

# **INSPIRE**

St John's Church Ranmoor, Sheffield

November 2020

£1.00

**Featuring:** 

\* From Eco-Church to Eco-Diocese

\* The Congregational Survey

.....and much more.



# HARVEST FESTIVAL 4th OCTOBER, 2020





#### **St John's Church** Ranmoor, Sheffield Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre, 5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX Tel: 0114 230 1199 Website: www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

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

#### Contents

- Foreword 4
- Be Part of our Choirs 5
- Lockdown in the Editor's Chair 7
- Clergy and Parish Life: 99 years on 10
- A Reflection on returning to Church 13
- From Eco-Church to Eco-Diocese 15
- Church Services 18
- Using your Telephone to take part in our Services 19
- Parish Registers 20
- Young People's Activity Page 22
- The Congregational Survey 25
- All Creatures Great and Small: Quiz 29
- Contacts: 31
- Groups and Activities: 32

Cover photo by Philip Walshaw: Coprinus comatus (shaggy ink cap) fungi

## Large print versions of Inspire are available

## Foreword



Services: these days, I always feel a slight sense of hesitation when writing about future plans in Inspire. By the time it comes out, the situation may have changed and plans for the future may have to change too. But with that health warning, here goes!

At this time of year, our thoughts turn increasingly to Christmas. Sadly, this year we are not able to hold a full Christingle service but it may get a mention at our All Age Service on  $6^{th}$ 

December. We are very much hoping to hold a carol service on 20<sup>th</sup> December and may end up having two such services to accommodate everyone, with appropriate cleaning in between. It may be necessary to book seats at these services and we will put information about this on our church website. We are also hoping to have a Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and at least one service on Christmas Day. Again, there will be appropriate cleaning between services and booking may be necessary.

The current situation has given us the opportunity to reassess what we do on Sundays. After much though and discussion, in 2021, we plan to have a slightly revised programme of Sunday services. These will continue to take place at 10.30 am and 6.30pm. On each Sunday there will be a service of Holy Communion as required by canon law. There will also be one service in traditional language and one in contemporary language.

On the first Sunday of the month, our 10.30 service will continue to be All Age. Where this is a service of Holy Communion, Choral Evensong will take place at 6.30pm. When the All Age Service is not a service of Holy Communion, the 6.30pm service will be Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer. On the second, third and fourth Sundays, we will have Common Worship Holy Communion at 10.30am and Evensong at 6.30pm. Where there is a fifth Sunday, the 10.30am service will be Sung Matins and the 6.30pm service will be Common Worship Holy Communion.

I hope that this new, simpler pattern of services will be more straightforward. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to get in touch.

Matthew

### Be a part of our Choirs



Would you like to sing in a friendly, high-standard church choir which meets just minutes from the Student Village? The choir of St John's Ranmoor would love to hear from you if you have experience of singing, ideally in a church setting, and would like to sing regularly with

a friendly group of all ages. The choir has begun singing again in our beautiful Victorian church in a socially distanced and guidance-compliant formation. We have a children's choir (which has not yet resumed) and opportunities for singers with changing voices. Our main adult choir is the consort, a mixed adult choir comprising a mix of professional musicians and experienced amateurs. The consort offers choral opportunities for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass and we would welcome enquiries from all voice parts. The lower voices accompany all our sung Sunday services with either the Sopranos or the Choristers. Rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, we sing a wide repertoire of choral music. Members need to be able to read music and learn quickly. The consort has singers of all ages from 18 upwards and is a very friendly and welcoming group. We would love to hear from you. If you are interested please get in touch by emailing music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk or by telephoning the Parish Office on (0114) 2301199.

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## Lockdown in the Editor's Chair



Communication: it has been the main feature of our lockdown situation and, as a substitute for social and physical contact, we have benefited from all the modern communications available to us, provided that we are able to embrace the technology. Call me old-fashioned, but I still like your actual written word and Susan and I always send our grandchildren postcards from our holiday resort. And it is always nice to receive a letter through the post and even a phone call from someone.

Quaint, isn't it, but our modern form of communication is via WhatsApp, Facebook, etc., not forgetting the good old email. But we all are aware of the problems that can arise from sending an ill-considered tweets.

I have, of course, signed up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and am an avid user of my I-phone. I regularly receive messages from friends that contain sarcastic and caustic comments and no offence is made, because I know how to take them. And I know we need to be careful that we don't upset people if we include words in upper case because it may look as though we are shouting at them. However, I was astounded to learn recently that young people are offended by the use of the full stop in social media messaging. Generation Z, made up of people born after 1995, is a cohort of youngsters that has largely grown up with informal text messaging as a default way of communicating. In this largely punctuation-free context, an unexpected full stop can seem deliberate, as if showing that something negative is meant by the message, say linguists. So if you add that additional marker for completion, they will read something into it and it tends to be a falling intonation or negative tone. Some experts argue that the act of hitting 'send' on the message itself acts as an end point to the message, so there is no formal need for the full stop. (In my case if a message goes without a full stop, it means I have accidentally hit the 'send' button!) But others think that context is allimportant and that messages still need to be structured by punctuation. Well, yes! If you say, "John thinks James is daft", then James is daft. With punctuation, "John, says James, is daft", then John is daft. And don't get me started on apostrophe abuse...... I've accepted text speak, with abbreviated phrases like btw, lol, etc., but my message is keep communication punctuated and understandable, but not sesquipedalian, said he just contradicting himself! And what does that word mean? Using long words when shorter words will do. Such irony (full stop)

Philip Walshaw



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# Clergy and Parish Life – 99 years on

Back in March, during the initial Covid-19 lockdown, Pauline Heath was tidying the loft and found amongst old family papers a double page from the Sheffield Telegraph dated May 12 1921. From reading it, she cannot understand why this had been kept but has reproduced, as best she could, the following article which was written on the occasion of the Bishop of Sheffield's secondary visitation to the Archdeaconry of Sheffield. It makes interesting reading and some of the story rings so true with the state of the clergy and parish life today – 99 years on!!

#### What the Bishop is Looking For:

"The lessening of waste in men and material, the rearranging of buildings, the cessation of grotesque rivalry, the departure of the partisan newspaper, the retreat of the scoffer, and the strategic movement to the rear of the unbeliever."

These are some of the improvements which, according to the Bishop of Sheffield, will follow that "great and glorious day of the Lord when there is a joining up of the divided fellowship by the reunion of the Christian Churches." In his charge on the occasion of his secondary visitation to the Archdeaconry of Sheffield in the Cathedral yesterday afternoon, the Bishop told the large congregation of clergy and laymen that he prayed that such reunion would come to pass in our day. In three years, said the Bishop, he had succeeded in visiting every parish within his jurisdiction, and there had been much to cheer and encourage in the difficult days. Dealing with the work in the rural deanery of Sheffield he pointed out that every city had a personality, like an individual; it had a character far more clear-cut and definite than a county or province; it had traditions and a loyal patriotism; a born conservatism which did not reject new methods, but prided itself on taking them in. These characteristics were especially true of Sheffield, and were carried into the Church life of the city.

With reference to the prevailing inefficiencies, the Bishop said the city was disastrously under-staffed with clergy. For nearly half-a-million people there were only 68; 34 less than in 1914 when the Bishopric was formed. What should be done if Attercliffe, Heeley and Pitsmoor had one parish priest to 4000 people? With the efficient working of the parochial organisation the whole atmosphere of the parish became charged with an electric church life. Parochial organisations such as the Men's Society, Mother's Union, Girls' Friendly Society, Scouts, Girl Guides and others gradually created a wider outlook and a broader vision.

### Laity Must Help Clergy:

In view of the difficulty in getting assistant clergy, the Bishop appealed to the laity to abandon "their wonted shyness and reserve" and openly strive to help the overworked clergy. All communicants ought to take their share in the spiritual as well as the financial and administrative side of parish life. "Our women workers have improved in value, and in future they will be given greater diocesan recognition and extended spheres of labour." added his Lordship.

He believed that the right policy for dividing the larger parishes was the constitution of "conventional districts" such as had had a great measure of success in the South Yorkshire coalfield area, and the Diocesan Finance Board could not do more wisely than start such conventional Districts on a sound financial basis. New churches would be required.

More effective spiritual work could be done with a church hall than by buying an expensive organ or decorating the church, went on the Bishop, commenting on the need for church halls in no fewer than twenty-one city parishes. He did not dwell upon the need for other buildings because they must perforce be postponed. He mentioned "the splendid vision of a new Cathedral, the confirmation of which, must left to the generations which come after."

The Bishop also referred to the work and role of the Ecclesfield and Rotherham rural deanery. The industrial problem dominated the church life of the area – everyone was feverishly keen on producing material things and making money out of them. There were few church workers with time for meditation and prayer in the bustle and turmoil of business. There was a natural tendency to rush for exciting pleasures, which appealed to the restless spirit delighted to be free from the noise and crash of machinery. In conclusion, his Lordship paid high tribute to the splendid work of the clergy.



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## A Reflection on My Return to Church: by Wendy Weeks



I awoke and began to think whether I would give the Zoom communion service from St John's a miss that Sunday morning in September. 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 I was 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 detracting 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 properly 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.

## From Eco-church to Eco-Diocese

# by John Green and Cathy Rhodes

#### The Diocesan Development Day 10th October 2020 (on Zoom)

Zoom is a great leveller - over 150 people from across the Diocese gathered on-line for the annual Development Day but for once, those on the eastern edge of the Diocese didn't have to travel to join in, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the event! St John's Ranmoor was well represented at this event and the final act of worship was led by Matthew and Cathy with the choir of St. John's singing "The Lord is my shepherd" by Goodall. (see link below)

The highlight of the day was a presentation by Ruth Valerio, the global Development Director for Tear Fund, the Christian aid agency. She wrote this year's Archbishop of Canterbury Lent book - "Saying Yes to Life", which looks at the six days of creation from an ecological perspective - sea, sky, land, plants, animals and humans.

She asked us the question: Why should we care? Her answers were:

- For the sake of people living in poverty, as we worship a God of justice calling us to lift people out of poverty
- For the sake of the Earth, which is precious to God mass extinction of species is a reality now.
- For our own sake, as we recognise how our wellbeing links to the wellbeing of the natural world.
- For God's sake, the foundational reason flowing through all these, with threads of our calling to care for creation and support social justice

She likened this to an unbreakable triangle linking us to God and the land and reminded us that the we are earthly creatures. Adam comes from the Hebrew word "adamah" meaning the earth.

#### How should we and the church respond?

From her global experiences Ruth reported that the church is awakening to climate change and described church environmental projects in Thailand, Australia and the USA. One third of the world's population is Christian so there is great potential for change. There is a link below to a Tear Fund video about an Ethiopian project.

When answering this question – Ruth quoted Micah 6:8 - "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God" The practical steps we can take are in:

- Teaching about environmental care, biodiversity loss and our global 'neighbours'
- Giving who can we support and are they responding to climate chaos? Where does our money go?
- Praying for the **world**, as well as its people, alongside taking action.
- Speaking out about re-building our economic model, 'rebooting' our world
- Living it out shopping, food, travel, energy use, waste and plastic reduction

We all know this devastating pandemic has meant understandable delays and cancellations affecting local and national events highlighting the Climate and Ecological Crisis. The hope is that we can now build on the momentum from the Development Day. Bishop Pete announced that Sheffield is registered as an Eco Diocese as part of the A Rocha Eco Church programme, and the Diocese plans to rebook the cancelled Eco conference for June 2021.

In the meantime, there is much to do with our own Eco Church projects so please look out for opportunities to get involved in the coming months and have a look at the links below. Things can seem hopeless and there is anxiety and fatigue all around and within us. But to 'live out' our response to the climate and ecological emergency and 'act justly' there are things we can do now, with the help of God, so please keep praying.

Things we can do now: these links will be on the church website and in mailings





Learn from and be inspired by the **Tear Fund video** about Ethiopia, and signing the Climate Coalition declaration calling for a greener recovery at:

https://www.tearfund.org/about you/action/the world rebooted/

Calculate your carbon footprint using the **WWF carbon footprint calculator**, to learn how we may tread more lightly on God's earth. <u>https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/</u>

Join the global Count Us In project at https://steps.count-us-in.org/

This records your savings of carbon emissions in an accumulator. There are 16 areas for action that include flying less, walking more and cutting waste. The website can add your savings to the accumulator that, as of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 12,788 people are taking 53,107 steps to reduce their emissions saving 727,086 kg CO2 so far this year. We will be writing more about this in next month's issue.

For more inspiration watch beautiful pictures of our area and listen to our amazing choir in their virtual recording of Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd' at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchRanmoor/</u>

# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



# We are Open for Worship

# **Our Services:**

Monday to Saturday 9am Morning Prayer

Monday to Thursday 8pm Compline

## **Sundays**

10.30 Parish Communion (In church, on zoom and Facebook live) 6.30pm Choral Evensong (in church and Facebook live)

## ZOOM is easy to use: ZOOM

- Download the app if you have a smart phone or device or open the link which we will send you upon request
- If you have a web cam on your computer—great, but you do not need to join with video.
- Speak to Claire Webber or Brian Parfett who will help you to gain access.

# Join the dozens of friends and parishioners that have shared our services online.

If you need any help contact us 0114 230 1199 or administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk or onlineservices@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Please note: the weekday Services are on Zoom only.

### Using your telephone to take part in our Services

While there are certain restrictions on people attending church, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, we are continuing to hold 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 Morning Prayer is at 9.00am (Monday to Saturday), and Compline is at 8.00pm (Monday to Thursday). The weekday services are on Zoom only.

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. The best way of doing this is to let me know (Tel 0114 230 4137) if you plan to join our Services in this way. I just need your name and the last three digits of your phone number.

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

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

#### **Brian Parfett**

# Parish Registers:

Please pray for the following couple who were married at St Johns:

Brett Mackenzie Seithel and Victoria Emma Taylor



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# Young People's Activity Page

**Rock Animals**: here's an outdoor activity you might like to do (with the help of a grown-up, of course!) It involves a walk out onto Baslow Edge, near Ladybower and using your skill and imagination you have to spot these animals that nature has created in the rocks along the way.

**Directions:** driving on the main road from Ladybower, passing The Yorkshire Bridge Inn on your right, turn left up New Road. Park in the layby at the brow of the hill about half a mile up the road (grid ref: SK 210848) and follow the path over the stile heading for Baslow Edge. This is the view you will see on your walk after about a mile:-



And here are the animals that you have to look out for (you might see the pictures clearer in colour in the on-line edition of this magazine): Frog, Crocodile, Snake's head, Lion, Turtle and a Pointing Finger. Good hunting!









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## The Congregational Survey

Throughout September, the PCC undertook a survey of members of the congregations at St John's. The survey was an opportunity to capture how people in the St John's community have found the lockdown and our response to it. There were 29 responders and the results were overwhelmingly positive. The survey was broken down into three sections:

#### I. Worship during the lockdown

When the church closed in March, St John's very quickly began services from Matthew and Cathy's living room to the congregation via zoom and eventually streamed on to YouTube. 90% of those who responded joined in with online worship at least once a week. People enjoyed "getting to see familiar faces", "the sense of togetherness" and "the sense of a continuing Christian community". Many of those who responded found the readings, sermons and prayers a great comfort. By far the biggest challenges to our online worship were the technical difficulties, occasional problems with zoom and wi-fi connections – but as one responder remarked "technical issues are a part of life now". People also missed "seeing people face-to-face", "full choral music in services" and "children and families joining in with our worship".

How often did you access worship at St John's during the lockdown? <sup>29 responses</sup>



#### 2. Community at St John's during the lockdown

The St John's community quickly rallied when lockdown was announced to ensure that those we serve were supported and cared for. One responder remarked "it's been a great support to be part of the St John's community during this difficult time" and another said "it has helped us both to get through a very unreal situation". The Pastoral Care Committee have worked seamlessly to offer support to those in need. Communication has been vitally important whilst we have been so dispersed. Of those that responded, 95% read the weekly notices email and 90% read the parish magazine. The "communication has been warm, friendly, informative and reassuring that life goes on undaunted" and we're grateful to Claire and Philip for everything they do keep us all informed. The responses also reflected the privilege that so many in our community can access technology which has been vital to keeping everyone connected. As the pandemic changes, one responder challenged us to continue to find ways to connect with the lonely and those that have been adversely affected by lockdown.

#### 3. Church life after lockdown

Only 26% of those that responded plan to regularly attend church now that services have resumed in the building. A further 40% may occasionally attend but for many online worship remains vitally important. Those that have been to church have found it safe and well organised. Brian, Joe, Clare and all of the tech team have put an enormous amount of effort into how the camera and sound equipment is set up and we're very grateful to them. It was a joy throughout September to have our choirs back and many remarked on how much it enhances the worship. It is a difficult balance to ensure that both those in church and on zoom feel connected and there were some helpful comments that Matthew and Matt will be reviewing as we move forward.

There is a reduced seating capacity in church so we are interested to know your intentions for attending services in the coming 6 months. <sup>29 responses</sup>



I've been attending Sunday morning services in person and will continue to...
I'm hoping to start attending church more regularly for worship
I will occasionally attend church for worship but will also continue to acces...
I don't plan to return to church for worship just yet
I don't know my plans for returning to church for worship

The survey has been very helpful in capturing how people are feeling in the parish. The lockdown has revealed the strengths of our community; our caring of those around us and resilience in times of difficulty. If you were unable to participate but would like to share your thoughts do contact Matthew directly.

Sarah Beardsmore





The Laurels and The Limes Care Home, 115 Manchester Road, Sheffield 10



Registered charity number: 1047257

## All Creatures Great and Small: Quiz compiled by Philip Walshaw



The answers to this month's guiz are mammals. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct answers. A bonus DOINT will be awarded to the person who correctly identifies the mammal 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 <u>ipwalshaw@gmail.com</u> or by post to 19 Cairns Road, S10 5NA to reach me by Wednesday, 18th November, 2020.

- I. Mammal found by changing red bag (6)
- 2. Lace top redesigned (7)
- 3. Leap then change around (8)
- 4. Scrambled egg on toast without the egg on (5)
- 5. World leader in front of artist's aid (6)
- 6. Winged insect found in wildest surrounding (10)
- 7. Snorter worth just more than a pound (6,3)
- 8. Rod reversed into some 'U' turn (8)
- 9. Query girls re changing into this (4,8)
- 10. Fence greedy person (8)
- II. Run away after worker (8)
- 12. Yes large changes reveal this mammal (4,4)
- 13. Run of the mill love arrangement (6.4)
- 14. Gruesome nude, sounds like (7,4)
- 15. Painter men transformed (4, 6)

Answers to October Quiz: 1.Yarrow 2.Clematis 3. Moonpenny 4. Foxglove 5. Hollyhock 6. Forsythia 7. French marigold 8. Honesty 9. Candytuft 10. Snowdrop 11. Carnation 12. Sweet pea 13. Snapdragon 14. Cosmos 15. Buttercup (apologies for clue 8 which should have indicated 7 letters: Thrift was accepted). Entries were received from Janet and Malcolm Anker, Ann Bird, Rosemary Hannon, Jackie and Peter Lowe and Harold Smith. The winner was Rosemary Hannon, who receives a box of luxury chocolate biscuits.

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# Contacts at St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor

Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes (07754 068391 matthew.rhodes@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk		
Curate:	Revd Matt Wood (07900 436762) matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk		
Lay ministers	Alison Wragg (LLM) Janet Noble (Children's Minister) 0114 230 1199 (Church Office) footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk		
Churchwarde	ns: Brian Parfett (07914 220938) and Mark Gregory churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk		
<b>Church and Parish Centre Office</b> : 5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX Opening Hours: 9.30am-2.30pm (Mon, Tue, Wed)			
Administrato	Claire Webber (Safeguarding Officer,		

Electoral Roll Officer and PCC Secretary) (0114 2301199) claire.webber@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Finance and Gift Aid	t
Officer:	Sandie Parfett
	finance@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Treasurer:	David Booker (07773 821125)
	treasurer@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

# Church Groups and Activities

Children and Young People:	
Toddler Group	Helen Clark or Sally Booker
	0114 230 1199 (Church Office)
Footsteps (for children up to Y6)	Janet Noble
	0114 230 1199 (Church Office)
	footsteps@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
REACH (for young people Y7 and up)	Revd Matt Wood
	07900 436762
	matt.wood@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Study Group:	Sandra Green
	0114 230 9180
	biblestudy@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Flower arranging:	Sandra Green
	Jackie Lowe
	0114 230 3999
	Flowers@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Music:	music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk
Prayer and Fellowship :	Revd Bridget Brooke
	0114 230 2147
Bellringers:	
Tower Captain	Richard Noble
	07834 154637
	towercaptain@ranmoorringers.org.uk
Secretary	Gill Platt Hopkin
	secretary@ranmoorringers.org.uk
Wednesday Lunch Club	contact Claire Webber - Parish
	Administrator

# Uniformed organisations

Beavers :	Glenda Glenbrouwer - 0114 230 8691
Cub Scouts:	Jane and Steven Hides - 0114 230 3635
Scouts:	Steven Hides - 0114 230 3635
Rainbows:	ranmoorrainbows@gmail.com
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## Inspire

Contributors	Sarah Beardsmore, Pauline Heath, John Green, Cathy Rhodes, Matthew Rhodes and Philip Walshaw.
Editor	Philip Walshaw: 07815 963807 jpwalshaw@gmail.com
Design	Philip Walshaw and Brian Parfett
Printers	PRINTWORKS Sheffield (www.printworksprint.co.uk)
Advertising	Peter Marrison: 07581 888068_
	wpmarrison@btinternet.com

Administrator	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 December/January edition is Wednesday, 18th November, 2020.

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