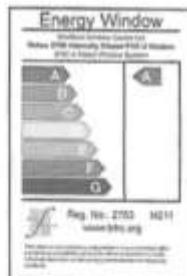
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Flower Arranging	Sandra Green · (0114) 230 9180 Jackie Lowe · (0114) 230 3999
Musicians: Junior Choristers, Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, Choral Scholars, Consort, Songmen, Schola Cantorum, St John's Singers, Occasional Singers, Sheffield Festival Orchestra	Music Office (0114) 299 3160 music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Prayer & Fellowship	Bridget Brooke (0114) 230 2147
Ranmoor Bell Ringers	Richard Noble 07834 154637 towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk Secretary: Gill Hopkins-Platt secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk
Toddler Group	Helen Clark or Sally Booker (0114 230 1199)
Wednesday Lunch Club	Claire Webber – see Contact Us

Uniformed Groups

Beavers:	Glenda Debrouwer (0114) 230 8691
Cub Scouts:	Jayne and Steven Hides (0114) 230 3635
Scouts:	Steven Hides (0114) 230 3635
Rainbows:	ranmoorrainbows@gmail.com
Guides:	ranmoorguides@gmail.com
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For enquires about groups and activities at the Centre,
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Contributing to Inspire

As always you should feel free to contribute to the magazine: articles, news, photographs, and anything else that you feel might be suitable. Any contributions received after the date shown below will be considered for publication in the following issue. We cannot guarantee that everything we receive will be published. **The deadline for contributions to the September 2020 edition is Monday 17th August, 2020.**

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A Postscript about our Vicar



It is 25 years ago since Matthew was ordained as a priest at Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday, the 2nd of July 1995 and here is a photograph taken on that day. We were going to mark the occasion in church along with Matt Wood's first service and the final evensong of term but, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been unable to do this. Ironically, Matthew and Cathy came to St John's in

the Autumn of 2018, at a time when we had been similarly "locked out" of our church; on that occasion due to the ceiling repairs.

We didn't want the occasion to pass without paying tribute to Matthew and I am grateful to Janet Atkinson who, I feel, speaks for us all when she says, "I look forward to Matthew preaching every week knowing that it will be rooted in the bible but always connected to the present and the issues confronting us. I value his quiet presence, his thoughtful, perceptive approach to pastoral issues and his ability to listen and take in what is going on but then taking action at the right moment."

Alison Wragg also comments, "Matthew has been amazing, taking on board my Reader training on his arrival and continuing to support and encourage me through my final year of training. I will never forget my Licensing service in Doncaster Minster last September and that very special moment before God when Bishop Peter anointed me and Matthew placed my Reader scarf on me. Matthew has continued to encourage and support me through my ongoing discernment process, through all the ups and downs and is always there to help me, and others, out when 'life' takes over."

Under Matthew's leadership, we are moving in a new direction which quietly challenges us to think afresh about ways of worship within the church and how to draw in families and younger people. As a result of his own personal commitment he is enabling us to become more proactive to issues of social justice and climate change. Thank you Matthew!

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