

# St John's Ranmoor Lunch Club

Newsletter  
May 2021



*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.  
John 15.1*

## A message from Matt

Dear Friends,

By a strange quirk of the lectionary, the gospel reading set for last Sunday (The Fifth Sunday of Easter) and today is the same: John 15.1-8. Jesus' description of himself as 'the true vine' seems to fit particularly well with the season of spring when many of us find our thoughts turning to jobs we should be doing in the garden - weather permitting!



Clare and I are very lucky to live on the edge of Crosspool with easy access to lovely walks in the Rivelin Valley and out beyond Lodge Moor to the Redmires Reservoirs. A particular favourite route is to head down into the Rivelin in the late afternoon and walk west as the sun, if it's shining, glints off the water. If I'm lucky I might see some dippers hopping about in the river, bobbing for insects, or a heron waiting motionless for dinner to swim past his ankles. In the woodland of the valley there dwell a huge variety of smaller birds, chattering away, laying claim to their territory at this time of year. I've seen whitethroats, chiff-chaffs, robins, dunnocks, nuthatches and treecreepers to name just a few. A particular favourite of mine though is the humble wren. This tiny but aggressively territorial little chap has a wonderful latin name - *troglydytes troglydytes*. The wren is a cave dweller, or at least, it likes to live amongst the undergrowth, maybe in a hedge, in a cleft in some old milling stoneworks, or a hole in a tree.

It's the wren that I've been thinking about this week as I've reflected on Jesus the true vine and what it might mean to 'abide' in him - 'Abide in me as I abide in you' (John 15.4). Walking alongside the river in the sun-dappled woods of the Rivelin Valley with sheep grazing in farmers's fields just above the far bank, it's easy to feel part of the interdependency of God's Creation. This gospel text, so rich in meaning, is a reminder of our connectedness to one another and to God in Jesus Christ. It's an invitation to *abide*, to feel safe and nurtured as part of the Body of Christ, much as the little wren feels safe in his 'cave' in the hedgerow.

A huge thank you, as ever, to our team of delivery drivers and to Janet and Susan, our excellent cooks. It's been a privilege to be part of the team that has worked so well together in delivering Afternoon Teas over the past year. We are starting to think about how we can safely move towards meeting in person again. It is likely that there will be another home delivery early in June, and then, once the weather is a little warmer, we are hoping to plan something nice outdoors where we can all meet together. The ultimate aim, of course, is to set a date for when the Lunch Club can meet again in the Parish Centre and I will keep you posted as we continue to plan for that.

In the pages which follow you'll find some information about the forthcoming events taking place for Christian Aid week. In addition to that, I am very grateful to Wendy

Weeks for putting together an article about Dementia Action Week. Wendy chairs a group which focuses on the work that is going on in the Mission Partnership (St John's, St Mark's and St Mary's) relating to how we welcome and care for those with dementia in our churches.

As ever, don't forget that the St John's church family of which you are a part is here for you. If there's anything you need or if you'd like a chat please do get in touch with me (07900 436762) or Claire in the Parish Office (0114 230 1199).

God bless,

Matt

Revd Matt Wood  
Asst Curate

---

## Dementia Action Week, May 17-23rd

The observant among you will notice that "Dementia Action Week" follows immediately after Christian Aid Week and could, therefore be overshadowed by various church events and general "busy ness" of that week. The timing of this afternoon's tea delivery with its accompanying newsletter, early in May, gives the ideal opportunity to explore a little what the Dementia Action Week is about and how as individuals we can support it.

Dementia Action Week is a national annual event led by the Alzheimer's Society, to encourage people to come together to take action to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. This week is a time when each one of us can reflect on what we can do to help those affected by dementia. The Action that the Society desires from us at this time is something anybody can become involved in. It does not require us to undertake physically heroic sponsored activities such as marathons or swims, (but obviously welcomes the efforts of those super fit people who enjoy raising money in this way). Besides its important support role for those affected by dementia the Alzheimer's Society as the UK's biggest dementia charity, has another very significant function and that is to petition government to improve the care provided for people with dementia. Becoming involved with this petition is the action that the Society would like as many people as possible to take at this time. The care system has been





woefully underfunded for many years and people have been unable to access or afford appropriate care. This is what the Alzheimer's Society is campaigning about; it wants the government to cure the care system, to provide a system similar to that provided by the NHS in that care for people with dementia should be free at the point of need and funded out of taxation. This should then improve both access to appropriate services and the quality of them.

To support the campaign all that needs to be done is to enter "Cure the Care System" in your search machine. This will take you to the Alzheimer's Society petition page where you can sign the petition and read the letter from the Society to the Prime Minister. At the point of writing this article on April 28<sup>th</sup> 14,589 people had signed the petition which commenced on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The petition is "live" until June and the Society would like to collect 100,000 signatories. Will you help?

Wendy Weeks

---

It has been lovely to be back in Church. The choristers have joined us again which has been really nice to hear their voices. Here are some pictures taken from the past few weeks.



# Ranmoor Awards Ceremony

The past year has been an extraordinary and challenging time for all of us. The pandemic has been a really dark period in the world's history. But in the midst of all the darkness, we have also seen some incredible points of light. Stars that have given us hope for the future and have helped us to find our way. We think of all those who work in the NHS and caring professions and of individuals like Captain Tom. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May All Age Sunday service we paid tribute to a few of our local stars who have enriched our lives and brought us joy. It really was a lovely morning and the awards were as follows:

## **Technology**

- Dom Dakin

## **Best Director**

- James Stone

## **Best Female Actor**

- Clare Wood

## **Best Male Actor(s)**

- Will and Harry Stone

## **Music**

- Derek Grover, Joe Hutchinson, Georgina Hulse, Julian Gunn, Fran Wells and Matthew Warbis

## **Writing**

- Philip Walshaw

## **Catering**

- The Afternoon Tea Group

## **Inclusion**

- Silver Eco Church Award

## **Prayer**

- Zoom Morning Prayer and Compline Group

**Here are some pictures from the service/awards ceremony:**









# ST JOHN'S CHURCH RANMOOR

## SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**Saturday 8th** Plant Sale and the Big Breakfast—come and buy all your plants for spring & summer, and grab a bacon sandwich whilst you wait. 8.30am until 10.30am

**Sunday 9th** 10.30am Christian Aid Service In Church, On ZOOM and Facebook Live

**Monday 10th** Quiz night on ZOOM at 7pm

**Wednesday 12th** Flower Arranging Demonstration by Jackie Lowe and Sandra Green on zoom at 7pm

**Friday 14th** Ranmoor Talent Evening—7pm. All talents welcome. Sing, Dance, poetry, comedy and so on—lets keep everyone entertained . Contact Claire in the office if you would like to take part. Deadline for entries is Friday 7th May.

**Saturday 15th** Vicarage Open Garden from 10.30am –12.30pm (389a Fulwood Road 30 people max at a time)

**PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TO Christian Aid ON BEHALF OF ST JOHN'S**

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsranmoorchristianaid2021](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsranmoorchristianaid2021)  
card payments call 0114 230 1199; send a cheque payable to St John's Church, Ranmoor  
[www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk). For ZOOM details email [administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsranmoor.org.uk) or call 0114 230 1199



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH, RANMOOR



**Come and buy a takeaway bacon roll & browse around our plant sale.**

**All in aid of Christian Aid fighting poverty & injustice in the world.**

---

**SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> May 2021 at 8.30am til 10.30am**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnsranmoorchristianaid2021>