



# INSPIRE

St John's Church  
Ranmoor, Sheffield

Sept  
2020

£1.00

## **Featuring:**

**\* The Organ Restoration Project**

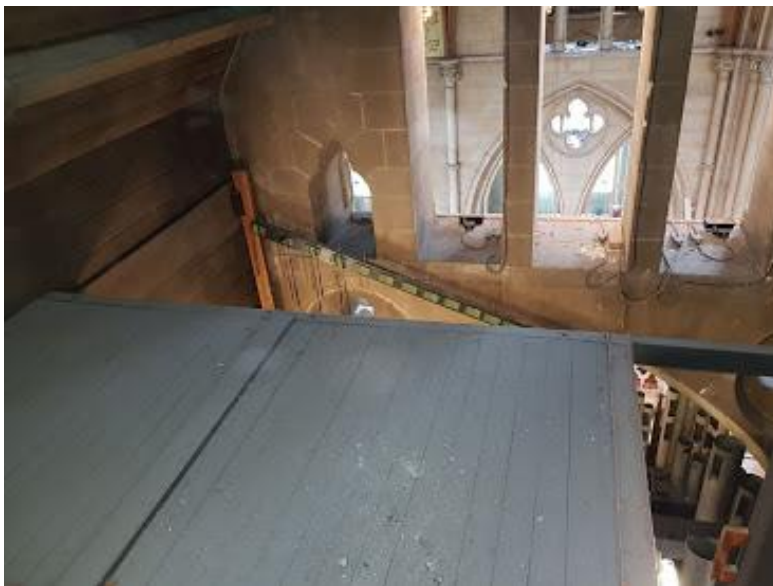
**\* Tribute to Edward Barbieri**

**\* Alan Heath's Christian Aid Walk**

**.....and much more.**



**The Organ Restoration Project**  
(more photos on the back inside cover)



# **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: Garden flowers (Helenium)

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

# Foreword



Joke: How many Anglicans does it take to change a lightbulb? Change?! This seems like a very old joke now. The church, like the world, seems to be in a constant state of change and it is a challenge for us to keep up.

But there are a few areas of change where I need your help and prayers. As many of you know, our 10.30 service takes place in church and people are welcome to come and take part, or to continue to watch on Zoom or

YouTube. We also have Evensong on Zoom as well as Morning Prayer and Compline on weekdays. This pattern of worship has evolved in response to government restrictions, perceived need and the limits of our technological knowhow (we are still looking for help with the latter by the way). We are very aware that this does not meet the needs of everyone and it would be helpful to have feedback (positive as well as negative) as we try to navigate the future.

Music plays an important role in our worship and can evoke strong feelings. As many of you will be aware, Edward Barbieri, our Director of Music, decided to step down in July and a tribute to him follows. Although there are signs that choral music in church will soon be possible, we are unlikely to appoint a new director until the spring. This gives us an opportunity to review our church music and think about our needs for the future. Again, I would be grateful for your thoughts on our future musical priorities.

These questions about what services and music we provide are partly about inclusivity which is a hot topic at the moment. I am very conscious that the current situation excludes people in all sorts of ways. Children are excluded from attending Footsteps. Those without computers are excluded from much of our worship. Those who cannot read are

excluded by our bookish culture. The church as a whole has excluded people on the basis of race, gender and sexuality. We aim to do better and will be working on this area with our friends at St Mark's and St Mary's. At St John's we hope that changes to our building will enable more people to cross its threshold. We hope to be more inclusive of people with dementia. But there is a long way to go. As a starting point we need to be honest about the ways in which we fail to be inclusive. We need to examine ourselves and our own prejudices and blind spots. And we need to help each other to do this. It affects us all.

So I would really appreciate it if you could think and pray about this issue and consider how you can participate in change. Jesus said, 'I am the way.' We are people on a journey. Change is part of our DNA.

Matthew

## **A Tribute to Edward Barbieri**

“Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened” is a quote attributed to Dr Zeuss and is one that is entirely appropriate in this tribute to Edward. Yes, we were all very disappointed when we heard that Edward was stepping down. What made it even more disappointing was the way it happened and that we weren't able to show our public appreciation of his leadership at St. John's and thank him in person for the wonderful music he delivered at all levels with the Junior Choristers, Boy Choristers, Choral Scholars, Consort, Songmen, Schola Cantorum, St John's Singers, Occasional Singers and Sheffield Festival Orchestra. What an achievement since joining us in August 2017, when Revd Canon Neil Bowler had just left and the church ceiling was about to collapse. Not a good start for a Director of Music to be without a vicar and a church to perform in, but Edward carried us through that period magnificently.....until the church was closed again this March!

When Edward joined us, I considered myself to be on the periphery of the choir, by my own making I might add. Edward not only accepted this

but encouraged me to be more a part of it all and made me a better songster. The music that he introduced to us, and the way he taught us to sing it, was brilliant and the experience for me was a privilege and a joy. He had high standards and, at times, could be very strict but, above all, his interaction with the choristers of whatever age touched the right note. As a very accomplished organist, maybe we didn't hear Edward playing as often as we should have, but as Director of Music, he produced the most excellent singing from his choirs, particularly impressive was the way he got the choir to sing softly. "It's ok belting it out fortissimo, but it's far more impressive when they have to perform quietly and still be in tune", I recall Tom Dakin saying to me.

Cathy Rhodes comments that Edward was always keen to help and support his musicians to reach their full potential. He would advise what seemed like small adjustments which then made a big difference. He gave Cathy some piano lessons and was a fantastic teacher and very supportive. She learned a huge amount from him musically - and got much better at rolling her 'Rs'! (now that's something I've still not achieved – Editor!)

Mary Grover recalls the first time Edward stayed with her and Derek. "I was just about to have our two-year old great nephew from Colombia to stay and was struggling with the car seat we had borrowed. He threw himself into grappling with existing fittings and importing new ones. I really appreciated his determination to solve the problem and to see that we were all prepared for our next guest. And, of course, I have been hugely helped by the way the fabulous music he and the choirs created - music which has helped me resolve the tensions of the day-to-day and which reconnects me with the Holy Spirit."

Ben Peters, one of our Songmen, comments that he was previously a bass without a great deal of confidence and who was used to the safety of numbers. He says, "Edward coached me, encouraged me and gave me the chance to sing tenor where I would typically be one of two or three. This led to some of my most enjoyable singing experiences so far and I will continue with this voice part. Regarding the running of the choir it seemed to me that his strict approach facilitated a standard of respecting

each other, a feeling of comradeship during rehearsals but also a deep solemnity during worship. Worshipping at St John's in my final year of university became a rock to me and led to my confirmation."

As a chorister parent, Sarah Beardsmore feels that the choristers have flourished under Edward's tenure. Edward was keen to have their daughter Lily involved from the moment he arrived. As soon as she joined, Lily enjoyed the full rigour of a musical education as part of choral foundation. She adds, "Edward had a unique ability to connect with the choristers, as he did with all in the choirs, and he helped the choristers to fully understand their part in our liturgy. His musical skill will be greatly missed."

As for the choristers themselves, Tommy Walsh writes: *"I would like to thank you, Mr Barbieri, for helping us choristers grow with our music skills in choir. We can clearly see the difference you have made to our sound when we started to our sound now. Because of you being with us, we have all grown in confidence and personality. Many of us choristers started as probationers with you when we were a fresh batch of singers with no chemistry. Look at us now! Before you came, we thought of ourselves as three separate choirs – the boys, the girls, and the adults – but you brought us together to be one awesome team. In my time as head chorister you have given me countless opportunities to perform, like weddings and solos. I am very grateful. Thank you. We are sad to see you go, but wish you all the best wherever your future takes you.*

*Best wishes,*

*Tommy and all the choristers of St John's choir"*

When Edward left, I gather he had no plans (nor was he moving to another position, musical or otherwise), other than being in the process of returning from Brighton maybe to live in Sheffield. Many people have made contributions to a farewell gift for Edward and over £500 has been collected. At the time of writing, arrangements for a presentation to Edward were still being made.

**Philip Walshaw**

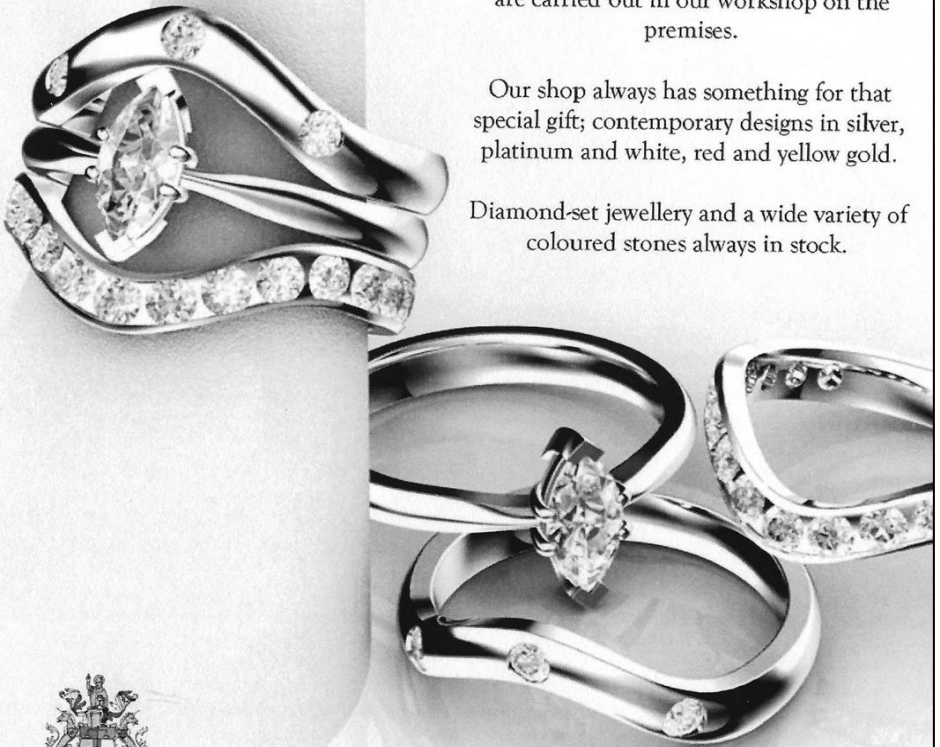
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## Lockdown in the Editor's Chair



Time has been in plentiful supply these last few months. Some of it has been used productively; much of it has been wasted. For many, time has dragged slowly; time has stood still. Covid-19 has caused many things to be postponed or cancelled this year, including the screening of the latest James Bond film, which, ironically is titled '*No time to die*'. In terms of disappointment and inconvenience that the pandemic has caused for many people, the deferral of the world premiere film screening probably doesn't rank very high on the scale of relative heartache, but it did remind

me that my favourite James Bond theme song is from '*On Her Majesty's Secret Service*' and is so appropriate for our current situation. "*We have all the time in the world.....*"

Someone once said, "Time is what we want most, but what we use worst". We have had so much time on our hands that the phrase "I haven't had time" should have been no excuse for not doing all those things you have put off for so long. Or should it? I've managed to do all the infernal, sorry, internal decorating jobs and outdoor maintenance chores, but when I retired from paid employment 11 years ago, I made a list of a number of things I was going to do to fill those many hours of spare time I was expecting to have. And I still haven't put all those piles of loose stamps into my stamp album or converted my vast collection of slide photographs into digital images.

Another time, perhaps, I keep telling myself. And then I reflect on those two words. Another time? As we are reminded in the book of Ecclesiastes: "*To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven..... A time to gain that which is to get and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away*". So do we yearn for a return to a time before Covid-19 or look forward in these changing times to a brave new world in 2021 and beyond? Only time will tell.

## A word from Alison Wragg, our Lay Reader



In early March this year just before the COVID-19 pandemic took over our lives, I attended a Bishop's Advisory Panel at a Retreat House in Staffordshire during which my calling to Ordained ministry was tested. It was an intense three days but you can imagine my delight when a week later Bishop Pete rang me to tell me that I had been recommended to go forward for Ordination as a SSM, (Self-Supporting

Minister).

So, what happens now? I start a further two years training in September at St Hilda's College in Mirfield. The teaching takes place on a Wednesday evening with six residential weekends through the year, some Saturday mornings and a week-long residential course during Easter week in Durham. I will be doing a placement between Advent and Easter 2020/21.....and of course there will be lots more study and assignments. During this first year I will be studying modules in New Testament, Christian Doctrine, Pastoral Care and Urban Ministry and Mission which I feel very excited about.

I will keep my Reader license during the training and, although I will still be around, I will be stepping back from some things. One of the very special things about Reader training was that I grew from within our church family. I want to thank you all for the love and support you have given me and I ask you to hold me in your prayers as I start this ongoing journey...so please keep calm and carry on supporting!!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Matthew for believing in me and for his continuing support and guidance.



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## Christian Aid Sponsored Walk by Alan Heath

Over the past few years I have alternated between doing a long walk on my own to raise money for Christian Aid and taking part in the 17 mile Christian Aid Night Hike. This year should have been the latter but the event was cancelled due to the lockdown so I decided to do 'my own thing'. Having suffered from a virus in March which may have been Covid 19 and still suffering the after effects I decided to do a slightly shorter route from normal, starting and finishing from home. This also allowed me some flexibility in choosing some reasonable weather – this turned out to be a good decision as the forecast for the Thursday originally looked good but it turned out to be wet and I was able to walk on the Saturday instead.



I left home around 7am and was soon walking along the crags alongside the Hallamshire golf course and on towards Wyming Brook, after which I picked up a path to the conduit which took me past a small reservoir and on to a less defined path which eventually reaches Stanage Edge near to High Neb. I had a short break here before following the edge in a south east direction. Prior to reaching Stanage Edge I had hardly seen anyone but it then became quite busy with walkers, runners and climbers taking advantage of the good weekend weather. I next continued to Upper Burbage and took the main track towards Longshaw, which again was busy but this time with the additional hazard of cyclists. After walking through the Longshaw estate I continued past the Grouse pub and down the steep path to Grindleford church

where I had arranged to meet my support team – Pauline – and have lunch.

I stopped for longer than I really should have done, but after a change of boots I eventually set off along the river towards Froggatt. After this I knew I had a long uphill section ahead of me so took my walking poles out of my rucksack only to find that not having used them for a while that one of them kept slipping. This was a nuisance but I found a seat in Stoney Middleton and discovered I had a tool in my rucksack which solved the problem. After that I had a steep climb to Eyam and beyond to some woods where I got lost and was grateful to meet someone who could point me in the right direction to the road which passes Mompesson's Well. After that there was a long downhill section to Leadmill Bridge followed by a gentle uphill walk to Hathersage, which was incredibly busy. I walked through the centre of the village and found a place to sit and have a break by the cricket ground.

Earlier in the day I thought I had left my GPS in Stoney Middleton and more



worryingly my mobile 'phone somewhere in the 'middle of nowhere', however when I took my rucksack off I was relieved to find that both had wedged themselves within the external fittings of the rucksack. I gave Pauline a ring to let her know my progress and confirm that I would meet her as arranged at Dennis Knoll. The next section was the last challenging uphill section, but Pauline had arrived early and walked down to accompany me up the final bit. After a short break and a change into walking shoes I set off up to Stanage Pole, after which it

was all downhill! I walked round the south side of the Redmires Reservoirs then along the Redmires Conduit. Pauline had driven home and set off straightaway to meet me so I was pleased to have company for the last hour of the trek and I was very relieved to arrive home around 9pm. I did not feel too bad at the end, but having had a shower I found that the only way to go back downstairs was to do so backwards!

Looking back I'm not sure how I completed the walk for although it's just basically of putting one foot in front of the other I have since had physical problems on much shorter walks and I can't contemplate the idea of doing it now. I suppose I had just built myself up mentally to doing it and I was fortunate in not suffering too much physically on the day. In addition, I had chosen a route that did not provide too many physical challenges and finished with a long gentle downhill stretch and I was also able to go at my own pace which

was much slower than normal – although I'm told that I finished at a good pace.



I am also extremely thankful for all the invaluable help and encouragement Pauline provided to get me through the day, as it is unlikely that I would have made it without her support.

I am very grateful for all the donations I have received to make my efforts worthwhile. The money has arrived through various sources which has made it difficult to be certain of how much has been donated for the walk, but as far as I can tell the total is £910 plus £160 Gift Aid, giving an overall total of £1,070.

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# Young People's Activity Page

**Here is a story about Joseph and his brothers which is taken from Chapter 37 of the Book of Genesis. After you have read it, cover up the text and see if you can answer the 5 questions below.**

*Joseph, as a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, and he brought his father, Jacob, a bad report about them. Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."*

*Sometime later, his brothers had gone to graze the flocks near Shechem and Jacob told Joseph to go and visit them to see if all was well with them and the flocks. When his brothers saw him coming in the distance, they plotted to kill him. When Reuben heard this, he persuaded his brothers not to kill him but to strip him of his robe and throw him into an empty well, in the hope that he could rescue him from them and take him back to his father. After they had done this, they sat down to eat their meal and soon after they saw some Midianite merchants on their way to Egypt with camels loaded with all kinds of spices. His brothers pulled Joseph up out of the well and sold him to them for twenty shekels of silver and they took him to Egypt.*

*Then the brothers got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood and took it back to their father and said, "We found this. Some ferocious animal must have devoured him." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph as a slave in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.*

\*\*\*\*\*

1. What had Jacob made especially for Joseph?.....
2. What was Joseph's dream about?.....
3. Where were his brothers tending the flocks?.....
4. For how much was Joseph sold to the Midianite merchants?.....
5. What was the name of the captain of the guard in Egypt who bought Joseph as a slave?.....



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6.30pm Evensong

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(The service is also available on YouTube via the Church website.)

## 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 10.00am 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 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**

## **Sanctuary**

Refuge | Safety | A Holy Space

This meditative service of Word, reflection and silence returns to St John's on Monday 28th September. This month's service, led by our curate Matt Wood, will explore the spirituality of Julian of Norwich.

Sanctuary is at 7.30pm in church on the last Monday of the month. The service lasts for about an hour.

## **Autumn Study Group - Exploring the Old Testament**

The Study Group returns for the autumn term with a series of six sessions introducing some key aspects of the Old Testament. We will encounter:

- some of the historical evidence behind the texts and the geography of the Ancient Near East
- the genres found in Hebrew Scripture: Pentateuch, Histories, Poetry and Wisdom, Prophecy
- major themes like human suffering; war and conflict; the character of God revealed in the OT; The Law of God and Christian ethics (including The Law and contemporary society; The Law, gender and sexuality)

While there will be elements of taught input, sessions will be geared towards discussion, questioning and journeying together through some of Hebrew Scripture's fascinating texts. Sessions will be on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm starting on Wednesday 30th September (venue TBC) and will be led by Matt Wood.

A full course programme and preliminary materials will be published in mid-September so, if you're keen to come along, please try to sign up by then. If Wednesday evenings are difficult, please still get in touch. It may be feasible, if numbers permit, to offer a duplicate session at another time.

Contact Matt via email ([matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)) or phone (07900 436762) to sign up or with any questions.

# Parish Registers

## **THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED AT ST. JOHN'S:**

22nd July - Daniel Clay and Louisa Colley

24th July - Thomas Millis and Felicity Dunning-Bourne

## **THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

Thomas Richard Peel, Richard Brooke and Kelly Wilson

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

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

## **ORDINATION OF MATT WOOD:**

Please pray for Matt Wood, who is to be ordained deacon by Sophie, Bishop of Doncaster, in the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Sheffield on Sunday, 27th September, 2020 at 6pm.

Please also pray for Clare, for Revd Canon Dr. Matthew Rhodes and the people of St. John's, where Matt will be serving as Assistant Curate.

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## The Organ Restoration Project



Those who have been in church in recent weeks will have noticed that the main church organ has been fully dismantled as the project to restore it is underway. Our contractor, Andrew Carter, and his team commenced work in June whilst the church was still closed. They have worked safely and socially distanced to disassemble the whole organ and relocate it to their premises in Wakefield. All the pipework, over 3,000 pipes in total, will be given a specialist clean. This will improve the clarity of the sound. The pipes will all be checked for damage; the metal pipes will have any dents removed and the wooden pipes will have any splits repaired. They will then be voiced using specialist equipment in the organ

builder's workshop.

On the console all of the keys have been removed and they will be thoroughly cleaned and have new contacts and felts as required. The pedalboard has been taken out and this is undergoing significant repair along with the fitting of new leatherwork. The work also includes a full overhaul of the pedal action which has a long-standing fault. The mechanic action will be replaced with a new electronic action, in both the swell and choir. The bellows are also being stripped back and new leatherwork fitted. Some wind leaks will be rectified and the tuba chest, usually inaccessible, will be fully serviced.

As is often the way with a large project, we have had a setback (in addition to a global pandemic!) On removing the organ, Andrew Carter found that some of the electrics needed upgrading and there was a sizeable crack on the external wall of the organ chamber. Our Architect and a Structural Engineer have inspected the crack and have found that it isn't a symptom of anything more sinister. They have advised on the repairs. Andrew and his team are busy working on the restoration in their workshop. The re-installation is planned for October so it is hoped that the organ will be working by Christmas. The extent of the work will mean that the organ will only require routine maintenance for the foreseeable future.

As for our fundraising, the appeal has now exceeded £60,000. We've been

grateful to have received grants from The Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust, The Sheffield Town Trust and The James Neill Trust Fund. Nearly £35,000 has been given in donations and further funds have been raised from Gift Aid and fundraising events. The initial project cost was £94,000, the additional work has cost £7,000 and we are also paying to have the project overseen by an organ consultant – bringing the fundraising target to £105,000 (plus VAT, which will be claimed from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme).

There is still some way to go to reach our fundraising target. Over £20,000 has been set aside from the PCCs funds leaving an outstanding fundraising target of around £25,000. The Covid-19 pandemic has inhibited our fundraising and we will be deferring our fundraising concert until next year, when hopefully it will be safe to come together for a festival celebrating our musical heritage. On the inside covers of this edition of Inspire you'll find a few photos of the dismantled organ. Andrew Carter has been diligently documenting the organ's removal and we have amassed lots of photos of the organ's inner workings. We're hoping to organise an evening viewing the photos in the autumn, a perspective that many of us won't ever see again.

It's now two years since we discovered that our organ had deteriorated during the church's closure for ceiling repairs. We've planned and fundraised and finally the restoration is underway. Thank you to everyone that has supported the project and do continue to hold the restoration and our fundraising in your prayers. *(More information about the appeal and how you can support it, can be found on the St John's website.)*

Sarah Beardsmore

## The Lectern in St John's

Work is underway to prepare a Statement of Significance for the church, this document will assist us in the preparation of plans to provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities in the church. The lectern was donated by Mark Firth after the building was rebuilt following the fire of 1887. The lectern was restored during the 1990s reordering. Recently we have discovered the manufacturer: John Hardman Powell, Birmingham. You can find more information about John Hardman, including the companies catalogues of the mid 1880s on the web([www.puginsociety.com](http://www.puginsociety.com)).

The Pugin Society's entry reads: *John Hardman Powell, stained glass designer,*



deserves a study in his own right. As a very young man he came down to stay at The Grange, Ramsgate to assist Pugin with his many orders for stained glass, church plate, and other artefacts. He was the nephew of John Hardman Junior (1811-1867), Pugin's great friend and respected colleague, with whom Pugin expanded the firm of Hardman's in Birmingham for the making of stained glass and ecclesiastical metalwork. Through Pugin, the firm became very successful throughout the nineteenth century and set high standards of design and craftsmanship, initiated by Pugin and then developed by John Hardman Powell. Powell married Pugin's first child, his daughter Anne, and became chief designer for Hardman's after Pugin's death in 1852. Under his direction the firm produced enormous amounts of stained glass for Anglican and Catholic churches throughout the country (and beyond) in the second half of the nineteenth century.'

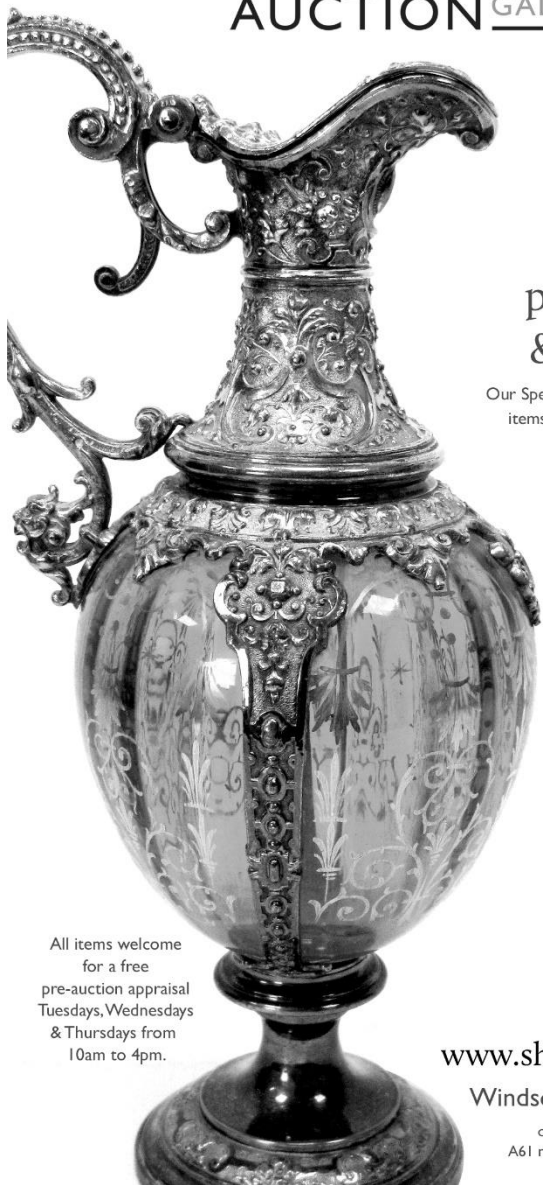
Powell never forgot his debt to Pugin, from whom he had learnt everything, but gradually evolved a personal style, involving rather more elongated figures and a more exaggerated sense of movement than his master. He also wrote (1889) a vivid and affectionate memoir of his great teacher, *Pugin in his Home*. One of his best works, the large Immaculate Conception window, an elaborate and uplifting design, with a beautiful ethereal quality, pure colours, and a silvery overall light, is to be found in the north transept of Pugin's St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, and was designed in 1868 in memory of John Hardman Junior. Powell's mother, Lucy, also assisted in the Pugin/Hardman business by making, and executing the embroidery for some of the elaborate and splendid church vestments designed by Pugin.



John Hardman Powell also designed fine domestic and church metalware, and expounded his theories about design, which owe much to Pugin (and something also to Ruskin) in the interesting but hard to obtain *Some Stray Notes on Art* (1888) – lectures to students at the Birmingham School of Art. An obituary of J.H. Powell, in *The Birmingham Weekly Post*, comments: 'Mr Powell's modesty, amiability and charm of manner were on a par with his artistic qualities.'

**Brian Parfett**





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## A Wandering around Abney

Often on our bike rides and walks from Bradwell we will pass through the lovely hamlet of Abney, which is rather like a pretty oasis, tucked away between moorland and fields of grazing sheep and horses. Abney is between Hathersage and Great Hucklow above the Hope Valley. In Middle English its name meant *Abba's Island*, and in the Domesday book was recorded as Habenei, being part of the lands owned by William Peverill. Although an agricultural hamlet, remnants of the workings on Smelting Hill above Abney are testimony to the industrial past of this area, and to Abney itself.

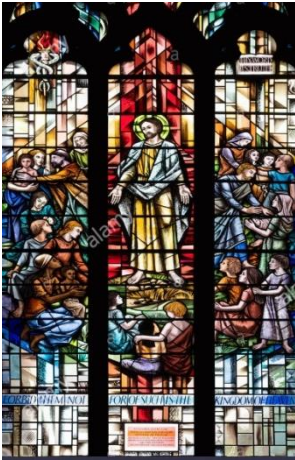
Abney hit the headlines due to the dramatic landslide following the floods of November 2019, when the road collapsed. After some remedial work, pedestrians and bicycles now have access through from one side of the village to the other, without having to take the 26-mile detour that is necessary for those with cars.



While looking up information about Abney's history, I found an article referring to a local poet named William Newton, born in 1750 at Cockey Farm, Abney, which is still there and on the road from Abney towards the Gliding Club. Though I'm sure many of you will know it already, I found William's story quite a captivating one. He was "discovered" by the daughter of the curate from Eyam, Anna Seward, herself a relatively well-known poet who nurtured and promoted his literary talents, and who would later support him when he fell on hard times. In a letter to the "Gentleman's Magazine" in 1783 she describes her discovery of William Newton thus: "a being in whom the lustre of native genius shines through the mists which were thrown around him by obscure birth, the total absence of all refined instruction, and by the daily necessity of manual labour". In tune with the romantic movement of the time, she names him Edwin, and his prose

and verse are described by her as “miraculous” in their “elegance and harmony”.

Little success in publication of his works was forthcoming and, although he became known as “The Peak Minstrel”, his livelihood was derived from being a successful industrialist. Although he was a carpenter by trade, he went on to become an agent of Richard Arkwright and later restored Cressbrook Mill after a devastating fire all but destroyed it. He died in 1830 and is buried in St John’s, Tideswell, together with his wife Helen. A church window (shown alongside) was installed in the church in 1996 to commemorate William Newton. The following poem, written in 1822, is described as “mellow” anticipating his retirement:



*Beneath my Alder's peaceful bough,  
While whispers soft the Western wind,  
My limbs I indolently throw,  
And leave the world and care behind.  
Here blest with peace, with ease and health,  
Life's toilsome scenes, O let me shun!  
Forego ambition, fame and wealth,  
To bask me in the evening sun.  
And as this gentle bosom'd stream  
With silent lapse serenely flows,  
Smiles and reflects the golden beam,  
Ere modest evening's glories close;  
So let me, in life's tranquil evening, find  
Calm, soft, unruffl'd joys – the sunshine of  
the mind.*

**Jane Dalrymple**

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## British Birds: Quiz compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to this month's quiz are British birds. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus point will be awarded to the person who correctly identifies the bird in the photograph (which is one of the answers). 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 Friday, 14th August, 2020.

1. Sovereign angler (10)
2. William's angry (9)
3. Octave change (6)
4. Dark head covering (8)
5. Short period of work (6,5)
6. Found in plentiful market (6)
7. Changed shape in front of small insect (8)
8. In between darkness and storm (11)
9. Winter decoration? (4,7)
10. Notes changed before talk (9)
11. Grand lines redesigned (10)
12. Rams greens into a duck (9)
13. James Bond film title (9)
14. Blackberrying (9)
15. Clap for engineer transformed (9,6)
16. Bulb in front of alternative worker (9)

*The winner of the June quiz (British Rivers) was Ann Bird, who receive a box of chocolates.*

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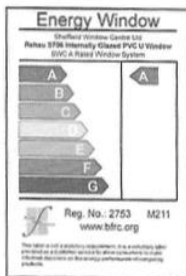
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Address:	Parish & Centre Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre, 5 Ranmoor Park Road, Ranmoor, Sheffield S10 3GX
Office Hours:	9.30am to 2.30pm: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday These hours may vary during school holidays
Telephone:	Office (0114) 230 1199 (Answerphone available) Vicar 07754 068391 Music (0114) 2993160
Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes <a href="mailto:matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Church & Centre Office:	<a href="mailto:claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Music Office:	<a href="mailto:music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
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Websites:	Church <a href="http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a> Centre <a href="http://www.parishcentre.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">www.parishcentre.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Lay Ministry:	Janet Noble (Authorised Children's Minister) <a href="mailto:footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a> Alison Wragg (Licensed Reader)
Church & Centre Administrator: (incl. Safeguarding Officer, Electoral Roll Officer & PCC Secretary)	Claire Webber: <a href="mailto:claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Church & Centre Finance & Gift Aid Officer:	Sandie Parfett <a href="mailto:finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Church & Centre Treasurer:	David Booker (07773 821125)
Churchwardens:	Brian Parfett (07914 220938) Carl Webber (07833 494108) <a href="mailto:churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Assistant Wardens:	Joy Bowler (0114 236 2544) Peter Chatterton (0114 237 3628) John Green (07985 459923) Graham Wood
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Junior Chorister Tutor:	Cathy Rhodes
Chorister Tutor:	Georgina Hulse
Choral Scholar Tutor:	Francis Wells

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Footsteps	Janet Noble – (0114) 230 1199 <a href="mailto:footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
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  <a href="mailto:music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk">music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk</a>
Prayer & Fellowship	Bridget Brooke (0114) 230 2147
Ranmoor Bell Ringers	Richard Noble 07834 154637 <a href="mailto:towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk">towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk</a> Secretary: Gill Hopkins-Platt <a href="mailto:secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk">secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk</a>
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:	<a href="mailto:ranmoorrainbows@gmail.com">ranmoorrainbows@gmail.com</a>
Guides:	<a href="mailto:ranmoorguides@gmail.com">ranmoorguides@gmail.com</a>
Brownies:	Jenny Woodhouse <a href="mailto:Ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com">Ranmoorbrownies@gmail.com</a>

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# Inspire

<b>Contributors</b>	Sarah Beardsmore, Jane Dalrymple, Alan Heath, Matthew Rhodes, Brian Parfett, Philip Walshaw, Matt Wood and Claire Webber.
<b>Editor</b>	Philip Walshaw: 07815 963807 <a href="mailto:jpwalshaw@gmail.com">jpwalshaw@gmail.com</a>
<b>Design</b>	Philip Walshaw and Brian Parfett
<b>Printers</b>	PRINTWORKS Sheffield ( <a href="http://www.printworksprint.co.uk">www.printworksprint.co.uk</a> )
<b>Advertising</b>	Peter Marrison: 07581 888068_ <a href="mailto:wpmarrison@btinternet.com">wpmarrison@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Administrator</b>	Claire Webber (0114) 230 1199
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## Contributing to Inspire

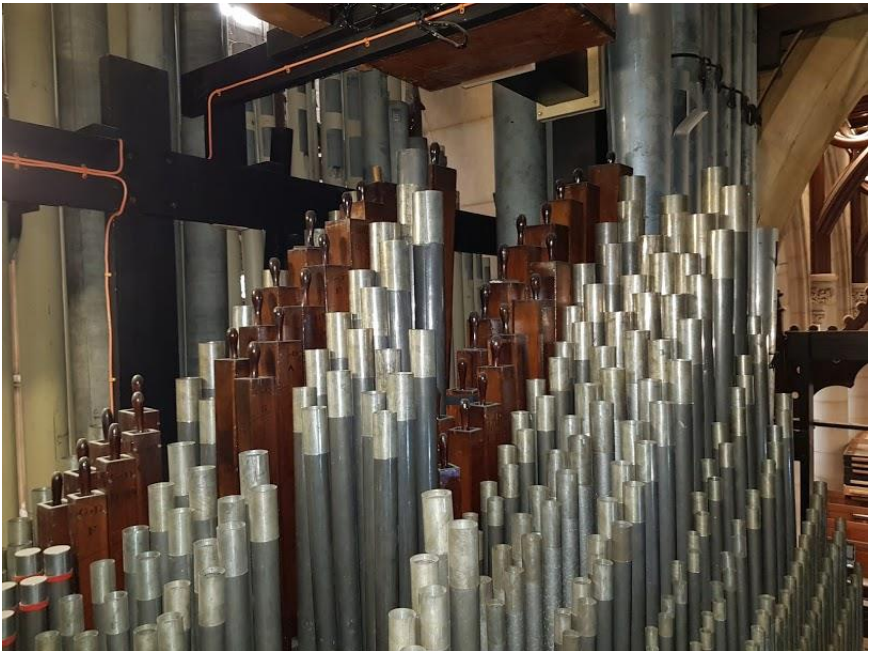
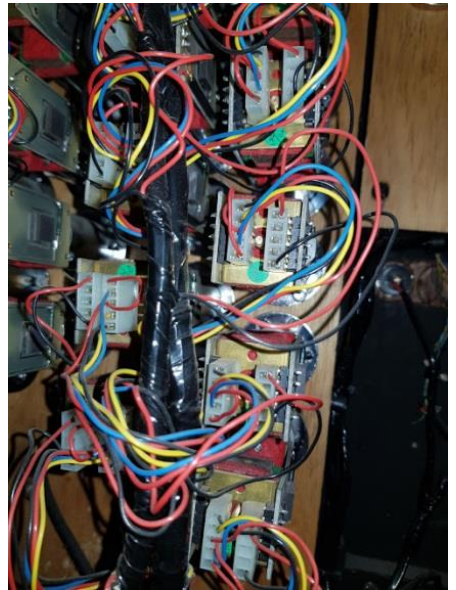
As always you should feel free to contribute to the magazine: articles, news, photographs, and anything else that you feel might be suitable. Any contributions received after the date shown below will be considered for publication in the following issue. We cannot guarantee that everything we receive will be published. **The deadline for contributions to the October 2020 edition is Monday, 14th September, 2020.**

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