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Ranmoor, Sheffield

December  
and  
January  
2022

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- \* **Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church**
- \* **Eco Church News: What does Hallam think?**  
and much more.....





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# NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> December  
6.30pm

At the heart  
of Christmas



In Church &  
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# **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](http://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.

## **Contents**

- Foreword - 4
- Decorating the Church - 5
- From the Editor's Chair - 7
- Walking in Darkness - 9
- Farewell to Brian and Sandie - 11
- Our Journey, Your Vision - 13
- Corinthians 1:13 Christmas Version - 15
- Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church - 16
- Church Services in January, 2022 - 18
- Parish Registers - 19
- Young People's Page - 20
- Advent Poem - 21
- Eco Church News - 22
- Restaurant Review: The Mediterranean - 26
- Trees and Shrubs Quiz - 29
- Contacts - 31
- Groups and Activities - 32

Cover photo by Philip Walshaw

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

## Foreword



One At the end of the baptism service, we give a candle to the person being baptised and say these words: 'You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.' In these dark months when we welcome Christ, the light of the world, it is good to think about our lives as Christians and how they reflect Christ's light to others.

The Diocese of Sheffield has created a series of resources to help us in this ([www.lightsforchrist.uk](http://www.lightsforchrist.uk)). It reminds us that we all have a part to play in God's mission and that this encompasses, the whole of our lives, not just our Sunday worship. It is good to think about how we live out our Christian faith in our family life, at work and in our local communities. Are we able to pray for those we encounter? Can we bring scripture to bear on our life experiences? Are we able to live generously, serving others and challenging injustice?

Some people, myself included, find it helpful to have a rule of life. This provides a framework for living out our faith. It might include a regular pattern of prayer and Bible reading or help us to think about how we use our money. Some people may want to think about things they can do to care for creation, and there is a specific leaflet on this, but there are lots of ideas on the website. If you would like to discuss a rule of life with someone, please get in touch.

At this time of year, I feel enormously thankful for all those at St John's whose lives reflect the light of Christ. I hope that we can encourage each other in our Christian discipleship and encourage others to seek Christ's light in their lives.

**Matthew**



It is a great pleasure to let you know that Alison Wragg, our Lay Reader, who has been undertaking training for ordination at Mirfield, is to do her curacy at St John's. Alison will be ordained in late June next year and will be a huge blessing to St John's in her new role.

**Matthew**

### **Decorating the Church for Christmas**



We will be decorating the church with flowers for Christmas on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 between 9.45am and 11.45am. We will need lots of arrangers to help us please as we aim to make flower arrangements for the church porch, the font, the pedestals at the front of church, the chapel and a welcome arrangement inside the doors. Due to the hefty increase in the cost

of flowers this year we have decided that the best option would be to decorate the window sills using just holly and the battery operated candles that we already possess.

We would also love to recruit some more people to help us with the flowers throughout the year! If you are new to flower arranging and are interested in learning we are a very friendly group of people and we'd gladly give you help and encouragement on the day or perhaps you might like to just come along and watch the arrangements take shape! If you would like to help or be involved, please could you get in touch with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

#### **Donations towards the cost of Christmas Flowers**

We rely on the generous donations of the congregation to be able to purchase flowers to decorate the church and we would be very grateful for any donations towards the Christmas flowers please. Thank you.

Jackie Lowe (0114 2303999; [jackielowe22@btconnect.com](mailto:jackielowe22@btconnect.com))

Sandra Green (0114 2309180; [sandra.green70@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.green70@gmail.com))

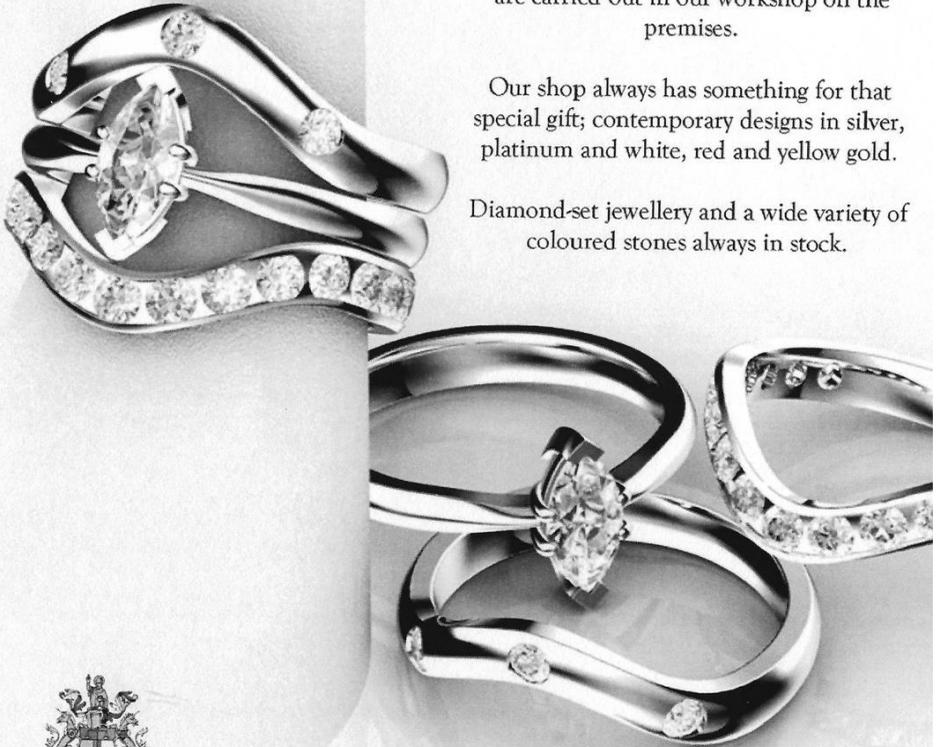
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## From the Editor's Chair



Bah, humbug! Now don't get me wrong. I do enjoy Christmas and all the things that go with it, but..... So where do we start? Halloween and all the wasted pumpkins? No, I won't go there for fear of sounding like a grumpy old man. (When I was a lad, we had to gouge out a hard turnip and eat its contents raw!). Bonfire Night? Well, maybe. Susan and I recently visited Glasgow and now all we can think of about that fine City is COP26. So, on bonfire night we went to an organised bonfire and firework display with our grandchildren. Yes,

we enjoyed it very much, but we began to reflect on all the pollution that was being produced and wondered if there will come a time when bonfires are banned for the good of the environment. Also, we teach our children about the dangers of fire and then let them play with it (sparklers, etc.). And don't get me started on the number of wooden pallets that could have been recycled but will have been needlessly burned!

So, what's this to do with Christmas, I hear you say? Well, might there come a time when the selling of real Christmas trees is banned for the sake of the environment and you are forced to keep your recycled imitation one forever? Now there's a discussion about which is the most sustainable option that I will shy away from. Then, there's the Christmas lights that waste all that energy? I could go on, but let's just look forward to Christmas and, when that's all over, it will be that time of year when we start thinking about booking next year's holiday. But should we be made to feel guilty about flying abroad, etc., etc? That could be the time when you make your Eco New Year's Resolution.

Merry Christmas, everyone, and a Happy New Year!

**Philip**



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## Walking in Darkness

It was in 1999 that a large number of Kosovan refugees came to Sheffield, fleeing war and terror in their home country. My husband, Trevor, was invited to be one of the team of welcomers. The refugees had been housed temporarily in a disused special needs school at Ringinglow. On the very first day a large white van drove into the playground. Immediately, the young Kosovan children screamed in terror and ran indoors for their very lives. It later emerged that white vans had been the transport for the Serbian Police who had sought to terrorise the people of Kosovo. The children thought the Serbian Police had followed them all the way to Sheffield. In fact, this white van had brought one of the first gifts from the people of Sheffield to their visitors: six cases of Henderson's Relish.

Over the coming months Trevor got to know a particular family very well. Their eldest daughter, then only in her mid-teens, had been very quick to pick up English and acted as an interpreter. As Christmas approached Trevor asked if she would be prepared to read a lesson at the Cathedral's service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols' to which the whole Kosovan refugee community would be invited. By this time, they had moved into empty flats at Park Hill. They were Muslim but of a liberal kind and were happy to attend the service at the Cathedral. Seats were reserved for them at the front and I was to stand at the back of the Cathedral and see them to their places.

As we approached 6.30pm, and time for the service to begin, they still had not arrived. As the congregation sang the first hymn, I went outside but could see no sign of them. Back inside, I felt anxious as we listened to the opening words from the Dean. The first carol began, sung by the choir alone from the darkness of a transept. Once over, the choir processed down the aisle towards the back of the Cathedral and gathered around the font whilst there was a reading. Then I spotted some figures in the darkness outside and kicked myself for not having stayed outside to welcome them. It must have been very intimidating for

them to enter such an alien building on a dark winter's night. Outside, I found a nervous group of refugees unsure about whether or not to enter. I reassured them and brought them in through the main doors where we waited quietly.

The choir then took off from the font, processing up the main aisle towards the central bell tower, singing another carol as they went. I immediately signalled to the refugees to follow me to the front, thereby joining the back of the procession and motioned to them to take their reserved seats, as if all their processing had been intended. The carol came to an end and the choir took their places. The refugees shuffled into their seats and, at this precise moment, our young Kosovan friend, now at the lectern, began to read:

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

You could have heard a pin drop. Ever since, for me, those words have brought back the picture of the refugees' procession. The evening finished with a reception and Christmas gifts in the Chapter House. I hope, in their darkness, they found some light in the welcome and generosity offered by so many people in Sheffield and that today's refugees are also finding a welcome here in our City of Sanctuary.

**Deborah Page**

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## Farewell to Brian and Sandie Parfett



Brian and Sandie.....what can I say? Well, I can remember one evening a long time ago, probably 1987, John Kirkham sitting on our settee at home after a dinner party telling us about a lady he had fairly recently employed to oversee the admin at his office. (for those who don't remember John he was a long standing member of St John's, and over the years was a warden, treasurer and patron - in his working life he was an accountant) He went on to say how well she had organised his office and he was sure that she would be

a great asset anywhere. Anyway, he said you'll be able to meet her soon as she and her husband are moving to Ranmoor and plan to attend church at St John's, Ranmoor; I'm sure they will want to be involved. How right he was!!

So, it has been 34 years since Brian and Sandie arrived and became part of St John's family. For the first few years they attended and became known by all in the congregation for their willingness to help when required. In 2000, the policy relative to gift aid changed considerably and the lady who was looking after that aspect of our giving decided to ask for someone else to take it on and Sandie willingly volunteered. From that day on until a couple of months ago, Sandie has continued this extremely important job. Over the years she increased her contribution to St John's by overseeing and administering all our Church and Parish Centre monies very efficiently. During my time as a warden there was a period when we had no Treasurer, which thus defaulted to me. I was extremely glad to have Sandie's skills at my side.

Also in 2000, Brian offered his services to become a warden after completing his apprenticeship as a duty warden. This was his first time and I imagine he didn't think that there would be a second period

totalling 14 years in all. He has been a warden for 3 vicars – David Knight, Neil Bowler and Matthew Rhodes. All of them being very different in their needs from a warden, Brian told me. Inevitably over the 14 years of Brian being a warden he has gone through a couple of interregna, which requires a lot effort and responsibility for the two wardens of the time (amongst other duties it is a warden's responsibility to ensure that clergy are present for services during an interregnum).

Additionally, during Brian's tenures St John's has had major hurdles to overcome – lead theft, ceiling collapse and Covid-19. The lead theft started during my time in 2007 and sadly continued for several years. From experience I can assure you that receiving a telephone call saying that water is pouring into the church, with waterfalls in the vestries, is not one that a warden looks forward to. Insurance issues are just as bad as one imagines! However, in all those water ingress instances the church was able to remain open for services. The two other major incidents resulted in the church being closed, the former of which was also through an interregnum. We will be forever grateful for the endeavours Brian made through both closures in keeping our family at St John's together and demonstrating to us that we do not need to have a building to retain it. He quickly obtained approval from the Bishop and organised the Parish Centre such that we could hold services whilst the church ceiling was being repaired.

The speed and anticipation with which Brian set up Zoom resulted in us being the first church in the Diocese to resume services during Covid and possibly nationwide. We held our first Zoom event prior to lockdown on March 20<sup>th</sup> and with Matthew's approval Brian organised a service of quiet reflection and prayer on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The country went into lockdown on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and we held our first Zoom service on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Without Brian's efforts we could never have had such a swift response to the pandemic. The Zoom services were very successful and the lasting legacy from those is the continuation of our services being streamed on-line via FaceBook.

We have a lot to thank both Brian and Sandie for over the last 21 years. I'm not sure St John's would be where we are without their skills and

time; John Kirkham was perfectly correct in his summation 34 years ago! On a personal note, I will miss them as I have spent many an enjoyable time with them, but..... they have let me have their new address so they haven't got rid of me yet and I hope to spend many more memorable times with them in Kent!!

***Anthea Priestley***

## **Our Journey, Your Vision**

It's now mid-November, Sandie and I are hoping to move to Kent in a month's time. Nothing is finalised with our house sale or purchase, so we are in the hands of other people. It's 34 years since we last moved here, while much has changed somethings haven't progressed much at all.

During much of our time at St John's, I have been involved in trying to maintain the church building and to find ways to improve the facilities. Some things have changed, but the major ones of accessible toilets, refreshment facilities, heating that works and lighting that enables people to read, sadly have not. Being custodians of a Victorian listed building that was built to accommodate Sunday worship for large numbers of people who didn't have the distractions of retail therapy, for sports or the need to spend Sundays catching up with domestic chores, is very challenging.

As St John's nears its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I suggest that a clear vision for the building needs to be established. In other words, should the doors remain closed 6 days a week or should the building be open and used every day?' Once a vision is in place, all proposed works would need to be assessed against the question, 'how does this proposed work fit with the agreed vision?' Only work that forms part of the vision would be undertaken. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, particularly following the pandemic, there is a clear need to offer safe, comfortable spaces for people to use. Surely, as the Parish Church of Ranmoor, St John's should be centre stage in offering high quality, accessible facilities for people to socialise,

learn and be educated. The facilities would, in my view, complement those in the Parish Centre.

As Sandie and I prepare to leave Ranmoor and embark on our next journey we hope that the St John's community can visualise the benefits of having the building open every day for individuals and groups to use in innovative ways that bring the building to life, instead of being in darkness for most of the week. Thank you all for your generous support and friendship throughout our time in Ranmoor, we will miss the city and its people.

***Brian and Sandie Parfett***



Brian and Sandie would like to thank everyone who organised and those who attended the farewell party on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. It was wonderful to see so many people at a social event. Due to ill health, the present that we have ordered for Brian and Sandie has been delayed. It is expected to arrive soon.

And here's a photo of Brian handing over his role as Churchwarden to Pauline Heath, alongside Mark Gregory, our other Churchwarden.



## Corinthians 1:13 – A Christmas Version

“If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.”

...in other words:-

*Love stops the cooking to hug a child.*

*Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.*

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens.*

*Love doesn’t yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful that they are there to be in the way.*

*Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can’t.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never fails.*

*Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost and golf clubs will rust.*

*But the gift of love will endure.*

(With thanks to Sally Booker who passed this on)

## Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church

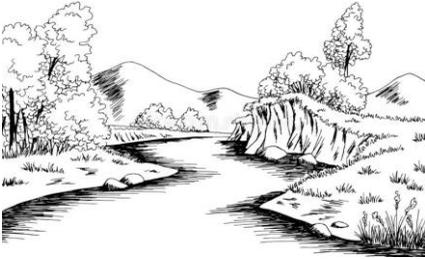
It was hugely heartening to be amongst such a large gathering of folk after the morning service on Sunday 10th October for a training session on Dementia Awareness given by Wendy Weeks and Helen Cottrell.



As part of our ongoing work as an Inclusive Church, this initial session was aimed at prompting us to reflect as a church family and with our Mission Partnership friends, on how, through a deeper understanding of some of the challenges faced by those suffering from dementia, we might make our welcome as warm and as helpful as possible. A key aim of the Dementia Friends initiative from the Alzheimer's Society is to '*turn understanding into action*'.

To help us in our thinking about memory, Helen used the analogy of two tall bookcases standing back to back. One is made of flimsy material, the other of solid oak. The flimsy one contains memories - facts about our life with the earliest ones on the lowest shelves. The solid oak bookcase contains emotions linked to the memories in the other bookcase. Dementia rocks both bookcases and, as it does so, the memories at the top of the flimsy bookcase start to fall off the shelves, while the emotions linked to them remain secure in the more solid structure of the oak bookcase. I found this such a helpful way of picturing how dementia affects the memory.

Wendy led an activity focussing on language using the text of Psalm 23, presenting it to us first in Latin to cloud our language perception and to demonstrate the many additional layers of language that can help a dementia sufferer to understand if they find the comprehension of speech difficult: mime, gesture, written word and picture. One of many helpful takeaways was how we might think about speech when interacting with those with dementia:



Speech is like water in a river - it passes us by and it's gone.

So, when speaking to someone with dementia, we can help by offering them small portions of speech and leaving space in between.

A message that has given me cause for reflection in the weeks following the session was that we should avoid making assumptions about what people can do. Speaking personally, I found this advice particularly helpful. I'm conscious that interacting with someone who is struggling with perception and language, acknowledging their vulnerability, can make us, too, feel vulnerable. Following this excellent training session, I feel much better equipped to appreciate what John Swinton at Aberdeen University calls 'the sacrament of the moment' and, perhaps, to let our understanding of others and our wish to welcome them in the best way possible, to grow out of our own shared sense of vulnerability.

**Matt Wood**



**C Paul Fox MPTA MIMIT**



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# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

## Service Calendar January 2022

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

10.30am All Age Communion  
6.30pm Epiphany Procession

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ

10.30am Parish Communion  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

10.30am Parish Communion  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

10.30am Parish Communion  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January

10.30am Matins  
6.30pm Communion – Common Worship

### Other services during the week:

**Holy Communion:** Every Wednesday at 11.30am in the Parish Centre.

**Choral Evensong:** Wednesdays at 5.30pm

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 9am in Church and on zoom

**Footsteps:** A Sunday school children's group that meets during the Sunday morning service.

Children are welcome at all of our services.

**Lunch Club:** meets every Wednesday in the Parish Centre.  
All welcome

# Parish Registers: December, 2021

## THOSE COUPLES WHO WERE MARRIED HERE AT ST JOHN'S:

Daniel Federico Navarette and Isabelle Lucy Blackburn  
Tom Williamson and Claire Hanson (moved from March 2021)

## THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Tom, Clare Lees, Margaret Beilby, Ann Dyson and Peter Crowther

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with their friends and family.

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## Young People's Page

### *Continuing the Adventures of One Very Large Elephant and One Very Small Mouse*

#### *Episode 12*



"It's so hot," sighed the mouse, fanning itself with one paw.

"Shall we go to the lake for a swim?" suggested the elephant.

"Um," the mouse hesitated, "maybe..."

"What's wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong!"

A sudden thought struck the elephant.

"Do you know how to swim?" it asked.

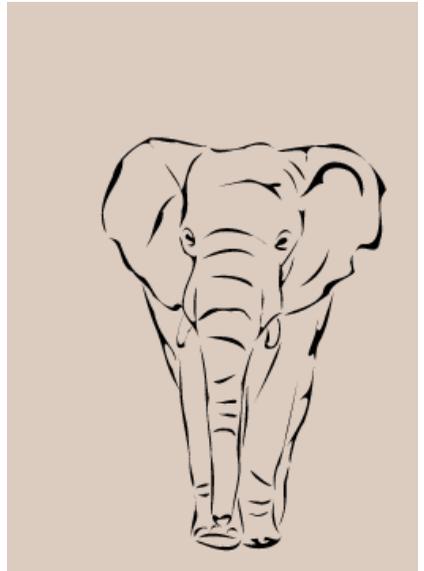
"Of course I do!" snapped the mouse. "I just don't want to."

"How would you like it if I went for a swim with you on my back so you can just dip your toes in?" the elephant suggested.

The mouse pretended to contemplate this.

"All right," it conceded. "But only because you seem to want to go swimming so badly."

"Thank you." And the elephant smiled a private smile.



@littlepoppypoetry

## Advent Poem

In addition to being a chorister and a musician, Mabel Bailey is a budding poet! She has been trying to write a short poem every day for a month. This one is about Advent:

*For all, this time of waiting,  
Waiting for winter's end,  
For the new year's beginning,  
For Christ's birth.  
Candles flicker in windows,  
Paper snowflakes hang,  
Waiting for snow.  
Trees strung with lights,  
Waiting to shelter gifts under their lowest boughs.  
For all, a time of waiting.*



### Advertise in St John's Ranmoor monthly magazine—[Inspire](#)

Have you considered advertising in Inspire the St John's Ranmoor magazine?

Inspire is an A5 size publication published 10 times each year read widely in our local area. Over 300 copies are distributed monthly around the Ranmoor Parish and beyond and the magazine is emailed to over 500 people per month!

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[www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

## **Eco Church News: COP 26 - What does Hallam think?**

By the time you read this, the 26th International Climate Conference will have happened in Glasgow when 190+ nations will meet to review and increase the commitments they made in Paris in 2015, to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (we're currently at 1.1°C).

Recent extreme weather events and wildfires across the world should focus minds on what is increasingly being accepted as a climate emergency. Hopefully the COP ("Conference of Parties") will be seen as a success, as much for ourselves as citizens, as it is for our Government who are the hosts. At the time of writing, an agreement has been reached and some progress was made. However, more work is needed and politicians involved are under severe pressure from interest groups and activists to commit to further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There is also a need to address climate injustice and ongoing delays in honouring promises of finance to poorer nations. Here in south west Sheffield our local MP Olivia Blake has convened a Hallam Citizens Assembly that has been meeting monthly (on Zoom) since January 2021, to produce a local Citizen's Climate Manifesto. This was published on 21st October and presented to the Prime Minister at No.10 the following day. Cathy Rhodes was able to be there alongside other constituents.

Whilst the Manifesto is published under a Labour Party heading, the participants were drawn from across the political and social spectrum, including faith groups including St. John's, Baptists and Quakers. Each monthly gathering was devoted to one topic such as 'Green Public Transport' with two speakers giving their particular view point and then breakout groups discussing what they had heard and adding their own views, all recorded by a facilitator. The results have been summarised into eight chapters derived from the monthly topics. Like most Manifestos, they range from 'wish list' items, like free buses, to evidence based proposals like local green energy projects. Given the subject of the Manifesto, there is a leftward slant to many of the suggestions but balanced by practical suggestions such as incentivising business to

develop green products and create green jobs. Those of us who are not party-political were able to see our views reflected in most sections given that us “centrists” have views that range across the spectrum, dependent on the issue. The eight topics covered are:-

- Green Public Transport
- Decarbonising Finance
- Agriculture and Food production
- Healthy Neighbourhoods
- A Clean Energy Revolution
- International Climate Justice
- Green Industrial Strategy
- Nature and Biodiversity.

Each topic covers two pages with some background information and a list of objectives. ‘Green Transport’ for example, explains that transport is the largest contributor to emissions, mostly from private cars and road freight. 78% of goods are transported by road and 71% of Sheffield commuters travel by private car. Increasing rail capacity is seen as part of the solution although there is no mention of HS2 Eastern. At the time of writing, it looks like this may be cancelled and replaced by better train services between the cities of the North. There is support for a low emissions zone in the city centre and a recommendation to create a fleet of electric taxis.

Both ‘Decarbonising Finance’ and ‘International Justice’ include concerns for the Global South who are suffering the most from the effects of climate change and yet are not being fully supported by the developed world to make the transition to carbon neutral. Unsurprisingly this was the issue of greatest concern to the faith groups. Keeping things local featured in ‘Agriculture and Food Production’, with reducing ‘food miles’ and food waste and encouraging social and communal eating based on the Sheffield “Foodhall” project - a successor to the ‘British Restaurants’ that some of us can remember from the post war years. Local investment through community bonds and a green investment bank reminded me of the National Savings drives, as we recovered from WW2.

“Healthy Neighbourhoods” hopes for a vibrant city centre - which we can all hope for, given its present run-down state. Smaller independent shops are seen as the key to revival. “Clean Energy” asks politicians not to accept false or unproven solutions to decarbonisation, such as offsetting (by tree planting) or carbon capture systems. Developing a local energy network by supporting local renewable energy generation and community-owned onshore wind, such as the scheme run by Bristol City Council, were central to the strategy.

During the pandemic our economy has shrunk by 25%, after a decade of austerity and stagnation so a “Green Industrial Strategy” is seen as the way forward to create new industries and jobs. Decarbonising steel production is a particular challenge for us in Sheffield but research and development is being directed to this goal. Bill Gates, in his recent book “How to avoid a Climate Disaster”, sees technological innovation as the solution and writes about this work and the “green” manufacture of basic raw materials such as concrete and aluminium, which are essential for building a green future. In leafy south west Sheffield it is hard to imagine that the UK is ranked worse in the G7 countries for losing wildlife and green spaces. 1 in 10 of our wildlife species face extinction as are 40% of our trees. The Manifesto calls for a national environmental strategy and an environmental impact assessment of government policies that affect nature and biodiversity.

As Shadow Minister for Nature, Water and Flooding, we hope that Ms Blake MP will be able to influence the Government along the lines we have all worked on for the last 10 months. We have learnt a lot from each other as well as the Assembly speakers. Matthew and Cathy Rhodes went to COP26 and were part of the faith bloc joining with millions around the world in a Day of Action for Climate Justice on 6 November. We all hope people of faith can help make a difference on our behalf at what is a vital threshold for our futures.

***John Green and Cathy Rhodes***

Note: The Manifesto is available on [www.oliviablake.org.uk](http://www.oliviablake.org.uk)

## Does Paying For Care Fees Worry You?

Angela Guylee has been a specialist adviser to the elderly for more than 17 years, advising people on funding care fees and aiming to preserve as much of their assets as possible.

Angela also offers guidance on potential benefits that may be available.

There are sensitive issues facing families who need to place a relative in care and Angela's approach offers empathy and understanding.

In 2010 Angela gained the Later Life Adviser accreditation and became a member of the Society of Later Life Advisers (SOLLA). She is the only adviser in this area to achieve the skills of this prestigious accreditation.



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## Restaurant Review: The Mediterranean, Sharrow Vale Road, Sheffield 11



I vaguely remember writing about the culinary expertise of this establishment some years ago. As I have no idea what I said in that review, (I actually can't be bothered to check) I guess you won't remember either. If anyone does remember what my observations were, you really need to get out more! So, in the light of our post Covid culinary world, a visit to this still surviving Sharrow Vale Road restaurant seemed not a bad idea- especially as the suggestion was cheerfully endorsed by G!

No problems experienced in making an immediate reservation (same day), and also it was reassuring that on arrival the actual venue hadn't changed much in appearance since my last visit in the distant pre-Covid era. In fact, the cheerful blue and white exterior, coupled with a very smart interior provided an optimistic "It's going to be good" ambiance. All still cheerful once we were inside the establishment, the blue and white theme pleasantly continuing with all the tables sporting crisp white table cloths, whilst seating took the form of high-backed chairs covered in an appropriate shade of dark blue wool-like material. Impressive!

### **The Meal**

Having been guided to our seat, offered a menu, ordered and received a beer for me (£3.90) plus a fairly indifferent white Sauvignon Blanc

(£5.95) for G, we were left to contemplate a small but interesting menu, interesting in the fact that most of the dishes on offer were much as remembered from my last visit – whenever that was! Actually, I must admit that I find this “no menu change” philosophy quite reassuring (perhaps somewhat optimistically) - if it’s good leave it alone. Focusing on this ethereal concept, I decided to start with Squid, deep fried in bread crumbs accompanied by a “mild spicy dip” (at a pretty steep £7.99), while G opted for another old favourite - Whitebait - again deep fried and again accompanied by the above mentioned “mild spicy dip” (£7.50 –slightly less steep!) Both dishes were of the “ok” standard such as is provided a million times a day by every pub in the country. Perhaps a rather harsh comment, but one expects that little extra from a “specialist fish” restaurant.

Sadly, the main courses continued to offer very modest return for a fairly substantial financial outlay. My Paella (actually labelled Zarzuela on the menu – fish stew by any other name!) was pretty bad. It had the sad air of having been cooked some days earlier before making an embarrassing appearance at the table of an unsuspecting punter – in this instance me! Described as Spanish Fish and Sea Food Stew in a white wine sauce, it was only just about edible. At £19.99 for this concoction the words “rip” and “off” spring to mind. G fared slightly better. Her dish of Roasted salmon on a bed of spinach and a beurre blanc pesto sauce (unusual combination!) at a slightly more modest price of £16.50 was deemed “fair” but very unremarkable. Actually, I’ve just remembered, she did have another glass of the Sauvignon Blanc with her main course, so probably viewed this salmon offering with a somewhat more benevolent eye. At this point, it was felt any further incursions into the sweet and beverage elements of this rather tawdry cuisine would be a pointless extra expenditure, so paid the £61.28 bill and departed back to the Mini.

## **Verdict**

Most disappointing. Expectations were high, especially as the Mediterranean restaurant had survived the ravages of Covid 19 and superficially presented well. Looked good, but cuisine very moderate – and not cheap! Would I return? Very unlikely.

**Roy Stanley**



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10am and 12noon:

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5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January

Items that are needed currently are:  
sugar, - peanut butter, - long life fruit juice- UHT milk, -  
tinned veg, - tinned tomatoes, - tinned soup, - tinned rice  
pudding/custard



Holy Communion is on every Wednesday morning at 11.30am in the Parish Centre followed by the weekly Lunch Club

[www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk) 0114 230 1199

## Trees and Shrubs Quiz

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are the surnames of trees and shrubs. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be awarded for identifying the featured tree. In the event of a tie, a winner will be chosen by a lucky draw. Send your entry by email to

[jpwalshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jpwalshaw@gmail.com) or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to reach me by Monday, 10th January, 2022.

1. Stirs up cake mixture (5,6)
2. Rosy came about this tree (8)
3. Northerners yearn for this tree (5,4)
4. Peaky cinders (8,3)
5. Mature bloom (11)
6. Found in narrow angle (5)
7. Primate enigma (6,6)
8. Christmas Standard? (6,3)
9. Bright light (9)
10. Precious metal stick (6,5)
11. Ron and Alice get mixed up with this shrub (8)
12. Beginnings of plants liking any new environment (5)
13. Handy gear change (9)
14. Give trade a change – with Ivy's partner (10,5)
15. Can be done, Flora – sort it out! (5,2,7)

### Answers to November (Countries) Quiz:

1. Netherland
2. Denmark
3. Philippines.
4. Sweden
5. Germany
6. Slovenia
7. Argentina
8. Grenada
9. Maldives
10. Madagascar
11. Bangladesh
12. Palestine
13. Botswana
14. Singapore
15. Liechtenstein.

**Entries were received from:** Janet and Malcom Anker, Robert Brindley, Ruth Cheshire, Michael and Rosemary Hannon, Lynn and Steve Lawless, Marion Taylor, Joyce Twigg and Sam Wood.

**The winner was:** Joyce Twigg, who receives a box of luxury chocolate biscuits.

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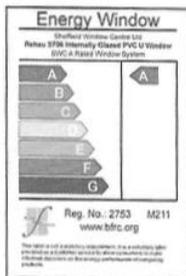
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matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Curate: Revd Matt Wood (07900 436762)  
matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Lay ministers: Alison Wragg (LLM)  
Janet Noble (Children's Minister)  
0114 230 1199 (Church Office)  
footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mark Gregory and Pauline Heath  
churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

### Church and Parish Centre Office:

5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX

Opening Hours: 9.30am-2.30pm (Mon, Tue, Wed)

Administrator: Claire Webber (Safeguarding Officer,  
Electoral Roll Officer and PCC Secretary)  
(0114 2301199)  
claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Finance and Gift Aid  
Officer:

finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Treasurer: David Booker (07773 821125)  
treasurer@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

## Church Groups and Activities

Children and Young People:

*Toddler Group*

Helen Clark or Sally Booker  
0114 230 1199 (Church Office)

*Footsteps* (for children up to Y6)

Janet Noble  
0114 230 1199 (Church Office)  
footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

*REACH* (for young people Y7 and up)

Revd Matt Wood  
07900 436762  
matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Study Group:

Sandra Green  
0114 230 9180  
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Flower arranging:

Sandra Green  
Jackie Lowe  
0114 230 3999

Music:

Flowers@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk  
Philip Collin, Director of Music  
music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk  
(vacancy)

Prayer and Fellowship:

Bellringers:

*Tower Captain*

Richard Noble  
07834 154637  
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secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk  
contact Claire Webber - Parish  
Administrator

*Secretary*

Wednesday Lunch Club

## Uniformed organisations

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Scouts:

Steven Hides - 0114 230 3635

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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 February edition is Wednesday, 12th January, 2022.**

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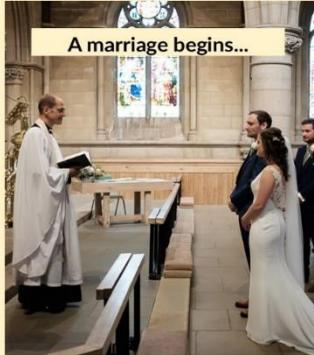
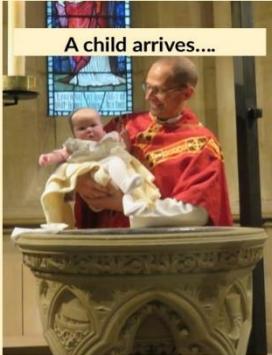
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