

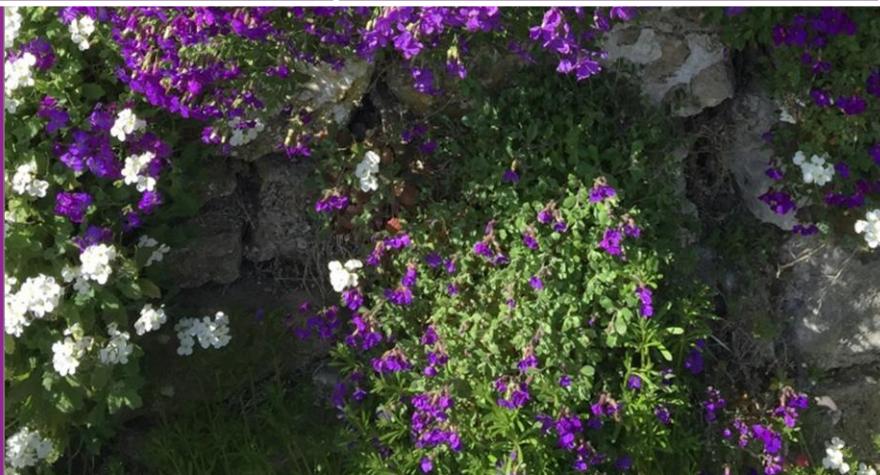


# INSPIRE

St John's Church  
Ranmoor, Sheffield

May  
2022

£1.00





## Easter Floral Decorations



# **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.

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Cover photo by Philip Walshaw

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

## Foreword

In these weeks after Easter, we ponder what it means to be the risen body of Christ in the world. In the light of the resurrection, how then shall we live? We are challenged stories of the early church in passages like this from Acts 2 v 43-47 (NRSV):



*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

One of the important ways in which we live out our calling as Christians at St John's is by taking part in Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have distracted us from the challenges of global poverty which is rising for the first time in a generation. Climate change is leading to extreme weather and crop failure. During Christian Aid Week, we can support our neighbours in poorer countries through giving, prayer and action. From envelope collections to flower arranging, photography, our amazing talent show and the Big Breakfast we can have fun as well as bring about change.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, St John's is participating in a Mission Area Songs of Praise with a focus on dementia as part of Dementia Awareness Week. As we know, music can reach parts that other things cannot. We hope that this service will help people to feel connected to God and each

other. The service is at 3pm at St Mark's, Broomhill and will hopefully be available online.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May is Ascension Day when we hope that some members of St John's will be confirmed at a deanery confirmation at St Luke's, Lodge Moor. Please pray for all those considering this important step in their Christian discipleship. Ascension Day marks the beginning of *Thy Kingdom Come*, a global wave of prayer when we pray that more people will come to know the risen Christ. This ends on 5<sup>th</sup> June. As well as being the Feast of Pentecost, 5<sup>th</sup> June will also be a celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. After an all-age service celebrating both these things, we are invited to picnic in the church grounds as part of The Big Lunch.

It feels as if the body of Christ in Ranmoor is very much alive! Thank you for all that you do to make God's kingdom come.

**Matthew**



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## From the Editor's Chair



Deadlines! Don't you hate them? I spent most of my working life having to deal with monthly cycles of meetings and the pressure of meeting deadlines to ensure the necessary reports are ready and the agendas finalised. After I retired, I thought I would be able to do what I wanted, when I wanted and that deadlines would be a thing of the past. However, deadlines are a necessary evil and I am hastily writing this to meet a self-imposed deadline! Deadlines concentrate the mind and I

wonder why I have left it so late to write this.

Why am I talking about deadlines? Well, it was a friend's birthday recently and Susan and I had realised that we hadn't bought a card, so we needed to quickly go out to buy one, write it and get it in the letter box at Crosspool before the deadline of 4.45pm to ensure our friend received it the following day. I assured Susan I had a first class stamp, but she thought she had heard on the radio that Royal Mail had introduced new barcoded stamps on 1st April and that the old stamps would become invalid. True, yes, but not on day one and a minor panic was avoided.

It made me realise that there hasn't been much publicity, and some people may not know, but the new barcoded stamps will enable exciting new services by connecting physical stamps to the digital world through the Royal Mail app which you can download. Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid. Any non-barcoded stamps you have will still be valid until 31st January 2023. If you won't be able to use all of them by that date you can swap them for new barcoded ones (but not at a Post Office).

I think that's a deadline that can easily be met, without any pressure!

***Philip Walshaw***

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## Chorister Awards

by Lily Beardsmore

On Sunday 27th March, the choristers were given their spring term awards. We follow the Royal School of Church Music's 'Voice for Life' scheme. After being a probationer, the choristers are awarded their white award (surplice) as a sign of being a full chorister. They can then work towards their light blue, dark blue and red ribbons, these are assessed by our music team internally. Other awards are assessed by examiners from the RSCM. These are the bronze, silver and gold awards.

Each level includes modules on: using the voice well, musical skills and understanding, repertoire, belonging to the choir and choir in context. Over a term, we have to demonstrate our ability in each of these areas, in rehearsals and our singing lessons. As a chorister, being given an award is a special way I get to show my musical ability to others. I feel excited every term to work towards more and expand my knowledge of the choir and our church. It is also an acknowledgement of the time and commitment we put in to each service.



Maria K was awarded her surplice, Lenny, Thomas and Lucas were awarded their light blue ribbons and Sophia, Mabel, Lily, Cecilia and Rosie were awarded their dark blue ribbons this term.



Susan and I recently visited relatives in Bedford and went with them to a fundraising concert in St. Mary's Church, Baldock (yes, it was for roof repairs!). The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was our cousin, Tim, who was, until his recent retirement, Head of the Knights Templar School, which has strong connections with the Church. It was my first visit to Baldock (the nearest I have been is the Service Station off the A1) but little did I know that this historic town has links with this most famous, yet mysterious, of religious orders.

It is 900 years since the order was founded in Jerusalem, but the Knights Templar has lost none of its power to captivate and intrigue us. Speculation and conspiracy about its activities at home and abroad continues to inspire books, films and, more recently, a major television drama: *Knightfall*.

Formed in early 12<sup>th</sup> Century, after the First Crusade to protect Christian pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land, the Templars were best known as an elite fighting force. However, over time, their remit went much wider than crusading. While knights battled to keep Jerusalem in Christian hands, the growing band of the Templars' non-fighting representatives wielded power of another kind, acting as bankers and advisers to royalty and the ruling classes of Europe; controlling a sizeable empire which stretched across the continent. It was with a view to recruiting new crusaders that the order's Grand Master ventured to England in 1128. The country was to become an important territory for the Templars. The

Middle Eastern crusades drained money and manpower with astonishing speed, and England provided willing recruits for the cause and generated much-needed funds to finance it.

Income came primarily from land holdings. Sizeable plots were gifted to the Templars by noblemen and wealthy landowners who believed that assisting the order was their Christian duty and such a donation would ensure their sins were absolved in the afterlife. The creation of a new town in Hertfordshire by the Templars was a money-making venture, and they chose their location well. By 1185, Baldock was a thriving market town, and one of the order's most profitable sites in England - thanks to its situation on both the main road north from London and the Icknield Way. They didn't have service stations then, of course, but they did have staging posts and some of the old coaching inns still serve as bars and hotels today.

The Templars encouraged merchants to relocate to the town with exemptions from market tolls, and divided up the land around it into small plots for lease by tenant farmers, ensuring a steady stream of rental income. The order's handiwork is still evident in the town's layout, which retains a very wide high street - set aside for a market place. At the end of the High Street, the parish church of St Mary's has a relic of the Templar era too. It is a Grade I listed building and part of the original chancel remains. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the original church on the site dated to about 1150 and was built by the Knights Templar before being largely rebuilt in about 1330 by the Knights Hospitaller. The name of the town is also a link to the Templars' crusades. It is thought to derive from the Old French word Baldac - Baghdad.

The church was a perfect auditorium for the concert we attended, with individual performances by top-class singers and musicians, and I was privileged to be invited to join the choir for the finale: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter.

***Philip Walshaw***

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## Restaurant Review: The Cavendish Hotel, Baslow



It's not a very good idea to judge the quality of a restaurant from its Sunday lunchtime menu offerings, especially as the Sunday lunch restaurant scene tends to be rather formulaic and often pretty poor. Wow! "What a load of rubbish I hear from the aficionados who each Saturday afternoon, traumatised by yet another defeat suffered by United (or Wednesday!) proclaim: "Let's go out for Sunday lunch tomorrow my beloved one" followed by: "I'm really looking forward to my favourite meal of the week, aren't you"? This is to the other half, who probably agrees, bolstered by the prospect of not having to prepare an elaborate meal swiftly followed by a major dishwashing session. For the observant amongst our erudite "WOKE"- practising readers the previous sentence is totally gender neutral! So, it is with some slight embarrassment I have to admit that this review is based on a Sunday lunchtime visit to one of our very "posh" local dining establishments - The Cavendish Hotel in the dukedom of Baslow.

This situation (trip to the Cavendish) actually arose from a couple of friends who had been gifted a lunch voucher to the above establishment and felt that the company of G and myself might add to the occasion.

This seemed like an okay concept, especially as it had been quite a long time since the last Cavendish visit, so we cheerfully accepted this thoughtful invitation. Perhaps “cheerfully” might prove to be somewhat of a misnomer as any heavy criticism of the Cavendish may prove embarrassing. Read on to see how the plot unfurls. Actually, at this precise moment I’ve no idea how the “plot” will unfurl as momentarily I’ve lost interest in writing this thing and am about to watch some rugby on TV.

### **The Meal (part I)**

Cold rainy day, super warm interior, smart attentive staff all wearing matching “country-style” jackets) all of which helped to create a pretty good ambiance - not a bad start to any lunch scene! For those of you who are confused by the term: “country-style,” think “Brocklehurst of Bakewell”. If still confused by the concept of “Brocklehurst” - or Bakewell for that matter - stop reading this review immediately, have a cup of tea (or something stronger), and have a long lie down.



Once inside, we were guided to an impressive lounge area pleasantly furnished with assorted “squishy” sofas, various “squishy” arm chairs plus further enhancement by means of an elegant fireplace enclosing the mandatory “roaring” fire. Suitably ensconced in various of the above-mentioned sofas etc. close to the “roaring” fire (actually perhaps “roaring” is somewhat extreme, think “burning brightly” perhaps? Actually, substitute whatever phrase you like - it’s totally irrelevant to the review – should it ever get started!) Everything good so far, as we slowly consumed drinks ordered and delivered by a very professional

maitre d' who also provided lunch menus with comments and recommendations. Life seemed very pleasant. Culinary decisions made, so ready to be guided gently by one of the “country house” waiters into an elegantly classic dining room displaying immaculate white linen covered tables with aristocratically formed chairs which supported an assortment of aristocratically formed mixed gender diners. Wonderful!

### **The Meal (part two)**

The meal itself suggested a theme of pleasant culinary ability, as performed by resident chef Adam Harper, lately of Baslow Hall, where no doubt he will have received expert tuition from eminent chef Max Fischer. Proceeding along this mildly soporific mind-set the beetroot starter (a fairly hefty £8.05) seemed appropriate. This presented as a colourful (but modest in quantity) dish of purple and yellow beetroot cubes accompanied by beads of beetroot puree and a garnish of micro greens. Pleasant, non-filling and probably appropriate for the anticipated more generous quantity of a “Main course”. The “Main course” offerings were somewhat limited – beef, pork or fish. I know, I know, the traditional British Sunday lunch is always a choice of these offerings, so succumbing to protocol I decided to conform totally by ordering Roast beef (sirloin) which arrived replete with Yorkshire puddings, all the usual vegetables and priced at a reasonable £17.95. Plus gravy of course, which appeared in an accompanying small silver jug. Pudding of the sticky toffee variety (the sticky toffee liquid bit came in a small jug of similar design to the gravy container (see above) was suitably calorific and very tasty, despite a “full up” price of £9.00. The final act which involved coffee (Americano) and petite fours (two each) - combined cost of both items being £6.25 - took place when we returned to the relaxing comfort of squishy sofas and warm fire environment of the adjoining lounge.

### **Verdict**

I can think of worse ways to spend a cold wet Sunday afternoon. Ambiance great, cost pretty high, but should you fancy a “posh” Sunday lunch, perhaps to give “the other half” a surprise treat (note, still gender neutral!) the Cavendish fits the bill - and the Duke probably could do with the money!

**Roy Stanley**

## Eco Church: Cheap(er) Electricity



Fuel costs and particularly electricity prices are on everyone's mind at the moment. The post-Covid economic recovery and the war in Ukraine are driving up demand and prices are rising to manage supply. Self-sufficiency in energy is a national goal, based on renewables but it is

possible to benefit individually. Not many of us have room for a wind turbine but solar panels (PVPs) are appearing on local roofs, including our own Vicarage.

PVPs - (photo-voltaic panels) generate electricity that can either be consumed on-site or fed into the national grid, if not needed at the time. Putting on the washing machine or charging an electric car, when the sun is shining, provide optimal usage but feed-in tariffs to the grid are not generous. "Sheffield Renewables" (a local charity) has, for several years, been promoting PVPs to help local businesses and organisations manage their energy costs (and helping with the national aim of a shift to renewable energy). To get the best return, the power has to be consumed at the place it is generated.

Brian Parfett and I investigated the setting-up of a local energy company linking churches, such as St. John's and Cemetery Road Baptists to enable local charities to benefit from cheaper electricity. We weren't able to proceed because the low return from the feed-in tariff made it uneconomic. The ideal solution would be to use the great potential of buildings with large, south-facing roofs to generate electricity, fed into the grid but able to be 'purchased' at an advantageous rate by local

charities, such as the Food Banks and individuals in fuel poverty. Current legislation means we would have to become like the big energy companies that either generate, distribute or sell electricity.

A national lobby group called “Power for People” has been working on a “Local Electricity Bill” (as in Act of Parliament). This would allow local electricity companies to be formed that could bring together generators (with PVPs on their roof) and customers, using the national grid as the connection between the two. “Power for People” has generated a great deal of support from MPs for a Bill and last year almost succeeded but ran out of Parliamentary time. They have recently met with the Energy Minister and it looks like the “Local Electricity Bill” may make progress this year. We will need to make our support clear to Olivia Blake, our local MP, when it comes before Parliament.

The Church of England General Synod recently voted on changes to the faculty rules, which govern changes especially for listed heritage buildings. These changes were to make it easier to progress towards Synod’s 2020 ‘Net Zero by 2030’ ambition as part of a ‘Routemap to net zero’. Changes agreed include a full faculty for like-for-like replacements of fossil fuel boilers and oil tanks. The rules do not prohibit oil/gas boilers and in the debate the need for money and resource was stated. Easier permissions include draught-proofing doors/windows, pipework insulation, low energy light fittings, new non-fossil-fuel boilers, roof insulation in non-listed buildings, soft furnishings (cushions/removable floor runners), EV charging points, and electric pew heaters. Of note, changes include easier permissions for solar panels on non-listed buildings not in conservation areas. The debate goes on about listed buildings and solar panels, but it is significant that several cathedrals including Gloucester and Salisbury cathedrals now have PVPs. The Archbishop of York stated at Synod: “...people will see this Christian faith that we share means something... lived out in really, really hard, painful decisions.”

St. John’s has the potential to be more of a community resource, partly through re-modelling the internal space but also as a source of renewable energy. We will need clear debate, consultation and support

from ongoing changes in the CofE's attitude to these changes as we all respond to the disastrous global climate emergency and energy poverty. This is alongside the national legislation to enable us to 'sell' electricity, generated from PVPs on our roof, as we don't need it ourselves for most of the week. Helping local people and charities with cheaper electricity may be another way of us responding to Bishop Pete's call to be "Lights for Christ"!

**John Green**

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## Every Alternate Wednesday St John's Church, Ranmoor Foodbank Collection

Please bring your foodbank items to the  
**Parish Centre Office**  
on the following alternate Wednesdays  
between **10am and 12.30pm**:



23 March  
6 & 20 April;  
4 & 18 May;  
1, 15, & 29 June;  
13 & 27 July

Items in need are - tinned fish, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, tinned fruit, shampoo, single toothbrushes



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

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# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR

## CALENDAR - MAY 2022

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am All Age Service

1pm Marriage of Laura Sellars and David Maclean

6.30pm BCP Communion

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May – 10-12.30pm**

Foodbank Collection from the Parish Centre

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

8pm Organ Recital – Kat Farn and Matthew Warbis  
(past and present Organ Scholars at Ranmoor)

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

1pm Marriage of Alicia Stockley and James Lennox

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May – 10-12.30pm**

Foodbank Collection from the Parish Centre

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion

3pm Songs of Praise for Dementia

(taking place at St Mark's – see website for more info)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Day**

7.30pm Deanery Service of Confirmation

Taking place at St Luke's, Lodge Moor

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

1pm Marriage of Katherine Evers and Robert Allen

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10.30am Choral Matins

6.30pm Holy Communion

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

7.30pm Sanctuary

**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

**Our Sunday Services** are always in Church and on Facebook Live

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[administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9.30am-2.30pm

## **Parish Registers: May, 2022**

**WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF THE LIVES OF THESE CHILDREN WHO WERE BAPTISED HERE. MAY YOUR BLESSING OF PEACE AND JOY BE WITH THEM AND PROTECT THEM ALL OF THEIR DAYS:**

Tabitha Evans Lee

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING COUPLE WHOSE MARRIAGE BLESSING TOOK PLACE HERE IN APRIL:**

Holly Norris and Alastair Hopkins

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

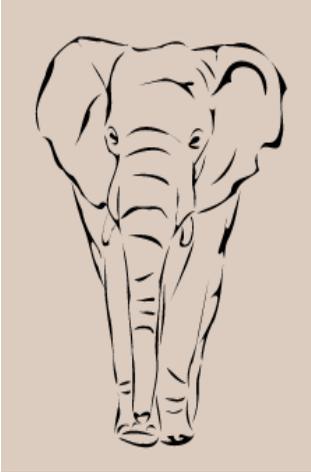
Ann Tyler and Dorothy Bower

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

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

## Young People's Page

### *Continuing the Adventures of One Very Large Elephant and One Very Small Mouse: Episodes 21 and 22*



"What are stars made of?" asked the elephant, late one night.

"Dreams", replied the mouse without even pausing for a thought.

"Is that all?" "And hope", added the mouse. "Rather a lot of hope, I think".

"Wow", breathed the elephant. And then: "You're not just joking, are you?"

"Never." The mouse shook its head.

"Some things are too important to joke about. Especially hopes and dreams."

The elephant sat by itself, watching the world go by.

"What are you doing?" the mouse sat down beside it.

"I'm happy," replied the elephant.

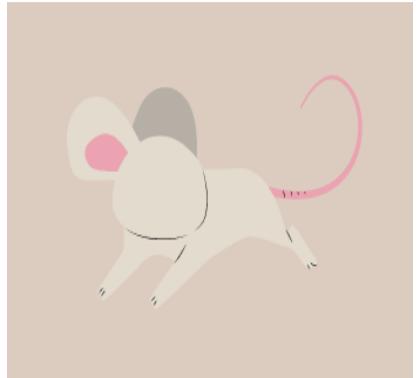
"No, I asked what you were doing," clarified the mouse.

"I know," the elephant shrugged.

"And that's it. I'm being happy."

The mouse crossed its paws. It didn't speak again.

And the two of them sat together, just watching the world go by.



@littlepoppypoetry



**Christian Aid Week 15th –  
21st May, 2022**

With Christian Aid Week almost upon us, we are still seeking volunteers to deliver envelopes throughout the parish. If you would like to offer your help please contact us on 0114 4534858, or email us at [malcolm.anker@googlemail.com](mailto:malcolm.anker@googlemail.com).

In addition, here is a reminder of the events which have been organised, and to which everyone is warmly invited.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May - 10.30am Morning Service**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May - 7pm Flower Arranging Demonstration**  
(in church with refreshments to follow)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May - 7pm Talent Show**  
(in church with refreshments to follow)

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May - 8.30am to 10 30am - The Big Breakfast.**

Come and enjoy your breakfast on the front lawn of the church. Browse and buy from the stalls which include plants, books, cakes and preserves. (Items for these stalls will be very welcome, and can be brought to the Parish Centre from 15<sup>th</sup> May onwards).

All events are run to raise funds for Christian Aid, and there will be opportunities to donate in cash or online. Our JustGiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-john-s-ranmoor>.

We hope to see you at some of our events during Christian Aid Week, and thank you all for your help and support.

***Janet and Malcolm Anker***

## Rambling On

with Philip Walshaw

Redmires is a favourite haunt of ours and we are obviously not on our own. I recall the early days of lockdown when we were allowed to escape from our homes and go out for an hour's exercise. This place was so popular that walking around the top reservoir was like being on Blackpool Promenade, thankfully not with the candy floss and kiss-me-quick hats! It provided, and still does, sanctuary for many people. In such a popular area and with so many paths, it is still possible to experience less frequented walks and here's one that does it and culminates in a wonderful view of the lower reservoir.



The starting point for this short circular one-mile walk is Soughley Lane, off Redmires Road, near Wyming Brook, which is not accessible by public transport (unless you catch the 51 bus to Lodge Moor and walk along the conduit at the rear of the old Redmires Prisoner of War camp). Park the car at the top of Soughley Lane and walk along Brown Hills Road until you reach a tall stile at the side of a gate, just before the junction with Roper Hill. Walking along here, especially at this time of year, you should be able to see and hear curlews and lapwings

flying around and calling to their mates as they look for possible nesting sites. There is also a large colony of Canada geese in and around the fields.



Turn right and walk up the steep path through two fields to a steep stile that comes out at the top of Roper Hill. At this point you can take a rest on “Winnie’s Bench”. I don’t know who Winnie is/was, but it is an interesting well-tended small garden where you can sit and admire the view.

Continue along Fulwood Head Road until you reach a footpath sign on the right at Fulwood Booth Farm. Follow the quarry type path through another stile/gate, keeping to the right, up to the top of a field and then turn left in the direction of Redmires.

Continue along the path as it eventually drops down to the lower reservoir and reveals this stunning view. At the bottom, keep right to return to your starting point (or turn left and walk around the reservoir).



## **SILENT CONVERSATIONS: A new sound for England's ancient chanting**

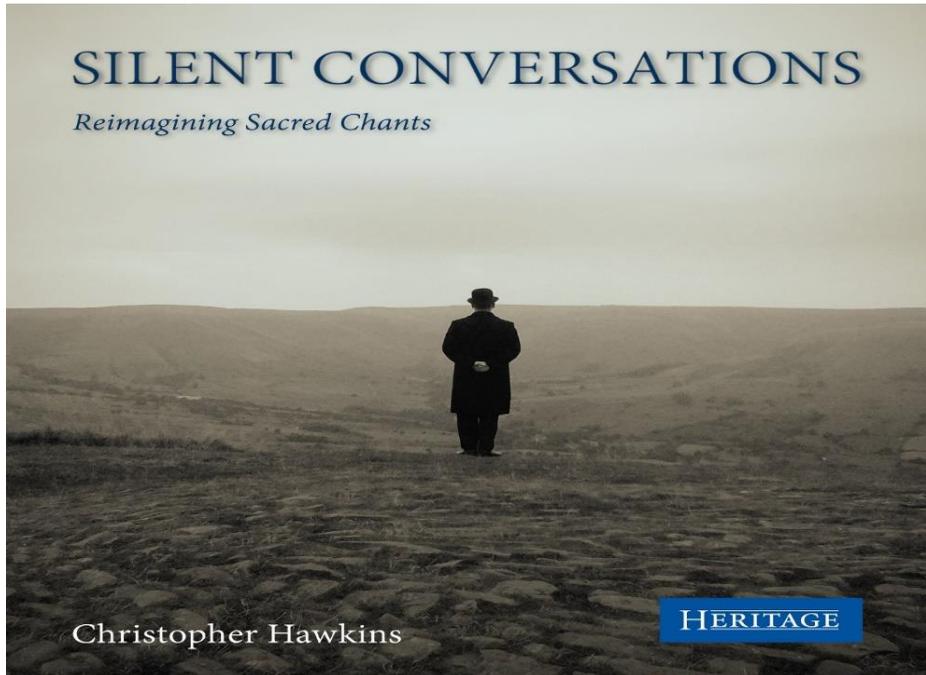
*Sacred chanting, sung by monks and choirs, has a long history in our country's Cathedrals, Abbeys, Minsters and Parish churches. With support from BBC Radio 3, Classic FM – the world's biggest classical music radio station – and British label Heritage Records, this ancient art form is reimagined in a style that aims to calm and nourish the soul. Sheffield based composer and pianist **Christopher Hawkins** tells us more about his album "Silent Conversations."*

A few years ago, I set out to record a selection of well-known and lesser-known Sacred Chants; a genre which has long held my fascination, with its beauty and timeless, contemplative reach. I was intrigued to find out what might happen if the words to these sacred chants were hidden, leaving only the music. Using combinations of piano, cello, guitar and violin I began to reimagine the ancient sound.

At the Reformation in England, a musical approach to psalmody developed with the growth of Anglican (or English) chant developing from the plainsong tradition of recitation. These simple but often beautiful, harmonised melodies were, and still are, used principally for the singing of Psalms and the Canticles in Christian worship. Many of the Anglican chant composers were distinguished musicians at England's finest churches and Cathedrals. My recording features music by John Stafford Smith (1750 – 1836), who was organist at the Chapel Royal and will long be remembered for composing the tune of the National Anthem of the U.S.A. (Star-Spangled Banner). And Thomas Attwood (1765 – 1838), who was sent to study abroad at the expense of the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) and became a favourite pupil of Mozart in Vienna.

Through the centuries the chants developed in different styles, often reflecting the changing trends in classical music. During the eighteenth century there was a strong tendency towards the provision of chants of

an intricate, elaborate and sometimes carefree character; during the nineteenth to the provision of chants of a more sentimental and chromatic type. These different styles were part of the appeal for me in making the Silent Conversations record and are represented on the album along with a varying range of instrumentation and musical textures.



The greatest composer of chants is probably James Turle who was prolific in his writing and was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1831-1882. Burial was offered at the Abbey but declined as he wished to be buried with his wife at Norwood cemetery. However, in the west cloister of the Abbey is a memorial tablet, and in the north choir aisle is a stained glass window by Messrs Clayton & Bell featuring small portraits of James and his wife.

The Anglican chant composers produced a number of curiosities in their works too, such as the 'Grand Chant' of Pelham Humfrey, the melody of which consists of merely two notes, an ingenious double chant of

Crotch, of which the second half is, note for note and chord for chord, the same as the first half but reversed, and two chants by Goss arranged from themes in Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique and Seventh Symphony. Anglican chants are still very much in use today across the UK (including here at St. John's of course!), Europe, the United States and beyond and to me, hearing these chants by themselves, without the Psalm-singing, is like hearing them in an entirely new way. Some are haunting and mournful, others are reassuring and uplifting.

My early musical grounding was in sacred choral music and classical piano – balanced nicely by a love of the blues and boogie woogie! During my time singing in the choir of All Saints church, Ecclesall, I became Head Chorister, also taking an interest in church organ and I attained the St. Nicholas Award which was the highest singing award from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). As a member of the RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers I was fortunate enough to tour many of the country's great cathedrals and minsters, performing recitals and services of worship, including live BBC broadcasts for Radio 3's Choral Evensong.

The obvious choice for my music recording would probably have been a choral ensemble, but in seeking a new perspective on these wonderful chants I decided to go in the opposite direction, initially sketching out some 22 arrangements for solo piano. What followed was an evolution from pure piano instrumentals into a more complex reimagining, involving combinations of piano, cello, viola and violin, alongside unembellished solo arrangements for piano, violin, cello and classical guitar respectively.

On the recording an important feature of the arrangements was the creation of space for the listener to participate in the musical conversation. In these instrumental re-imaginings of Anglican chants, the ancient Hebrew poetry of the Psalms is implied without being sung, and a calming, contemplative pace of music, with ample pauses and silences between verses and half-verses, invites the listener to participate in the conversation. My inspiration for this record came from a desire to hear these beautiful chants in quiet reflection, shaped by the contemplative style of reading text that developed across many monastic communities.

The recording also honours this distinctly English type of music, written by fine Church musicians from across the country over hundreds of years. Teaming up with Sheffield-based producer James Bacon, I made full use of the studio's Bösendorfer Imperial – a piano prized for its richness of sound and singing sustain.

Violinist and violist David Milsom's instrumental skills and scholarly background bring a unique and mesmerising dimension to the work, whilst cellist Liz Hanks' soulful and sensitive performances create the ideal warmth and sense of space, inviting the listener into a world free from the pressures of modernity. So, what remains, when the words of the chants are hidden? The short answer is "Silent Conversations". I think the longer answer will be a matter for each individual listener deciding for themselves.

*"Silent Conversations" by Christopher Hawkins has been released by the Heritage Records label and CDs are available for sale from [www.chrishawkinsmusic.co.uk](http://www.chrishawkinsmusic.co.uk) in the 'Shop' section. Christopher has also recently launched his second album "Beneath the Night" - available online at Apple, Spotify, Amazon and Youtube - which emerges in the neo-classical genre, capturing transient moments from nightfall, alone at the piano.*

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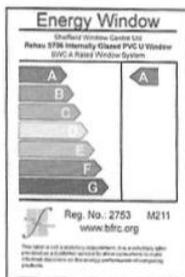
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## Quiz: Breeds of Dogs

compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to the clues below are well-known breeds of dogs. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be awarded for identifying the featured dog. In the event of a tie, a winner will be chosen by a lucky draw. Send your entry to

[jpwalshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jpwalshaw@gmail.com) or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to reach me by Wednesday, 18th May, 2022.

1. Looped around this dog (6)
2. Enormous foreigner (5,4)
3. Bovine canine (7)
4. Reckon special changes needed (6,7)
5. Milan data reprocessed (9)
6. Rent deliverer, go around (6,9)
7. Venerated 12th century Burgundian Abbot (5,7)
8. Rope disentangled with recycled tin (7)
9. Stir briskly, preparing each treat initially (7)
10. County retiree reorganised (9,7)
11. Revealed in décor Gillian designed (5)
12. Pink geese confused dog (9)

**Answers to April Quiz (Golf courses):** Answers: 1. Augusta 2. Southport 3. Wentworth 4. Troon 5. Carnoustie 6. Hoylake 7. Valderrama 8. Celtic Manor 9. Turnberry (featured) 10. Sunningdale 11. Muirfield 12. The Belfry

**Entries were received from:** Janet and Malcolm Anker, Pam and Ian Dall, Helen and Brian Gillham, Alan and Pauline Heath, Michael and Rosemary Hannon, Lynn and Steve Lawless, John and Brenda Staniforth and Marion Taylor.

The winners were Lynn and Steve Lawless, who receive a box of chocolates.

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## Church Groups and Activities

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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  
biblestudy@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Flower arranging:

Sandra Green  
Jackie Lowe  
0114 230 3999

Music:

Flowers@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk  
Philip Collin, Director of Music  
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07834 154637  
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contact Claire Webber - Parish  
Administrator

*Secretary*

Wednesday Lunch Club

## Uniformed organisations

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Cub Scouts:

Jane and Steven Hides - 0114 230 3635

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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 June edition is Wednesday, 18th May, 2022.**

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