



St John's Church, Ranmoor, Wednesday Lunch Club

October 2020

Greetings from Matthew

I am tremendously grateful to everyone who has helped with the afternoon tea, including Matt, our Curate. We are delighted that he has been ordained deacon at Sheffield Cathedral on 27th September.



We hope that you enjoy the flowers that accompany this tea. They have been arranged by members of our flower arranging rota and come with our love in this season of harvest. This will be the last afternoon tea for a while but we are looking at other ways to keep in touch in the future.

2020 has been a very hard year for many. Some of us have lost loved ones. Others will be missing those who died some time ago. At Evensong on 1st November we will remember the departed by name. If you would like us to remember someone special, please let Claire know (0114 230 1199).

Remembrance Sunday is usually a big occasion at St John's. This year, we may have a shorter service outside around the war memorial. Please do join us at home by observing the two minute's silence at 11am.

It is difficult to be precise about arrangements for Christmas at this stage but we will keep you posted. Even if we cannot worship together at present, please know that you are still very much part of the church community and are regularly remembered in prayer.

With all good wishes, *Matthew*

PS You might like to know that The Bull's Head does a very good Sunday lunch and will deliver (0114 230 1999)!

A visit to Patricia Ben Yehuda



It was a great pleasure to visit Patricia with last month's cream tea, the newsletter and Hester's Owl Card.

Patricia has moved from Ranmoor to Woodhouse to be nearer her niece Susanna. She is living in a retirement village which has all sorts of amenities including shops, restaurants, a hairdresser's and grounds for walking in.

Here is Patricia in the reception area of the village. As we sat and talked many people passed by and greeted her. It is clear that Patricia has made her home here. She is sad not to be able to meet with Susanna's two girls at the moment but she feels, in every other respect, very settled.

Many of you will have known Patricia's husband, Shimon. Patricia has unpacked almost all her things but she is still going through all the remarkable letters and diaries that he left, many of them recording his escape from Germany as one of the children saved by the Kinder Transport. Shimon was a local journalist, remembered with affection by those who worked with him on the Telegraph and Star.

We hope that Patricia will be able to come and visit us when it is possible.

Here she is enjoying Hester's card.
Mary Grover



News from Anne Ward

I have been asked to write a few words for the news sheet and I thought I would tell you about the wildlife in our garden.

Stephen and I moved into our new bungalow on the edge of the Mayfield Valley three years ago. We have a lovely garden which is next to a field where three horses occasionally graze and rabbits play. We look across the Valley to fields of sheep and cows. Recently we became more aware of nature in our surroundings. We watched a couple of squirrels move into the roof of the house next door to have babies who when born enjoyed running along the ridge of the roof and running up and down the tiles. Then we noticed the beautiful bright green feathers of a flock of very noisy parakeets who chose to live in the trees near us. There is no mistaking their chatter and they do a lot of it when flying between the trees.



In the Spring the buzzards returned and it was lovely to see them glide and soar above our garden and hear their very distinctive call. Both our neighbours have ponds in their gardens and recently cutting the grass and weeding has proved alarming because of small frogs jumping out. At twilight the bats appear and dart back and forth round the house. This all sounds perfect but there is one small creature which is proving to be a big problem – a family of moles – our lovely lawn is becoming one large playground for moles and it looks terrible. We have used a vibrating mole repellent to try and get rid of them but to no avail so if anybody knows of a way to deal with them without contacting The Mole Catcher we would love to know.

Take care and hopefully it won't be too long before we can all meet again.

Best wishes, Anne

Good news from Sarah Evers

Our daughter Kate became engaged to Robbie, her boyfriend of four years during "Lockdown" on July 9th. That morning he had taken Kate for a day out to York where they had both been students, and much to her surprise he went down on one knee in the Museum Gardens (*gardens pictured here*) and proposed to her. The answer was a definite



yes, much to Robbie's relief! They came to celebrate with us that afternoon in our garden under a gazebo that we had installed. Luckily the sun shone anyway and Robbie had pre warned us when

he had asked for her hand in marriage the week before, so the champagne was ready! It was also Kate's 30th birthday the next day so we had two reasons to celebrate! It certainly lifted our spirits during lockdown, especially as Michael was shielding.

Now we have some fun times ahead planning the event, which hopefully will take place at St John's in May 2022.

The Organ Fund



You all enjoyed Hester Bailey's owl card that we delivered with the cream tea in September. Well, the Bailey workshop is at it again. Lois and her family have designed and printed beautiful wrapping paper in order to raise money for the Organ Fund. I thought you might appreciate some of their lovely designs. As Mabel Bailey says, 'just like tiles'. They have already raised over £100. I think Lois may have stopped printing them now but here are two of my favourite designs.



The St John's Ranmoor Jigsaw Library

Just to remind you that St John's has a Jigsaw Library. If you would like to borrow one do ring Mary Grover on 0114 2630691 to arrange collection or delivery. We have 500-1000 piece jigsaws and some for children as well. Many thanks to all those who have donated jigsaws to make this library possible.

Wendy Weekes shares her experience of returning to Church in September

I awoke and began to think whether I would give the Zoom communion service from St John's a miss that morning. Zoom had been a wonderful stopgap a few months ago

and I am very grateful to and have great admiration for the commitment of all those people who set it up, maintained it, supported us with it and rescued it when it had a crisis.

Latterly, however, I had fallen out of love with it. I felt that, like the flat Zoom image of me, my capacity to worship was flat and reduced to the significance of a small two dimensional box. The congregation is there but it is stratified, composed of people in layers of boxes. Somehow, despite the best efforts of the clergy and musicians for me it latterly lacked the spark of involvement. My worship lacked concentration and substance and I missed the ethereal quality of the worship at St John's. It was not just Zoom's fault. I had become distracted by all sorts of things at home; would somebody phone during the service, I had put the washing out and worried that rain looked imminent, the patch of dust "over there" was starting to irritate me, I could see the pile of ironing that still had not been done. My concentration for worship at home was being eroded by things of the home and I was becoming spiritually restless. I needed to worship at St John's where I would be surrounded by things of the spirit that improve my concentration for worship rather than detract from it. I am more focussed there.

The solution came in the form of a power cut that Sunday at 08.20 which lasted about an hour. I made a decision. I thought "no power, perhaps no Zoom, this gives me every reason to take a risk and to go to St John's this morning". When the power came on I remained decided and set off with a little trepidation, a disposable mask and a small bottle of hand gel.

My trepidation was not necessary. I felt welcomed and my Covid security was protected by a series of masked sidespeople. Hand sanitiser was available in large quantities. The first sidesperson I met (on the steps) saw that I was wearing my mask and supervised me using the hand sanitiser which had been carefully balanced on the handrail! Maintaining a 2 metre social distance from the person in front I waited to give my name and phone number to the next masked sidesperson then I remained socially distanced again to wait to be told that I should sit opposite a green card in a pew where they had been placed to ensure social distancing. When I needed to walk around church I learned that I should follow the arrows on the floor, along the centre aisle to receive communion and back to my seat via the side aisle, effectively a one way system. This all felt well thought out and very safe.

The service itself was a quiet joy with a transcendental quality that does not transmit easily via Zoom. There was obviously no live hymn singing but a very valuable opportunity to meditate on the words of the hymns to the background of the wonderful sound of the organ. The Peace was shared by a gentle non tactile acknowledgement of those nearest to us in the pews. Those of us wishing to receive communion (wafer only) walked in a line, socially distanced, to the front of the centre aisle. We were reminded by a sidesperson to use the (strategically placed) hand

sanitiser once more. Then each in turn slipped their mask under their chin. and received the wafer into their hands at arms' length from the vicar and consumed it. We then replaced our masks and returned to our seats via the side aisles to continue in private prayer or meditation. It was a dignified and reverent process. The anthem had been recorded but provided further environment for meditation.

Departure after the service was via the side aisles to the north door, passing the vicar on the way (socially distanced of course) and thanking him for an uplifting service.

Wendy Weeks 08/09/20

Message from Claire Webber, in the Parish Office



I cannot believe we are now into October and its only 10 weeks until Christmas. Since we last sent a news sheet we were just about to re-open the Parish Centre. Well I am glad to report that we are a *COVID secure* venue now and many of our regular groups have returned. Some of the groups have not been able to come back as they have more people shielding. Being Covid Secure meant we had to close the kitchen temporarily, make the centre one

way inside, provide sanitiser throughout and increase our cleaning rota. Of course these are just a few of the safety measures we have had to put in place to make sure it is safe for people to use. It's great to have the building being used again as it's the heart of Ranmoor and an important part of what we do to support the local community. The feedback on the new carpets in the Centre and décor has been great.

Here are some pictures of the inside of the centre. These are the rooms we use for the lunch club. We hope you like them:



School is back now, so I am missing my daughter Heidi, but it's been great for her to get back to being with her friends in school. Its also been nice for her to get dancing again in person with her friends and having that social interaction.

I am enjoying being out and about more and seeing people in the centre and church, but it is not the same without the lunch club. Every Wednesday I expect to see you all arriving! We do a collection for the Burngreave Foodbank every alternate Wednesday and that is hugely supported by our congregation and local area.

A fortnight ago the church steeple was inspected by a rather large crane. Matthew even took a ride in it to the top! Believe it or not, our spire is so high that the lift didn't quite reach the very top, but we think Matthew was very brave taking a ride in it! Here is a picture of Matthew reaching the dizzy heights when the inspection took place. If

you look closely to the picture on the right, Matthew is waving!



With restrictions still in place for weddings its been a tough time for our wedding couples. We normally have around 20 weddings each year in St John's but this year has been quite different. Once the church re-opened following lockdown there were restrictions. First of all couples were allowed 30 guests and now just this week the number has been reduced to 15 guests. Such difficult decisions for the couples who are planning one of the happiest days of their lives. Since we re-opened the church in July we have been able to have 7 weddings and we have one more due to take place in December 2020. Many of the couples who were to be married in 2020 have moved their dates to 2021. Some couples have moved their dates 3 times now. I am sure you will imagine, it is taking up a large amount of my time supporting these couples.

Here are a couple of pictures of weddings that have taken place since July.



Frankie and Alex - September wedding



Felicity and Tom - July Wedding

Please stay in touch with us and share your news with us all. The Parish Office number is 0114 230 1199 or email administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk.

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