



# INSPIRE

St John's Church  
Ranmoor, Sheffield

Dec/Jan  
2020/21

£1.00

## **Featuring:**

**\* A Christmas Halloween**

**\* Being a Chorister in Lockdown**

**\* Reducing our Carbon Footprint**

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



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# **St John's Church**

**Ranmoor, Sheffield**

Parish Office, Ranmoor Parish Centre,  
5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX

Tel: 0114 230 1199

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

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

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Cover photo: Christmas decoration by Susan Walshaw

**Large print versions of Inspire are available**

## Foreword



One of the things that I find challenging about Christmas and Easter is remembering that for those who first lived through them, they came as complete surprise. The stories are so familiar to us. We know how they go. Or we think we do. Next time you look at Matthew's account of the nativity, check how many wise men there are.

This year, Christmas is less predictable, and perhaps that allows us to open ourselves to it in new ways. As Mary and Joseph were obedient to the decree of Emperor Augustus, so we may need to be obedient to the directives of our government. Just as they were far away from their loved ones when Jesus was born, so we may need to be separated from our nearest and dearest (although, unlike them, we have the benefit of the telephone and internet).

School and church nativity plays suggest that the Christmas story involved a cast of thousands. I well remember playing a king's spear carrier. But in reality, the guest list at that first Christmas was probably rather sparse. And they didn't all come at once. We may long for parties and large family gatherings but perhaps a pared down Christmas will give us time and space to discover afresh the tiny child born in an outhouse, unnoticed and unacknowledged by the world.

Babies are unpredictable. They come when they come and they can subvert the best laid plans. I don't know what Christmas will look like this year but I do know that God comes to us afresh, meets us where we are, and brings light and life in the darkness.

***Matthew***

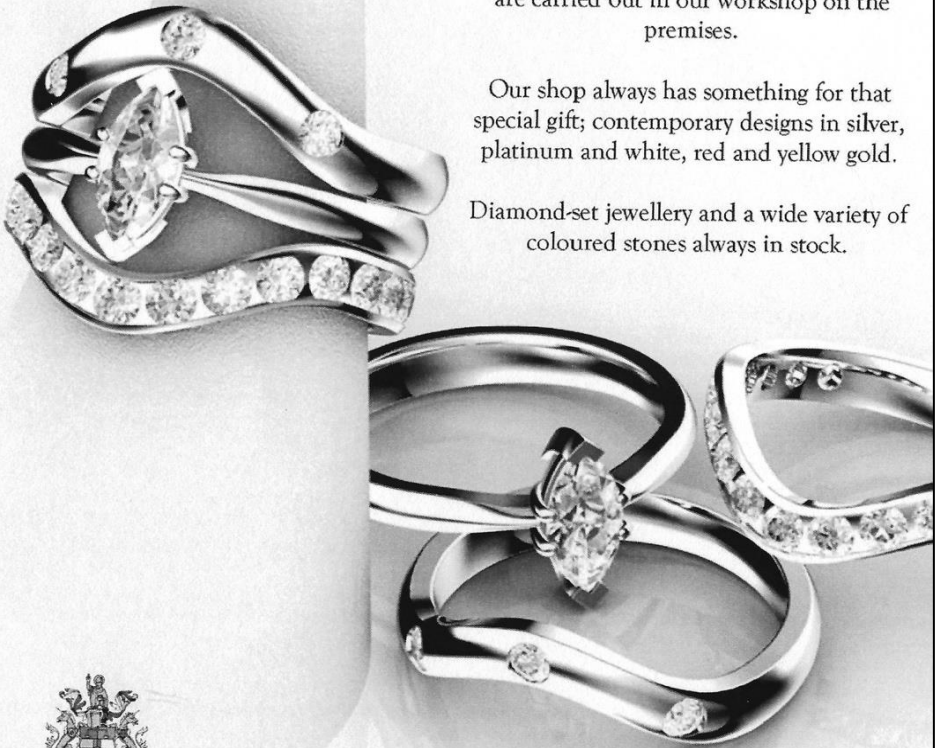
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## Lockdown in the Editor's Chair



Morning has broken. Again. Another day in 2020. What kind of day is it going to be? Same as yesterday and the day before that? Or something different? Have you lost the spring in your step during lockdown? Do you still leap out of bed in a morning or just want to hide under the duvet? I'm not letting on whether I'm the former or the latter, but I'm reminded of the words of the morning hymn I sang many times as a choirboy:

*"Awake my soul and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run; shake off dull sloth and joyful rise to pay thy morning sacrifice"*.

Talking of hymns, I was never too keen on *'Morning has Broken'* until I heard the version made popular by Cat Stevens with a piano accompaniment by the brilliant musician Rick Wakeman, formerly of the rock band 'Yes.' The hymn originally appeared in the second edition of *Songs of Praise* (published in 1931), to the tune 'Bunessan', composed in the Scottish Islands. As there was a need for a hymn to give thanks for each day, English poet and children's author Eleanor Farjeon had been asked to make a poem to fit the lovely Scottish tune, which included the words *"Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day."*

Before Lockdown Mk 2, I went for a walk on Howden Moors at the far end of the reservoir system from Ladybower. I walked to Slippery Stones and came across a small plantation which had been planted in commemoration of someone's life. A plaque had been erected with the words *"Eagerly savour each new day and the taste of its mouth. Never lose sight of the thrill and the joy of living."*

Lockdown has affected us all in many ways and the day ahead creates varying challenges, but perhaps we shouldn't lose sight of the words on that plaque.

**Philip Walshaw**

# Young People's Activity Page



Stone the crows!! No, you wouldn't want to do that, would you? So, why not make some yourself, with the help of a grown-up?

Here's what you need to make one:

*A pair of black stockings*

*A plastic, springed, clothes peg*

*A pair of sew-on googly eyes*

*A rubber band*

*A bag of soft toy filling, or something similar like cotton wool*

*A black plastic tie strap*

Here's how to make it: Cut the stocking to the size you want. Fill it up and tie it with a rubber band, leaving a bit for the bird's tail. Clip a peg on the front to make the bird's beak. Ask a grown-up to help you with sewing on the googly eyes. Thread the plastic tie strap through where the bird's legs would be and then find somewhere to attach it to its perch.

## A Christmas Halloween



Well, it was a first for me. And I wasn't alone. Singing Christmas carols on Halloween? Is there something perverse about singing carols about the birth of Christ when we should be thinking about the souls of the faithful departed? Well, we are not in normal times. We had intended doing it a fortnight previous, but we were prevented from so doing by the circuit breaker that had been imposed at St John's. So, what were we doing in church on 31st October?



Well, the choir was recording Christmas carols for audio transmission as part of our Zoom services in case we were not able to have church services over Christmas. We were also doing a video recording of carols for use by

Christian Aid Sheffield for their virtual carol sing which will replace the usual carol singing in Fargate. They are hoping to gather recordings of



20 carols and put them up on YouTube, one for each day leading up to Christmas. They hugely appreciate what we have been able to contribute, so please keep an eye out for further postings about this.

From 2pm to 5pm, we rehearsed and then recorded a number of hymns and carols. It was fortunate that we were able to do this before the forthcoming Lockdown Mk 2 came into effect. We were also able to record a few choral music settings on Lockdown Eve (our planned choir rehearsal) for transmission during the November church services on Zoom. We couldn't have done this without Derek (our Organist and Associate Director of Music), Julian (our Assistant Organist) and Joe (our sound recordist as well as our Organist in Residence), whose smiling faces you can see below:-



It was a pleasure and a privilege to be part of this. The extra pressure of recording and not wanting to make mistakes brought their moments of humour and a video of the out-takes/bloopers is available at a price!

***Philip Walshaw***

## Being a Chorister in Lockdown

by Lily Beardsmore, age 9



In March, when the Lockdown started, we had to stop choir practices. We had been learning music for Lent and Easter, but those services didn't happen. Instead some of the choristers joined in with singing on the Zoom services. I'd never done a solo before and was a bit nervous but it was good to join in. We also started having some online practices. Mr Hutchinson led the sessions and we learnt the music that we had to record. The sessions were fun and it was good to see all of the other choristers.



For the recordings we were sent a video of Mr Hutchinson conducting and a recording of the piano for us to sing along to. We had to find a quiet room in our homes and use a special app to record our voices on. Then we had to send it to Mr Hutchinson to put all of our voices together. Eventually the recordings were used in Sunday services (some of them can be found on the church website). It was strange to be singing on my own instead of with all the other choristers

but it was nice to listen to the recording and all sound like we were singing as a choir.

As well as practices we also had some music theory sessions with Mr Hutchinson and Miss Hulse. We learnt about the notes of the staff using rhymes, my favourite was **E**very **G**ood **B**allet **D**ancer **F**lies, and we practiced the lengths and names of notes. In October we got to go back to church for some practices. It was fun seeing all the other choristers.

We rehearsed at the back of church because the vestry was too small for social distancing. We had to stay in our seats for the whole rehearsal but it was good to sing together again.

Now that we are back in lockdown choir practices have had to stop again, but I'm looking forward to singing together again soon!



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## Christmas Study Group

We shall again this year be running a Study Group in preparation for Christmas. We shall be using the diocesan Advent course which is called 'Light in the Darkness' which is available on the 'Lights for Christ' website. <https://www.lightsforchrist.uk/lightinthedarkness>

'The course aims to help us reflect on, at the darkest time of the year, our calling to be Lights for Christ. Its main aim is to help us to draw on our experience of an extraordinary year which is now coming to its close. In doing so, we also look forward as we enter a new season and new year. The course has four parts which all follow a similar structure plus a brief closing reflection and prayer. The four parts are based around words which have been central to many people's experience during all the upheavals of 2020. These are :- Distance, Safe, Trust and Normal.

As Advent can be a busy time of the year, we have decided to run the first two parts before Christmas and the third and fourth parts in early January, which fits well with the four themes.

We shall be running the course on Zoom on the following Monday evenings at 6.45pm:

Monday 30th November

Monday 14th December

Monday 4th January

Monday 11th January

The sessions will last approximately one hour. This will give us the opportunity to join Compline at 8pm if we wish to do so. The first session will be led by Rev Matt Wood. The remaining three sessions will be lay led. We do hope you will want to join us. If so, please email Claire in the Parish Office ([Administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:Administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk)) or contact Sandra Green either by email or phone ([sandra.green70@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.green70@gmail.com) or 0114 2309180)

## REACH Sleep-In



A reminder that our young people gave up their beds for a night in November for Roundabout - a local charity supporting Sheffield's young homeless. Our curate Matt joined in the fun by camping out in the garden. A full report from REACH members will follow in the

next edition of Inspire. In the meantime, please do consider making a donation to Roundabout either directly or via the REACH JustGiving page – go to JustGiving and search for St John's Ranmoor or use the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsranmoorreachesleep-in2020>

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## A Broad Church - Fifty years in the pews: John and Sandra Green

We let it slip that it is our 50th wedding anniversary in December this year - the Editor got to hear about it and what follows is the result!



After reflection, we thought it might be interesting to write about the various churches, or rather congregations, we have been part of over the years. With jobs that meant moving every so often, we decided that we would worship at our parish church and this has worked well for us. It has taken us across the Anglican spectrum of worship styles in churches dating from the 8th to the 20th century.



We got married in St Mary's Church, Southgate, Crawley. St Mary's was built in 1958 in the Basil Spence/ Coventry cathedral style of the time. The wall behind the altar with its coloured glass inserts is a very different form of East Window. Chairs instead of pews, arranged in a semi-circle, felt very welcoming and inclusive. Married life began in Devizes in Wiltshire. John was working in the School Dental Service and Sandra was teaching in the large rural comprehensive school in the

town. St John's Church in the town is renowned for its Norman architecture and featured in the film 'Far from the Madding Crowd', in the scene where Sergeant Troy met Bathsheba (Julie Christie). Two years later, the 1974 NHS Reorganisation was on the horizon so we moved to Wellingborough in Northamptonshire, when John was promoted to a leadership role in the Community Dental Service. Sandra was appointed as a teacher at the Girls High School, in Wellingborough, so we decided to live there, as John's job took him all over the County.

In 1978, Alexandra was born, followed in 1979 by Victoria and three years later by Emily. Life was full and busy. We had become regular worshippers at All Hallows Church, the Parish Church situated next to the thriving marketplace. The church building which dates from 1160, houses six medieval misericords and a very good collection of twentieth century ecclesiastical art including a stunning window by John Piper. The incumbent at the time was Canon Methuen Clark, who was in friendly rivalry with the vicar of St. Matthew's church in Northampton, as to who had the best art works in their building. All Hallows was emphatically anglo-catholic with Mass said every day, confession in Lent, an all-male choir, acolytes and a thurifer - (the full 'smells and bells'). In time John became Vicar's Warden and oversaw a large project to restore the stonework and replace the lead roof. It was a vibrant and active community with regular house groups, a large Sunday School and youth club and many social functions. Our girls were all baptised there and in time, confirmed.

Our Parish priest was Father Eric Buchanan who was quite unlike many of his fellow anglo-catholic priests. Although trained at Muirfield, he retained a down to earth scepticism, probably because he came from South Yorkshire. We learnt much of our faith from Eric mainly through his sermons - often in two halves. The first was the one he wrote on Saturday and the second was an extemporisation on what had occurred to him since or sometimes what had happened to a member of the congregation. You knew this was meant for someone but never who.

John worked with a fellow church warden of 25 years standing. Billy was a retired brewer, fluent in "Anglo-Saxon" but with a deep faith that

sustained him as a widower. He lived in the second oldest house in the town, on the edge of the churchyard. The oldest house (1500s) was occupied by a succession of curates. They were all memorable but one in particular went on to become the first Bishop of Ebbsfleet - a flying bishop arising from women's ordination and the Forward in Faith movement. Michael Houghton and his wife Diana became great friends although we steered clear of women in ministry! They had been missionaries in Lesotho before ordination and curacy at Wellingborough. They then went to St. Helena in one of the two parishes on the island. On returning to England he was appointed to St. James's at Folkestone which was a Forward in Faith (FiF) Parish, with strong links to the local Greek Orthodox Church - which accommodated the congregation after a disastrous fire. Michael became one of the first flying bishops, moving to Bristol and covering FiF parishes in the south of England. He didn't drive and travelled everywhere by train. Sadly, he died suddenly, in his fifties, in 1999.

After 25 years, we left Wellingborough for South Kelsey in Lincolnshire - a small village with a pub and a church - St. Mary's. John's public health patch was Lincolnshire and South Humber and Sandra taught at the only choir school attached to a parish church - St. Peter's in Grimsby.

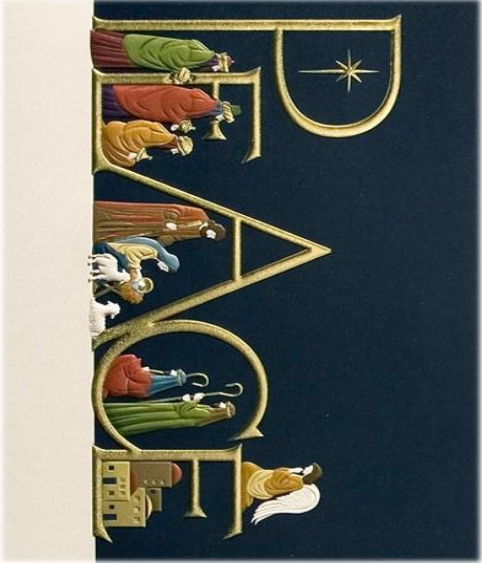
St. Mary's is a very simple 13th century church with a most unusual floor. Whilst the interior is very plain the floor slopes up towards the chancel and altar which was more like a basilica. Worship was very simple with a choir of 3 and was more like the Methodists down the road - so much so, that we often had joint services. We moved into the chapel when our roof was being replaced. John was church warden at the time, as he had been in Wellingborough. Thankfully the roof at St. John's wasn't jinxed by his election as Churchwarden in 2008. Ken, our vicar, had seven parishes in the living and occasionally would forget what he had preached and where. We tended to go where the service was being held each Sunday so occasionally had a second chance to hear one of Ken's sermons. His favourite phrase was - "You can't be optimistic with a misty optic", so it was fascinating to see how he would use it in his next sermon.



Over the years all of these churches had been very welcoming so it was good to find a welcoming congregation when we moved to Sheffield in 2001. St. John's was a great help to us when we were beginning a new life here, nearly 20 years ago. Church life anywhere is never without incident and St. John's is no exception, but it has been a great joy to be part of this community of faith.

Nowadays, family life means we are sometimes away, whether in London, Scotland or Cornwall. In each place we have found communities that welcome us, as parents and grandparents or regular visitors with a stake in the community. St. Tallanus church has sat on a Cornish cliff top since 700AD. It has a separate bell tower, like St. John's, and pews made of oak from shipwrecks that are probably 500 years old. They are beautifully carved and have aged majestically and - in the words of Bishop Michael Houghton - have been 'polished with prayer'. St. Barnabas, in South Kensington, couldn't be more different. St. Tallanus has a congregation of twelve, at best, whereas 'Barnies' has a large congregation, in the hundreds with regular services in French and Farsi as well as English to serve their diverse members. A traditional morning service with hymns and an organ precedes the main family service which has a large band leading worship songs, extempore prayer and longish sermons. In Scotland we go with the family to the local Church of Scotland which is more like a Methodist service with hymns and preaching. Communion is only celebrated occasionally, with individual glasses for the wine.

What connects all these very different churches is a love of God, the inspiration of Jesus's teaching and a deep sense of a faith community trying to live out the Gospel week by week. Styles of worship, preaching, praying, music and diversity are secondary to what matters most to us all, which is finding faith through each other. The late Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, wrote a book many years ago called "Faith, Family and Community" - which probably sums up the last 50 years for us both.



Best wishes to you and all your family for a peaceful and joyful Advent & Christmas.

From all at

St John's Church, Ranmoor



### A message from Matthew our Vicar:

*"As we come to the end of this very challenging year, I pray that you can experience the new life and hope that the birth of Jesus brings. St John's Gospel speaks of the light shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it. I hope that you can join us at St John's to celebrate these amazing truths, whether in person or online". Matthew*

### Eventbrite

This year due to COVID restrictions we are limiting the number of people at our in Church services. For us, this means we are ticketing our busy services. Where you see **Eventbrite** next to the service you will have to go online and reserve a ticket to attend the service. You can come in your family bubble or alone. (Up to 6 people in a bubble) and only one booking per family. If you cannot join us in person don't worry, as all our services listed here will be on ZOOM and Facebook live too. To book our **Eventbrite** ticketed services visit our **Christmas Services page on the St John's Rammoor Website**.

In addition to our main services listed here we will continue on ZOOM:

- Monday to Saturday: Morning Prayer at 9am
- Monday to Thursday: Compline at 8pm

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*Our programme of services is subject to change and we will be closely monitoring government guidelines.  
Keep up to date with our website.*

## OUR SERVICES IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday 29th November  
Advent Sunday  
1030 Parish Communion  
1830 Choral Evensong

Saturday 5th December  
8.30am-10.00am Christingle kit collection from church

Sunday 6th December  
1030 All Age service – Christingle **Eventbrite**  
1830 Choral Evensong

Sunday 13th December  
1030 Parish Communion  
1830 Choral Evensong

Sunday 20th December  
1030 Parish Communion  
1600 A Service of Lessons and Carols **Eventbrite**  
1830 A Service of Lessons and Carols **Eventbrite**

Monday 21st December  
"Longest Night"  
1930 A Quiet Christmas Service

Thursday 24th December  
Christmas Eve  
2330 Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December  
Christmas Day  
0830 Said Eucharist  
1030 Parish Communion **Eventbrite**

Sunday 27th December  
1030 Said Eucharist  
No evensong

## Parish Registers:

Please pray for the following child who was baptised at St John's:  
Jessica Charlotte Warley

Please remember those who have died:  
Pam Maclean, Christopher Tattersall and William Tillyard

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"*.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of those  
names listed.



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## Living in Love and Faith

Recently, the PCC has been reflecting on what it means to be an inclusive church. We like to think of St John's as inclusive, but to many people, particularly the young, the church can often seem exclusive and judgemental. Unless we are explicit about our inclusivity, some people can feel unwelcome. With this in mind, the PCC agreed to join the Inclusive Church network ([www.inclusive-church.org](http://www.inclusive-church.org)). This is its shared vision:

"We believe in inclusive Church - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

You may be aware that the Church of England has recently published something called 'Living in Love and Faith.' This is a set of resources to enable the Church to think about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. This is a contentious area of our common life and there will be differing views about how to address it. LLF reflects the wide diversity of beliefs that exist in the Church and creates a space where those beliefs can be expressed in an open and respectful manner. Hopefully, it will enable the Church to listen to God's voice and discern where He is calling us. The LLF resources include a study course which I hope we can share in. Please pray about this and look at the LLF resources for yourselves: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith)

**Matthew**

## **What can we do to reduce our carbon footprint? Tips from the Eco Committee**

**COUNT US IN**

We are all aware of the escalating climate emergency. Over 99% of scientists agree: humankind is responsible for it and if we do nothing, things will only get worse.

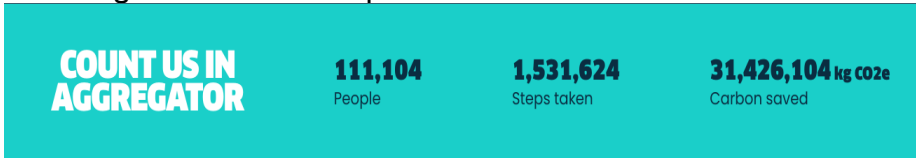
As Christians, we know we have a responsibility to both God's creation and all His people and that we need to work for change. However, for most of us it can seem overwhelmingly difficult to know how/what to change and to know whether our contributions will make any difference. In addition, the ongoing challenges of Coronavirus have meant that for a lot of people, living a more environmentally friendly lifestyle has been pushed to the back of their minds.

### **So what should we do?**

We have already made some changes. For example, we have all been recycling for a while, whether it's our kerbside collection or Terracycle, most of us have built some form of recycling into our lives, but what else can we do? A quick search on the internet or chat with friends can throw up a myriad of actions we can adopt to make a difference. But most of us are limited in our resources, so how do we decide what to do for the best? It was during one of these moments of frustration and confusion that I found the website Count Us In.

They are working to join together all people that are taking practical action on climate change in one community. Their aim is to 'inspire 1 billion citizens to significantly reduce their carbon pollution and challenge leaders to deliver bold, global change'. They offer 16 steps that we can take to make a difference. These steps have been selected by experts from the UN Environment Programme. They have been found to be the most effective in reducing personal carbon pollution, influencing leaders and involving everyone. As a participant you are encouraged to pick one of the steps and commit to it for two months.

By the end of that time the hope is that you will continue with it and maybe introduce another step. By recording your progress on their website ([www.count-us-in.org](http://www.count-us-in.org)) you can then see how your contribution is adding to the whole. Currently those involved have saved over 31.4 million kg of carbon - the equivalent of 2,565 double decker buses!



I was shocked to learn that individuals' lifestyle choices account for 65% of total global carbon pollution. However, that gives us enormous power to be the change, a reminder that **our actions do matter**. Count Us In goes on to say that if 1 billion people made changes to their lifestyle, this would account for 20% of the reductions needed.



**The 16 steps are:**

- Fly less
- Drive electric
- Insulate your home
- Wear clothes to last
- Tell your politicians
- Walk and cycle more
- Cut food waste
- Repair and reuse
- Green your money - choose financial institutions that invest responsibly
- Dial it down - turn down your heating by 1+ degree
- Speak up at work
- Share with friends
- Eat more plants
- Eat seasonal
- Switch your energy company to one that uses renewables
- Get some solar panels
- Some of these steps may feel out of reach for us, but committing to just

one of the steps makes a difference. At the moment, Matt and I are not in a position to buy an electric car or get solar panels but, pre-Coronavirus, Matt and I made the decision to do all our holidays by train, rather than flying. Obviously, this is not appropriate for all destinations but we have had a lot of fun being imaginative with our holiday plans. Similarly, during lockdown, I decided that all our friends and family would receive homemade Christmas gifts, while my knitting may be a bit wonky and my jam a bit runny, they are made with love. My hope is it will inspire people to rethink how and what they buy.

For me, the benefit of Count Us In is the constant reminder that my little changes are making a difference. While the situation can feel overwhelming, this is a positive reinforcement that we can be the change. We have power as consumers and if we all use that power we can steward God's earth in a more compassionate, responsible and sustainable way.

**Clare Wood**

**Georgina Hulse**  
Singing Teacher



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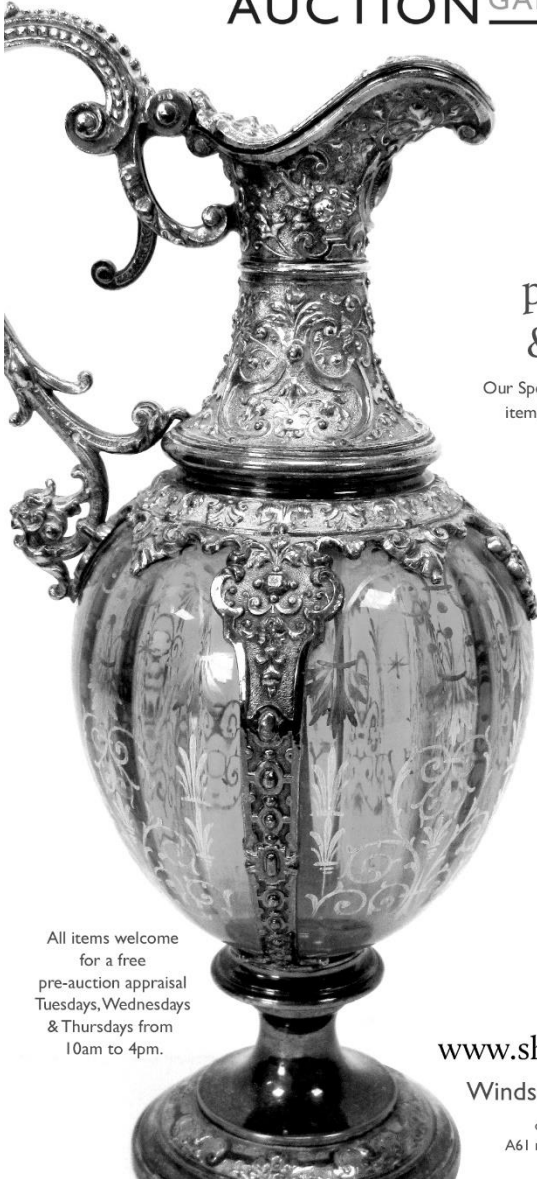
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## Bell Ringing during the Pandemic

by Elaine Scott



With churches closed for services, tower bell ringing was also suspended. As churches slowly re-open, some ringers have been able to go back up the tower. You may have noticed that only three of our ten bells have been ringing on Sunday mornings and for recent weddings. After long discussions between the Church of England, Public Health England and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, protocols have been agreed to allow some ringers to return to the ringing chamber. The precautions are similar to those

elsewhere – we need to keep two metres apart, wear face coverings, sanitise our hands, each ring the same bells all the time, and only ring for fifteen minutes at a time.

The limitation to ringing three bells is due to the layout of the ringing room. The ropes, one for each bell, hang in a circle and are much less than two metres apart, and some of the gaps are less than one metre. Ventilation is poor – we have two small windows that open, but they are behind internal brickwork, with only small grills for fresh air to pass. Some ringing chambers are even smaller than ours and only one bell may be rung, within the guidelines. It may be possible to ring more bells, if ringers are from the same household.

Ringling on just three bells is not ringers' preferred performance. The concept of our tradition of Change Ringing is to produce our form of music in which, usually, six or more bells are permuted and vary their order of striking, all in regular patterns. This allows each bell to give forth its best sound; ideally we would have ten ringers available to safely ring all ten of our bells ring for all our Sunday services. So what do ringers do when they can't ring tower bells? It is always possible to learn the theory of new Change Ringing methods (sequences of bells). Like driving a car or bowling a cricket ball, there is a physical activity to master in addition to the theory. Traditionally, handbells have been rung for additional practice outside the ringing chamber, and several ringers ring Changes on handbells as an activity in its own right. This still requires meeting

others, usually inside, and avoiding distractions of rain-in-the-handbells or wind-in-the-air. At two metres-apart, ringing is harder than usual.

There are various electronic gatherings, similar to on-line games, where bells can be rung by pressing a key on the computer key pad, while other ringers across the world ring their bells at the other end of an internet connection. This straightforwardly avoids the need of social distancing at the expense of computer-problems and delays in the internet. Ranmoor Ringers have been holding two practices each week since July to help us keep in touch with one another and our memory of ringing methods.

The first and most important technique that a ringer learns is how to control a large weight of metal swinging overhead by pulling a rope. This takes time to learn, and is unlike most other physical skills. Once mastered, and after plenty of practise, it is possible to precisely control any of St. John's bells, weighing from 4cwt (200 kgs) and 16cwt (800 kgs), as to make it strike its note at exactly the right time. It is a brilliant feeling to control the bell to be part of a glorious sound.

Sadly, pushing a key on a keyboard or ringing a handbell, bears little relationship to the physical activity of the ringing of a tower bell. Neither keypresses nor striking handbells can replace this bellringing experience and digging the garden or cycling the exercise-bike doesn't replicate the physical ringing of a bell. There is also the camaraderie of the team activity that is bellringing. A group of people working together to produce their best musical performance is very important to the activity; choristry tells us that they feel similar emotions.

On Monday 2 November we rang down the three bells we had been ringing, to leave them safe for the next four weeks of lockdown. Hopefully after that we will be able to ring again, but Tier 3 restraints would limit us to 2 bells at the most. Please, then, spare a thought for the bellringers – when it is possible to be together again with enough of us to ring in our traditional way, we will all have to re-learn all those bits that need practice to maintain our standards. Like riding the proverbial bicycle, the basic bell ringing style is always with you, but it does seem uniquely to use muscles in a way that nothing else does. We will, as always, be striving to do our best, but it may take us a little while to return to our top performance.

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An advertisement for Cairn Home. On the left, a white sign reads "CAIRN HOME" in large blue letters, followed by "Residential Care for Elderly People" in smaller blue text. Below this, the SRSB logo (a rainbow arch) and the text "SRSB Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind" are visible. To the right of the sign, the telephone number "0114 266 1536" is printed in blue. On the right side of the advertisement, there is a black square with the SRSB logo and the text "SRSB Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind". In the center, four women are standing in front of a stone wall, smiling. At the bottom, a dark grey box contains white text: "Cairn Home provides high quality permanent residential care and has one room dedicated to respite care." Below this, the address "58 Selborne Road | Crosspool | Sheffield | S10 5ND" is listed, followed by contact information: "For further details please contact the Manager: 0114 266 1536 enquiries@cairnhome.org.uk | www.cairnhome.org.uk" and the registered charity number "1047257".

## Festive Quiz compiled by Philip Walshaw



Eat, drink and be merry – and find the answers to these clues which have a festive theme. A prize awaits the person who submits the most correct 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 Monday, 18th January, 2021.

1. Try our steak re-ordered for dinner (5,6)
2. Animals kept warm with turkey (4,2,8)
3. Drink displayed in shop window in Ecclesall (4)
4. Fog in front of the French digit (9)
5. Sit around between crazy charms (9)
6. Tinsel thing turned into Christmas carol (6,5)
7. Sections of garden landowner developed into Christmas decoration (7)
8. Specimen I mixed to create these tasty treats (5,4)
9. Candid anger – a gift! (12)
10. Tintinnabulations – a familiar song (6,5)
11. Muddling around with pup for afters (4,7)
12. Alan's cactus, lacking carbon, turns out to be a regular festive person (5,5)

*Answers to November Quiz: 1. Badger 2. Polecat 3. Elephant 4. Stoat 5. Weasel 6. Wildebeest 7. Guinea Pig 8. Dormouse 9. Grey squirrel 10. Hedgehog 11. Antelope 12. Grey Seal 13. Common vole 14. Grizzly Bear 15. Pine Marten*

*Entries were received from Janet and Malcolm Anker, Ann Bird, Joy Bowler, Michael Hannon, Steve and Lynn Lawless and Harold Smith. The winner was Joy Bowler who receives a box of chocolates.*

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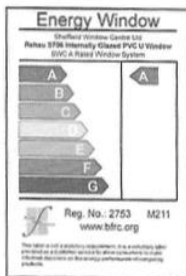
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## **Contacts at St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor**

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

Churchwardens: Brian Parfett (07914 220938) and Mark  
Gregory  
churchwardens@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

### **Church and Parish Centre Office:**

5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX

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

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

### Finance and Gift Aid

Officer: 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

Music:

Prayer and Fellowship :

Flowers@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk  
music@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk  
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  
contact Claire Webber - Parish  
Administrator

Wednesday Lunch Club

## Uniformed organisations

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Jane and Steven Hides - 0114 230 3635  
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# Inspire

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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 February 2021 edition is Monday, 18th January, 2021.**

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